

GOOD NEWS IS HOW GOD CHANGES YOU
Colossians 1: 1-8 – Randy Fenter – September 9, 2007

1. THE GOOD NEWS IS A FORCE OF IT'S OWN.

“...you have heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you” (1:5-6)

2. THE GOOD NEWS IS GRACE: GOD'S RICHES AT CHRIST'S EXPENSE

“All over the world this gospel is producing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.” (1:6)

a. GOD'S RICHES: *“qualified us” (1:12); “rescued us” (1:13); “transferred us” (1:13); “reconciles us” (1:22); “presents us holy...without blemish and free from accusation” (1:22); “makes Christ known” (1:26-27); gives us “fullness in Christ who is the head over every power and authority” (2:10); “made you alive with Christ” (2:13); “causes (the whole body/church) to grow” (2:19); raises us in Christ (3:1); “renews us” (3:10).*

b. CHRIST'S EXPENSE: *“through his blood” (1:20) “shed on the cross” (1:20); “Christ's physical death” (1:22); “Christ's afflictions” (1:24); “nail(ed) to the cross” (2:14).*

3. THE GOOD NEWS PRODUCES CONSTANT GROWTH IN YOU.

“All over the world this gospel is producing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.” (1:6)

“...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you...” (1:9).

“bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power...joyfully giving thanks...” (1:10-12)

YOUR GROWTH WILL BE SEEN IN THE BIG THREE...

FAITH: (1:4, 1:5, 1:23; 2:5, 2:7, 2:12)

HOPE: (1:5, [cf. Titus 1:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:9-11; 1 Peter 1:3-5], 1:23, 1:27; 2:24)

LOVE: (1:4, 1:5, 1:8; 2:2; 3:14)

(Also see Romans 5:1-4; Ephesians 1:13-15, 1 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 6:9-12, 1 Peter 1:3-9).

4. THE GOOD NEWS GIVES YOU A MISSION IN LIFE.

PAUL: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..., This is the gospel that you heard...and of which I, Paul, have become a servant...I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness... (1:1, 23, 25). Cf. 1:28 – 2:1

EPAPHRAS: “You learned (the good news) from Epaphras” (1:7) “Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus...is always wrestling in prayer for you...I vouch for him that he is working hard for you...” (3:12-13).

YOU: “And whatever you do in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (3:17)

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (3:23-24)

“Tell _____: ‘See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord.’” (3:17).