

# THE IMPACT OF THE GOSPEL (Part Two)

(Colossians 1:1-8)

Dr. Jim Cecy

## Introduction:

## Review of Part One

Colossians 1:1-5 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel...”

## I. IT'S IMPACT ON THE LIFE OF PAUL

### An Overview of Paul's Transformed Life

#### A Change of Position

- from Saul, the persecutor to Paul, the apostle
- from Saul, the enemy of Christians to Paul, the brother in Christ
- from Saul, the condemned sinner to Paul, the recipient of God's grace and peace
- from Saul, the ritual worshiper to Paul, intimate child of the Heavenly Father

#### A Change of Practice

- from Saul's cynical zeal to Paul's continual thanksgiving and prayer
- from Saul's ritualistic worship to Paul's constant communion with the Heavenly Father.

## II. ITS IMPACT ON THE COLOSSIANS

### An Overview of the Colossian's Transformed Lives

#### A Change of Position

- from pagan idolaters to beloved saints
- from divided citizens to faithful brethren
- from children of Satan to children of the Heavenly Father

#### A Change of Practice

- from walking by sight to walking by faith
- from fighting among themselves to working in love
- from restless despair to waiting in hope

## Now in Part Two

## III. ITS IMPACT ON THE WHOLE WORLD

Colossians 1:5-8 “...the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth; just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.”

### A. The Nature of the Gospel

“...the word of truth” (Colossians 1:5)

The gospel is the good news about the power of God (Romans 1:16) that transforms people's lives, makes them new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17) and brings them into an eternal relationship with God.

- Cynicism — “What is truth?”
- Relativism — “There are many truths”
- Philosophy — “There is no truth”
- Mysticism — “One can never know the truth”
- Gnosticism — “There are some secret truths but only a special few of us can know it.”

**The Gospel is THE word of truth — the ONLY word of truth — for the whole world!**

## B. The Breadth of the Gospel

"...the gospel, which has come to you, just as in all the world..." (Colossians 1:6)

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations . . ."

### Regarding The Spread of the Gospel — Then and Now!

"The Son of God...has been preached to the ends of the earth." (Hermas, 140 A.D.)

The Gospel to Europe • Asia • Africa • North America • South America • Australia

Missiology is the area of practical theology that investigates the mandate, message, and mission of the Christian church, especially the nature of missionary work.

Therefore, a missiologist is one who knows what in the world God is doing!

## C. The Effect of the Gospel

Colossians 1:6b "... it (i.e. the gospel) is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth..."

The impact of the gospel of grace . . .

Acts 13:49 "And the word of the Lord was being spread through the whole region."

## D. The Messengers of the Gospel

Colossians 1:7-8 "...just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit."

1. Direct Messages from Heaven
2. Angelic Messengers
3. People Messengers

Isaiah 6:8-9 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!" He (God) said, "Go, and tell this people . . ."

Romans 10: 14 "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?"

John 14:12 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do (i.e. spreading the gospel), he will do also; and greater works than these he will do (i.e. greater in extent); because I go to the Father."

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

"As we very honestly evaluated ourselves and our people, we realized that we were ambassadors who wanted to stay home! Ambassadors who wanted to set up offices in our own country and have the foreign people come to us" (Dr. Grant Howard, "What on Earth is the Church Supposed to be Doing")

**The population of the world as of today is \_\_\_\_\_ people!**

## Closing Challenge:

## Tips on Group Prayer

Prayer is an important part of being in a Growth Group. Remember to pray for one another throughout the week and make prayer a priority when you meet together. Here are some guidelines to help make your Growth Group prayer time more effective.

**PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME** - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

**PRAY MORE THAN ONCE** - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

**KEEP YOUR PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE** - Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one's required to pray out loud.

## Growth Group Homework

For the week of February 12, 2012

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "The Impact of the Gospel - Part 2"

Dr. Jim Cecy

February 12, 2012

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This week Pastor Jim talked about the impact of the Gospel in the world. The Gospel that changed Paul's life, and the life of the Colossians, spread from city to city, continent to continent, generation after generation, until it reached *our* ears!

Have you ever gone on a mission trip? If so, describe the impact it had in your life and the lives of the people to whom you ministered.

2. Take a look at your sermon notes and reflect on this week's teaching. Was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged you or caught your attention?

### Campus Bible Church

For more information about the Growth Group ministry @ Campus, visit [www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroup](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/growthgroup) or contact Pastor Kenton Rahn - [kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com](mailto:kentonrahn@campusbiblechurch.com).

Sunday Messages and Notes:

Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/messages)

Weekly Growth Group Homework:

Find at: [www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework](http://www.campusbiblechurch.com/homework)

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## DIGGING DEEPER

1. David Sitton, founder of *To Every Tribe Ministries*, suggests that: “No aspect of mission is more bogged down with extra-biblical baggage than the ‘missionary call.’ The clear command of Christ ‘to go’ should be, by itself, sufficient to set you on your way into all the world (Mark 16:15).” Do you believe that Christians should wait for a special call to go to the foreign mission field? Or do you believe that Christians should go unless they are called to stay?
2. Although there is no Scriptural formula for how we are to obey God’s command to go into all the world, it’s common for a person to go through several stages when the Spirit convicts him/her to respond to the Great Commission:

Stage 1: An encounter with God that establishes a sense of calling.

- What motivated Isaiah to respond to God’s call? (Isaiah 6:1-8)

Stage 2: A period of doubting or trial.

- Can you think of anyone in the Bible who doubted God’s call in his/her life?
- According to James 1:2-8, what is God’s *purpose* for our trials, and what is God’s *provision* for our trials?

Stage 3: An affirmation of the call through the Body of Christ.

- Why is this affirmation from other believers so important? (Acts 13:1-3; 1Cor 12:7-11)

Stage 4: A willingness to obey that puts no conditions on where you are willing to go or what God asks you to do. Explain how the following verses support this:

- Luke 14:26
- Luke 9:23-24
- Luke 10:57-62

## TAKING IT HOME

1. In the sermon, Jim quoted Dr. Grant Howard, who suggested that the church is like a football team with two responsibilities: (1) It must have a time for the huddle – that’s for edification; and (2) It must have a time to run the play on the line of scrimmage – that’s evangelism. Unfortunately, some Christians never leave the “holy huddle.” When it comes to evangelism and missions – locally and globally:
  - Would you say that you’re sitting on the sidelines or playing in the game? Why?
  - What can you start doing personally to be more active in fulfilling the Great Commission? (Think in terms of your family, neighborhood, work, campus, city, country, world.)