

# Colossians 1:3-29

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## I. Introduction.

- A. There are four Christ-centered passages including the one concerned with. (Colossians 1, Philippians 2, Hebrews 1, John 1)
- B. The first thing Paul does is draw the Colossians' attention to the Lord.
- C. Faith binds them to Christ and love binds them to each other. (John 13:34-35)
- D. Our hope is laid up in heaven and it is assurance of eternal life - the one who has received Jesus Christ will never face judgment. (1 Peter 1:3-5)

II. The gospel was accomplishing great good throughout the world and the Colossians were a part of something greater.

III. The Colossians had learned the gospel.

- A. Paul preached the gospel and Epaphras taught it, but there was no rivalry between them.
- B. Epaphras while not among them was laboring in prayer for the church so that they would be obedient in the will of God. (Colossians 4:12, Exodus 17:11)

IV. Paul prays for the Ephesians....

- A. That they might know the will of the Lord and do it.
- B. That they might bear fruit, grow stronger spiritually, and manifest a thankful heart amidst trial.
  - 1. Endurance and patience only comes through a work of God.
  - 2. We are strengthened according to the power of God.

V. God is in the business of running a rescue business and taking away our sins so that they may never be found again. (Psalm 103:12, Micah 7:19, Isaiah 43:25, 44:22)

VI. Christ.

- A. Who He is.
  - 1. He has revealed to us openly the nature and character of God.
  - 2. If you want to know what God is like, take a look at Jesus.
- B. The position He holds - He holds creation together.
- C. The work He has done for us.

1. He offers forgiveness and regeneration. (Mark 2:5, Ephesians 2:1)
2. Jesus the Lord of Creation has a personal interest in us.
3. The gospel of Jesus Christ purifies the wicked heart.
4. If you want your life to count, tell people about Jesus. This locks you into God's eternal plan.
5. The gospel brings life change. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

VII. Paul's plan was that every man would be mature in Christ - it was individual.

A. His concern was conversion and follow up.

B. The idea was that those whom he followed up would witness and follow up in turn.

VIII. Paul labored and strived mightily for the gospel according to God's energy. God is behind all that Paul does.

IX. God can use anyone to fulfill His mission.

### **Application questions**

1. How do Paul and Epaphras model cooperative ministry?

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2. What is the work that Jesus has done for us? Explain using Scripture.

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3. What was Paul's intent with follow up? Why was he not satisfied to just see men converted to Christ?

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