

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, September 10, 2017

“The Supremacy of Christ ~ The Gospel Truth”

Colossians 1:1-86

THE RELEVANCE OF COLOSSIANS: SIGNS OF OUR AGE

From whatever angle one views our current age, the book of Colossians is up to date and _____. Although it was written nearly 2000 years ago, its timeless message speaks to the _____ facing us today, and in every case, presents _____ as the answer.

• **Ours is an age of _____.**

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible, invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created by Him and for Him.” (Colossians 1:6)

• **Ours is an age of _____.**

“Christ is also the head of the body, the church.” (Colossians 1:18)

• **Ours is an age of _____ against authority.**

“He is “the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation.” (Colossians 1:15)

“...all the fullness of God dwells in bodily form.” (Colossians 2:0)

• **Ours is an age of _____.**

“So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.” (Colossians 2:10)

• **Ours is an age of _____.**

Eschatology =

“When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4)

These are all very _____ issues. And so, we need this important letter today, just as much as when it was first written.

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother. To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.” (Colossians 1:1-2)

Apostle = *apostolos* =

Paul didn’t teach and write by his own _____, but by the dual authority of God, the Father and Jesus, the Son.

This letter was Paul’s response to a _____ that was threatening to destroy the peace, purity, and unity of the church. It was basically a combination of Eastern _____ and Jewish _____, with elements of what biblical scholars call _____.

Gnosis =

The gnostics were a group of people who claimed to have special _____ into the deeper _____ of God and promised a closer _____ with Him, in which people would attain spiritual _____, if they entered into the prescribed teachings and ceremonies

Jewish legalism that taught that the OT Law—especially the _____ laws—was useful in attaining spiritual perfection. It’s easy to see how this teaching _____ the very foundations of Christian faith. To begin with, these heretics attacked the person and work of _____, and argued that he was merely one of God’s many _____ and not the son of God come in the flesh. They also denied the _____ of Christ for salvation, and argued that something more needed to be done—some new knowledge, _____, or insight needed to be gained to be saved.

Paul confronts this error head on, and the entire theme of the letter is the _____, the _____, and the _____ Jesus.

“Christ is all and in all.” (Colossians 3:11)

Saint = *hagios* =

Faithful or *pistos* =

Grace = *charis* =

Peace = *eirene* =

Grace is the _____ for the Christian life and peace is the _____ of those provisions

7 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GOSPEL TRUTH

#1. Gospel truth is _____.

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus...” (Colossians 1:3-4)

Faith = pistis =

“the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

Saving faith contains two important elements:

Repentance = *Metanoia: meta* = *noeo* =

In = *en* =

#2. Gospel truth _____.

“... and the love which you have for all the saints...” (Colossians 1:4b)

“If anyone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.” (John 4:20)

#3. Gospel truth _____.

“...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel...” (Colossians 1:5)

Laid up = *apokeimai* =

“...an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.” (1 Peter 1:4)

#4. Gospel truth _____.

“...which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world...” (Colossians 1:6a)

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations...” (Matthew 24:14)

#5. Gospel truth _____.

“...it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it...” (Colossians 1:6b)

“The word of God is living and active.” (Hebrews 4:12)

#6. Gospel truth is _____.

“...and understood the grace of God in truth.” (Colossians 1:6c)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

in truth =

#7. Gospel truth is _____.

“...just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.” (Colossians 1:7-8)

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?” (Romans 10:14)

**What is God saying to you this morning in all this?
How have you received the gospel truth into your life?
How has it borne fruit?**