

Fruit of the Gospel

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Introduction.

We begin studying Colossians today. (Colossians 1:1-14). This occurred 30 years after Jesus resurrection. Paul is writing this in prison and will be killed a few years after writing it. The Roman authorities will also try to stamp out the Christian faith soon. Colossae is a small market town 100 miles from Ephesus. Epaphras had heard Paul preach and took this message to those in Colossae. Paul had never been to Colossae but many lives had been changed there by his message. The heart of the revolution in Colossae was the Gospel.

I. What was Paul's Gospel that brings new hope and love?

A. It is the good news of Jesus Christ. (Mark 1:1)

1. Jesus was born in an obscure town of Bethlehem.
2. He was a descendent of King David.
3. His mother was a virgin.
4. He learned carpentry and was baptized by John at 30 and began preaching.
5. In three years Jesus' ministry was to reveal himself as God himself.
6. His purpose in coming included dying for the sins of the people.
7. His disciples didn't understand all this but he went to the cross and was raised after 3 days.
8. He appeared again to his disciples to give them the Gospel about him.
9. Then Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father.
10. Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to help his followers.
11. Jesus commissioned his followers to share this message in all the world.

B. This hope is stored up for believers in heaven. (Colossians 1:5)

1. The Gospel is summarized. (John 3:16)
2. The Gospel is about heaven and believer's deliverance from darkness into the light of heaven. (Colossians 1:13-14)
 - a. All people belong in either darkness or light.
 - b. We are either in sin or in redemption.

- c. The Gospel is a message of two kingdoms.
- d. By natural birth we are all born into darkness, culminating in hell.
- e. By responding to the Gospel we can be transferred into the kingdom of light.

3. Has this message transformed your life?

- a. It is possible to hear this message in church for years and still not be transformed.
- b. We must change citizenship by responding to the Gospel by faith.
- c. Nothing in life is more important than this.
- d. Some people seem to be waiting for something to happen

C. How does the Gospel change lives?

1. We hear the Gospel through ordinary people.
2. Even when the angel came to Cornelius he did not preach the Gospel, Peter did. (Acts 10)
3. God has no way of communicating the Gospel than through hearing it from people.
4. We also must understand it by our minds and respond by faith.
5. I remember the night I first heard the Gospel and understood it.
 - a. I had grown up in a Christian home and thought I was a Christian.
 - b. Being born in a Christian home does not make one a Christian, however.
 - c. We become Christians by believing the truth and receiving Christ by faith.
 - d. I wondered how praying a prayer of faith could change my life but if this is God's plan then I need to accept that and believe it.
 - e. The moment we believe God's faithfulness we are transformed.
6. Hearing the Gospel, understanding it, and believing it results in a born again life.
7. Feelings can change but faith is focused on the facts of the Gospel.
8. If you have accepted the Gospel look at Colossians 1:13-14 and thank God for making you a citizen of heaven.
9. If you have not accepted the truth of the Gospel please make a commitment to believe the Gospel based on faith so the quiet revolution can change your life.

10. A moment of silence follows here.
11. The speaker prays the sinner's prayer.
 - a. Lord I admit that I am a sinner.
 - b. I want to transfer my citizenship.
 - c. I believe the Gospel that Jesus died for me.
 - d. I commit my life to you.
 - e. Deliver me from the kingdom of darkness and transfer me into the kingdom of Christ.
 - f. Enter my life now as Lord and savior.
 - g. Forgive my sins.
 - h. Give me strength to live for you from this day onward.
 - i. I ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

II. What change does the Gospel create?

A. It changes our destiny, an invisible change.

1. If you prayed in sincerity your destiny has changed though no one can see it.
2. Faith is being sure of what we hope.
3. We are saved, and secure.

B. It changes our relationship, a visible change.

1. Faith, love, and hope become fruit of God's work in our lives.
2. The night I got saved I read Philippians and saw how God loves me.

C. It changes our lives in an ongoing way, a visible change. (Colossians 1:9-11)

1. We become pleasing to the Lord.
2. We seek to lead a life worthy of God.
3. We grow in patience.
4. We become more thankful.