



First Presbyterian

ROME

Gospel Vitality

I. Scripture Lesson

Colossians 1:1-8 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brothers 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 behalf⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

II. Big Idea

If the Gospel yields such virtuous vitality with all peoples, let us look to hear and receive it alone for fullness and fruitfulness in life.

Jesus alone can fill my heart and make me shine!

III. Gospel Vitality: verses 2-5, 8

IV. Gospel Method: verses 5b-7

V. Gospel Fullness: verses 5b-7

VI. Discussion Questions

1. What has faith in Jesus Christ looked like for you lately?
2. How has/can your love for the people of God lead you to serve sacrificially?
3. How has/can the hope of heaven impact the way you live?
4. How has/can the world/culture deceive us to believe we need something other than Jesus for fullness in life?
5. How has/should this passage help you to grow in your praise of Christ?
6. How has/should this passage lead you to repentance?
7. How has/should this passage lead you to live differently?

Next step: On Sunday mornings, through Colossians, our Church Family will be spending the next few months thinking through the reality that Jesus Christ is “**Above ALL!**”

Well, what does that mean for us on Monday, or Tuesday, or the rest of the week?

Suggestions for group study during the week:

Plan time each day this week individually or with your small group of beloveds (whoever and wherever they may be) to spend time thinking about what the Big Idea Pastor Bill preached means. The Big Idea is, “If the Gospel yields such virtuous vitality with all peoples, let us look to hear and receive it alone for fullness and fruitfulness in life.”

Remember, in the digital age - small groups can happen in all kinds of ways. However, we hope to provide a resource for family and friends to come together around a meal table to share food and faith face to face.

Try this:

Monday: Read the passage Colossians 1:1-8 together. **Pray** for the Lord to reveal his intentions for this passage to you or your group. **Study;** what does the passage say? (discuss together) what does the passage teach? (discuss together). Invite the group to review the discussion questions from the sermon outline. Choose **one** or **two** from the list to discuss and apply. (If you have time, why not read the whole Colossians letter?)

Pray & Practice: Ask the Lord to guide you as you or your group attempt to practice what the Word teaches.

Tuesday: Share & Care – Take some time to share a concern or two. Be other-oriented, avoid dominating the time, and then spend some time praying for one another. **Re-read** the passage, Colossian 1:1-8. Review the points from the sermon outline. Invite the group to review the discussion questions; choose **one** or **two** from the list to discuss and apply.

Wednesday: Wednesday Night Family Supper at FPC for Christ & Culture Part 2 with Dr. Jonathan Schwartz. Our topic is

Thursday: Share & Care – Take some time to share a concern or two (be careful to avoid dominating sharing time) and then spend some time praying for one another. **Re-read** the passage, Colossian 1:1-8. Review the points from the sermon outline. Invite the group to review the discussion questions; choose **one** or **two** from the list to discuss and apply.

Friday: Read Colossians 1:8. Anything new? Consider spending time reflecting on how your time in Colossians has impacted you this week? **Share** triumphs and failures. Celebrate *authenticity*. Praise the Lord for his work in your life this week!

Saturday: Prepare for Sunday worship. **Pray for the Lord to prepare your heart for worship on Sunday. Read** Colossians 1:9-14. Consider setting out those clothes for the morning.

Want to be part of a group? Reach out to Rob Davis – robd@fpcrome.org 706-252-5216