

Oxford Baptist Church – Jan 14, 2024 – Robin W. Pifer
Colossians – “Holy and Faithful People” – Colossians 1:1-2

Intro

- The Book of Kells, The Long Room – Trinity College Dublin.
- "Spiritual Warfare: How to Stand Firm in the Faith" by Ray C. Stedman

Context

- What is an Apostle?
 - Sent out with authority to extend the Ministry of Jesus.
 - Jesus names them. Mark 3:13-14; John 16:12-13;
 - Fulfillment of John 16 – 1Cor 2:12-13; 1Cor 14:37-38
 - Authority from the Lord. Ephesians 2:19-20 – members of the Household of God built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
- Who was the Apostle Paul?
 - Jewish-born in Tarsus, near the Lebanese border in modern Turkey.
 - Roman citizen.
 - Prominent, highly educated Jewish religious leader (Pharisee).
 - Dramatically converted to Christianity, A.D. 35.
 - Primary apostle to the Gentiles, tireless missionary.
 - Imprisoned in Rome, A.D. 67, during Nero's reign.
 - Died in prison, A.D. 68
- Where was Colossae?
 - Located one hundred miles east of Ephesus.
 - Together with Hierapolis and Laodicea, Colossae was part of a tri-city area in the Lycus Valley in what is now south-central Turkey.
- Paul's letter is written to a group of believers in Colossae.
- Paul gives them a threefold identification.

God's People are Holy Saints

- Not dead Christians from the past.
- Romans 15:25-26; Eph 4:11-12

- First, he calls them holy/saints. ἅγιος This means the Colossian believers, in fact, all believers, are “set apart” by and for God. They are living a life pleasing to God. Saints/Christians
- Find out what pleases the Lord. Ephesians 5:10
- Col 2:6-7
- Are you growing in Holy Living?

God's People are Faithful

- Next, Paul refers to the Colossian believers as faithful. As he does later in the letter, Paul commends the Colossians for their steadfast commitment to the gospel.
- Faithful to Christ and the gospel.
- Faithfulness results in Fruitfulness. John 15; Galatians 5; Bearing Fruit.
- Faithful, reliable, believing, trustworthy. πιστός

Brothers and Sisters in Christ

- Family of God.
- Household of God. Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Tim 3:14-15 – conduct in the house of God.
- 1Peter 4:17

God's people who are holy and faithful receive the gifts of grace and peace.

Questions for Personal and Group Study

- 1) Why is the Word of God so important to us as followers of Jesus Christ?
- 2) Discuss the role of Apostle. Look up the scriptures and understand the difference between the office of the Apostle and the gift of Apostleship.
- 3) Look at a map and find out where the ruins of Colossae are today.
- 4) Who are the saints or Holy Ones the Apostle Paul addresses in the passage?
- 5) How does being "set apart" by and for God impact your view of being a follower of Jesus Christ? How should we live?
- 6) Paul says these believers are faithful. Why is this such an important mark of a follower of Jesus Christ?
- 7) When we are in Christ we are in the Household of God. Read the verses and reflect upon this important marker of a true follower of Jesus Christ.
- 8) How should we conduct ourselves in the family of God?
- 9) Why does judgment start first in the family of God?
See 1 Peter 4:12-19.
- 10) Why do the people in God's household who are holy and faithful receive the gifts of grace and peace in their lives?