

I AM Complete

Jesus is My Source

Pastor Ken Cramer

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Colossians 1:3-12 (NIV84)

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing 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. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

The Church at Colossae was founded by Epaphras, who was a contemporary of Paul. Colossians and Ephesians were both written at the same time to churches in the same region with a somewhat similar tone.

The Colossian church was dealing with a mixture of human philosophy, eastern mysticism, Gnostic teaching, and Jewish legalism. This resulted in Jesus being just another way to God, rather than the ONLY way to God.

The loss would be devastating because it implied several things:

- God is far away and doesn't care about the plight of humanity
- All matter (including our physical bodies) is evil and gets in the way of knowing God
- Demonic forces are a constant threat to our lives

Paul settles these issues by bringing the attention back to the Source of all things...the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

1. The Gospel or Good News springs forth from the heart of a loving God who sent Jesus. (v5)

2. The Good News is found in the word of truth they had already received in Jesus. (v. 6-8) Paul is subtly calling the Colossian church back to the truth. Humans are prone to wander from what we know. Paul is calling them back to what they had heard from Epaphras. Jesus is Fully God and fully Man.
3. Spiritual Growth springs from our devotion to Christ alone. Man centered philosophy, astrology, diets or disciplines don't bring us any closer to God. The Father qualifies us to share in the Kingdom through Christ. (v 9-12)

Think About it:

1. The Father is not far away. The Holy Spirit lives in us and wants us to grow in our communion with Him daily. This is what a life of holiness is about. When I set aside time to walk with Him, he sets me apart for His purposes.
2. Where you have experienced lack, or become bored or frustrated in your walk with God is the entry point for distraction. When you entertain the questions, "Why isn't God answering my prayer? Or "If God really created the world, why is there evil all around us?" These questions start with ME rather than addressing what GOD has done on our behalf. We cannot put God on trial and judge Him unless we listen first to what HE has accomplished in Christ.
3. Where have you attempted to get closer to God, but neglected the basics? Accept no substitutes for prayer, study and meditation of the Word, and fellowship.

Church Announcements:

1. **TLP Communion Night, March 14.** Share communion with the cast and crew of The Living Passover on Wednesday Night, March 14th at 7 p.m. Pray for the production and for everyone who will be coming out to experience this spectacular event.
2. **The Living Passover Production.** Show times are March 18-31. Get your tickets now at www.thelivingpassover.com or call (757) 785-4857. If you are still interested in helping out with this amazing event, contact Jena Wells at jwells@thelivingpassover.com.