

Introduction:

"You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better. We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom[c] and forgave our sins. Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation," (Colossians 1 :7-15, NLT)

I. The Colossian Heresy

- B. The Colossian problem was two fold:
 - 1. "The Colossian heresy encouraged the claim that the fullness of God could be appreciated only by mystical experiences for which ascetic preparation was necessary." Bruce, F. F. (1984). The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon. and to the Ephesians (p. 26)_ Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. So, Paul's reply is to know the fullness of Christ!
 - a) *"Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ."* (Colossians 2:8 NLT)
 - b) *"Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,"* (Colossians 2:18 NLT)
 - c) The making of Jesus as just a man. *"Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ."* (Colossians 2:8 NLT)
- D. Col 1:15-20 lays out clear doctrine of who Christ is. In two parallel stanzas, this hymn:
 - 1. Celebrates Christ as the image of God, the one through whom the universe was created,
 - 2. And also the one through whom the universe has been, or will ultimately be, reconciled to God

II. Paul's Prayer - Four targets (Colossians 1:7-15)

- A. That we be filled with the knowledge of Gods will. (vs 9) Reservoirs!
 - 1. In all wisdom Eph 1 :17 Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him.
 - 2. And spiritual understanding. In other words ... grow up. Heb 5:14
- B. That you may walk worthy of the Lord (vs 10) Walk in His righteousness.
 - 1. Fully pleasing Him
 - 2. Being fruitful in every good work. Blessed - endowed with power for success, prosperity, fruitfulness and longevity.

3. Increasing in knowledge of God lets us grow in faith. We then know what to trust Him for.
- C. Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power. (vs 11)
 1. For all patience and long-suffering with joy.
- D. Giving thanks to the Father who qualified (vs 12)
 1. To be partakers of the inheritance of all the Saints.
 2. We are in the Kingdom of the Son
 3. We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin.