

Colossians 1:3-8

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I. Introduction.

- A. Colossians looks at doctrine and how to live. (1 Thessalonians 4:1)
- B. One of the most practical things you can do is learn the great truths of the Bible.

II. Paul starts out with “we.”

- A. You never hear the Apostle Paul saying “I.”
- B. He focuses on the team.

III. He calls their attention to God not himself or the people.

IV. Paul’s assurances.

- A. He assures the people of his regular prayers for the people.
- B. He assures them of their faith and love.
 - 1. Faith binds to God.
 - 2. Love is a commandment that binds one to another.. (John 13:34-35)
- C. He assures them of their hope connected to God and living. (1 Peter 1:3-5)
 - 1. We have a hope that we will never face judgment.
 - 2. When we are witnessing we have to decide if we believe what we are saying.
 - 3. We do not face judgment because of the word of the truth of the gospel.

V. Now that the Colossians were Christians it was bringing about fruit among them.

- A. The gospel accomplishes phenomenal good in this world.
- B. There is a power in this world that can change someone from thinking of himself alone to thinking about others. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- C. The gospel made one group out of two ancient enemies.(Ephesians 2)

VI. Tips for spreading the gospel.

- A. Stick with it. (Acts 26:22, 2 Timothy 4:2)
- B. Do not be a nuisance.

C. Do not be controlled by unwarranted fears but the Holy Spirit. (2 Timothy 1:7)

D. Be clear.

VII. The gospel of Jesus Christ was learned.

A. Helping a person come from conversion to establishment in the faith takes time.

B. The Colossian's understanding of the gospel was more than a simple outline for them to know - it was real.

C. Paul and Epaphras cooperated as evangelist and teacher.

Application questions

1. What is the relationship between faith and love?

2. Which practical tip for sharing the gospel stands out to you? Explain.

3. Memorize John 13:34-35 and write it below. How does this verse relate to witnessing?
