

The Gospel That Changes Everything

Colossians 1:1-8

Setting the stage for **Colossians**:

Nowhere is the supremacy of Christ set forth more clearly and forcefully than in this letter.

This is Paul's answer to every pressure, every confusion, every subtle distortion:

Christ is above all, enough for all, and must rule all.

The Gospel arrives with _____. (vv. 1-6a)

"the word of the truth, the gospel... which has come to you..."

The gospel is not merely about getting you to _____.

It is the proclamation that Jesus Christ – crucified and risen – is _____.

This King established His rule through His death for sin and His resurrection from the dead.

That reality is now reshaping the world.

The Gospel reorders your life from _____. (vv. 4-5)

"faith... love... because of the hope laid up for you in heaven"

Hope is the _____; faith and love are the _____.

Hope is not wishful thinking.

It is a secured _____ that reshapes _____ life.

The Gospel bears _____. (v. 6)

"... as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing"

What has happened in them is happening everywhere.

The same power that raised Christ from the dead is now producing _____ in people all over the world.

The Gospel is _____, _____, and _____. (vv. 7-8)

"Epaphras... faithful minister... made known to us your love ..."

The gospel does not spread in the _____. It is _____ from person to person.

They learned it from Epaphras, a faithful minister of Christ, and through him the gospel took root among them.

This is how it happens:

The gospel advances through people who faithfully receive it and faithfully pass it on.

What this Gospel demands of us:

1) For the one not yet in Christ:

You are not being asked to consider an _____.

You are being confronted with a _____.

Jesus is the risen King.

He reigns now.

And your life is not neutral in relation to Him.

Turn from ruling your own life and come under the rule of Christ.

Entrust yourself to Him, and follow Him as King.

2) For the believer:

If the gospel is in you, it is producing something in you, so _____.

Continue in the One you have received. Remain grounded in what you have been taught. Let your life be steadily shaped by Him.

3) For the complacent:

You can claim to _____ the gospel and remain unchanged;