## Greeting and Thanksgiving 2.8.09

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, [2] To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. [3] We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, [4] since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, [5] because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, [6] which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing- as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, [7] just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf [8] and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. Colossians 1:1-8 ESV*

*"Paul"* Great Christian missionary, (human) author of most of the NT.
*"an apostle of Christ Jesus"* 'Sent one," authorized spokesman, spiritual authority.
*"by the will of God"* This was God's doing, not Paul's.

### P: Real change is possible.
*Has God changed me? Where do I need God to change me?*

*"Timothy our brother"* Paul's ministry apprentice/encourager.

### P: Real help is needed to spread the Gospel.
*Am I doing my part to help encourage ministry and spread the Gospel? If not, what needs to change?*

*"the saints"* Those who have turned to follow Jesus, set apart for work and worship.
*"faithful brothers"* They were faithful to the message of historic Christianity.
*"in Christ at Colossae"* Colossae was their city. Heaven was their true City.

### P: Followers of Jesus have two addresses.
*Am I rightly concerned about both of my addresses? Am I living from my 'in Christ' address?*

*"Grace…and peace"* The saving work of Jesus, spiritual prosperity.
*"from God our Father"* The source of grace and peace is God.

### P: True grace and peace are only found in God.
*Am I looking for grace and peace elsewhere? Do I recognize that ultimately those won't satisfy?*

*"God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ"* Defining "God," reinforcing divinity of Jesus.

### P: When it comes to spirituality, it is important to define the teams.
*Am I able to do this in an effective, winsome way? If not we would love to help.*

*"since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints"*

### P: Our faith in Jesus and love for His people should be evident.
*Is this a reality in my life? If not, what needs to change?*

*"because of the hope laid up for you in heaven...the gospel"* Security and source.

### P: Our faith and love flow from the Gospel.

*"which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world"* Purposeful overstatement.

*"bearing fruit and growing"* The Gospel is powerful and effective.

### P: The Gospel is alive—like a tree.
*Where do I need the Gospel to bear fruit In my life?*

*"just as you learned it from Epaphras"* Likely a Colossian converted in Paul's ministry.

### P: The Gospel needs messengers.
*Am I being faithful to proclaim the Gospel in my sphere of influence? If not, what needs to change?*

**Works Consulted:** *Expositor's Commentary, NIV Application Commentary, Life Application Bible, MacArthur Study Bible, ESV Study Bible, Messages by John Piper, Darrin Patrick*