

Rooted: Grow Deeper. Live Taller.
Part 2 The Gospel Taking Root Col. 1:3-8
Mosaic Rockford - Dave Spooner – August 21st, 2016

Intro:

- Last week's introduction to this series and to this book we learned from the first two verses that God has:
 - a person – he always works through and in people
 - a plan – for who we are and what we do
 - a partner – in the work he has given us
 - a people – for us to focus on
 - a place – for us to do our work
 - a purpose – to offer grace that gives us peace
- The question we are going to answer today is: How are we to know if the Gospel message has taken root; and that we are strong and healthy as Christians and as a Church? Many people would say they are a Christian – so what does that mean and how should that look?
- Jesus metaphor about the gospel and the soils

Col 1:3-8 ESV

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, 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.

- Epaphras – a beloved fellow servant of Paul and a faithful minister of Christ communicated the grace of God in truth. The people of Colossae heard and understood the message and were growing in their faith.
- The result of this work had been communicated to Paul, and Paul responded with thanksgiving to God when he prayed for them because this message was bearing fruit and growing in the whole world. These are the three results of the gospel message taking root and the three things that we need to look for in our lives, our church and the lives of others as indicators of a healthy thriving life.

Three results of the gospel message taking root:

An inward possession of faith

Col 1:3-4a ESV

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

- Your faith in Christ Jesus
 - “your” – a personal possession, not someone else's, but is owned by the person
 - “faith” trust in who he is, what he has done, and results of sins being forgiven

- “In Jesus Christ” - who he is and what he has done. Not in what we can do, nor in anyone or anything else

An outward demonstration of love

Col 1:3-4 ESV

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,

Love for all the saints

- Not that we are looking to get something but to give something. Our circle of concern must be bigger than ourselves and must be extended to each other in the church.
- How do we demonstrate this?
 - In connection . . . proximity, acts of service and sacrifice, time we spend with each other, gifts, words of encouragement

An upward expectation of hope

Col 1:3-5a ESV

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.

Hope laid up in heaven

- Do you have hope “laid up” for you in heaven? – “lay away” you pay for it now so you can receive it later. Reserved (as in concert tickets – you purchase them now for a redemption in the future)
- So what are you working toward, what of you hopeful of?
- Is there an expectation of heaven and the hope of what there is to come? How much does this play a role in our lives?

Conclusion

- Inward possession, outward demonstration, upward expectation
- Here we have the great three – Faith, hope, love – with the greatest being love.
- Focus in what we need to cultivate –
- Pray for others so these things are seen in them.