

Series: Colossians—The Supremacy of Christ

Sermon: Progress and Gratitude

Scripture: Colossians 1:1-14

Teacher: Jeff Norris

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Colossians 1:1-14 (ESV)

¹ *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,*

² *To the saints and faithful brother in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.*

³ *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,*

⁶ *which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—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.*

⁹ *And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*

¹⁰ *so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

¹¹ *being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;*

¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*

¹³ *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,*

¹⁴ *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

⁶ *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 2:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ *But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.*

Thank God for Gospel Progress (v. 3-8)

- The same magnet, Christ Jesus, who attracts sinners to himself and changes them into saints simultaneously draws them into closer fellowship with each other. Thus, ideally speaking, every believer enshrines his fellow-believers - wherever they may dwell and of whatever race they may be - in his heart. (Hendriksen, p. 47)
- Justin Martyr, about the middle of the second century, wrote, "There is no people, Greek or barbarian, or of any other race, by whatever appellation or manners they may be distinguished, however ignorant of arts or agriculture, whether they dwell in tents or wander about in covered wagons, among whom prayers and thanksgivings are not offered in the name of the crucified Jesus to the Father and Creator of all things." (Hendriksen, p. 51)
- "We are but of yesterday, and yet we already fill your cities, islands, camps, your palace, senate, and forum. We have left you only your temples." (Tertullian, 2nd Century Church Father)

Acts 19:10 (ESV)

All those of (the Roman province of) Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:20 (ESV)

The word of the Lord grew and increased mightily.

1 Thessalonians 1:8-9 (ESV)

For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

Philippians 1:12-13 (ESV)

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

Ask God for Gospel Maturity (v. 9-11)

Praise God for Gospel Deliverance (v.13-14)

Jesus, I Come - Written by William T. Sleeper, 1887

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.