

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



COLOSSIANS

TODAY'S VERSES:

Colossians 1:1-8

Colossians 1:29

Paul's address of concerns in the book of Colossians reveals a view of Jesus' preeminence. In Colossians you see one of the highest portrayals of Christ. This high view of Jesus comes from what we call the Gospel. Gospel means a joyful announcement of something that is impacting those who hear it in a positive way.

What is the Gospel?

It's one thing to have the Gospel presented to you; it's another to realize it has *come* to you. How do we know the Gospel has "come" to us? How do we know when we just "received the sacrament" but not Christ?

1. The Gospel brings and is joy

Whenever anyone has understood the Gospel, the true good news, the natural response is joy. The Gospel is not the message to "be better"; it is the message that Jesus has rescued us through His *own* perfect work on our behalf. Paul calls the Gospel a word of truth. A *word of truth* means there's information and content because the Gospel is a set of things we believe as true, but it brings joy. We believe what God has done and reject lies. It is not some vague, mystical "thing." It's content. It's truth. That truth leads to joy.

Has the Gospel brought joy into your life? How?

2. The Gospel brings and is power

The Gospel results in power that brings about lasting change. The Gospel is not just A joy or A power, it yields them. **Col 1:29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.** Paul's inside matched his outside because the Gospel was working itself outward in Paul's life: soul-FULL-ness. Paul's work and ministry was the result of the power of the Gospel, not Paul's own power. The average Christian says, "The Gospel gets me into the kingdom, but then I grow in obedience to the principles of the Bible." Paul says the fruit of the Spirit comes as a result of the Gospel because "in Christ," when He saves us, the Gospel will advance us.

Has the Gospel brought power into your life so that your heart and external actions are transformed? How so?

3. The Gospel brings and is grace

The Gospel tells us that something is stored up for us; the word store is the word **saved**. The message of the Gospel is not that "heaven" is the finish line. The understanding of heaven is more like money that is in the bank; it is already yours. God *has* accepted you. Grace is ours. Our anemia in our Christian life comes when we fail to understand all the implications of the Gospel. When despair, resentment, and fear start to creep in, we must dive deeper into grace.

We walk through life with confidence because our value is already set and secure.

Where do you need to dive deeper into grace? How might that affect your life, your confidence, your security?

4. The Gospel is Christ Himself

The reason the Gospel is power, joy, and the grace of God in all of its truth, is because Jesus is Christianity. Jesus is the good news. Charles Wesley asked, "*What, have we nothing to do?*" Martin Luther said, "*...nothing but accept of him who is made by God unto us to be our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.*"

If we want to understand the book of Colossians, we must see it is: everything centered in Christ. There is nothing else. He is our righteousness. He is our holiness. He is our wisdom.

What do you add to Jesus that you think completes you? How would freedom be good news by trusting in Christ alone?