

**“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
The Great Transition, The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace — Part 25
Blessings Untold for the Colossians Too Under Grace, Chapter 1”**

**Review: Ephesians 5 & 6 — Walking by the Spirit Is the Key to Godly Living —
Part 2:**

- ***Living Grace — Parent - Child Relationships Are Transformed (6:1-4)***
- ***Living Grace — Relationships In the World Outside Are Ennobled (6:5-9)***
- ***Living Grace — Our Warfare Against Satanic Foes Will Continue (6:10-24)***

- ***Living Grace — Parent - Child Relationships Are Transformed (6:1-4)***

Eph. 6:1-4

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

- ***Paul here goes back to Moses’s Law and even quotes from it because some principles of God’s administration over his creation are trans-dispensational. One of these is the God given relationship ordained between parents and their children. Satan therefore has always sought to harm and destroy those relationships, whatever the dispensational plan of God. Paul shows great respect for the Law here though he is not teaching that we are subject to it. It is all of grace here.***

- ***Living Grace — [All] Relationships In the World Outside Are Ennobled (6:5-9)***
 - ***Paul was not a revolutionary and he did not want his “heavenly citizenship” to be tarnished by earthly concerns, even in regard to something as important as this. Since in Christ there are no such distinctions, personal relationships outside marriage and the family are ennobled by the Christian bond which is greater than any inequality that culture or law may dictate or enable. So he does not speak or write directly against the social evils inherent in the practice of slavery, so common in ancient times.***

 - ***In addition, Paul writes that our “service” to those above us should never be based on a legal principle of personal gain, but “from the***

heart” and “as unto the Lord”. My, such encouraging and spiritual language this is! God will work out the “equity” of it all later, in eternity, seems to be the clear intent here, not a “health and wealth” teaching as is so common today.

- ***Living Grace — Our Warfare Against Satanic Foes Will Continue (6:10-24)***

But satan will always seek to destroy the harmony of the spirit in our relationships if he can. Submission within the Body with proper respect always is to be the order of the day. Satan will destroy or tarnish this ideal if he can, however, so we will always be living in a state of war in that sense at least.

Paul reveals here the true nature of our warfare which is “spiritual”. This is a revelation indeed! For, he writes, our enemies in their most essential nature are spiritual beings in the heavens, fallen spirit beings who are all instruments of satan.

Eph. 6:10-13 [Spiritual warfare’s details]

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Eph. 6:14-18

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

- *Our foes are in essence spiritual beings and not flesh and blood. The weapons of our warfare therefore must also be spiritual. He make this so clear here.*

- *It should change our view of history and of our present world and country if we would take to heart what is written here. Has it? How is God working in our own land today?*
- *Finally, Paul asked the believers to pray for him. He did not ask for prayer for himself as regarding the terms of his imprisonment, you will note. But he did ask for prayer concerning continued “opportunities” to speak boldly on behalf of Christ with that message that alone can change hearts and lives and even this world.*
- *He includes the words “the mystery of the gospel” here to remind the Ephesian believers that his message and ministry were now for the Gentiles irrespective of Israel now that Israel and its Kingdom claims had been set aside. I think the gospel of the mystery and the mystery of the gospel are different (see Rom. 16:25). What he is writing about here may be something he had taught them about while the three years in their midst. Or, perhaps it is simply good news regarding our circumstances under the abundant outpouring of his grace.*

Today: Blessings Untold for the Colossians Too, Under Grace: The Essence of Grace Doctrine, Colossians, chapter 1

- **Our Privilege:** *Living Life to the Fullest, Filled with His Joy (Col. 1:1-11)*
- **Our Position:** *Having Been Translated into the Kingdom of His Dear Son Who Is the Fullness of God (Col. 1:12-20)*
- **Our Prospect:** *Being Found Holy, Unblameable and Unreproveable in His Sight (Col.1:21-23)*
- **(NEXT TIME) Our Practice:** *Co-Suffering with Our Lord Jesus as Paul Did (Col. 1:24-29 and 2:1-4)*

I. Our Privilege: Living Life to the Fullest, Filled with His Joy (Col. 1:1-11):

In its essence, this letter to the Colossians reflects for the most part the same teaching as in the Ephesian letter. It was, it seems, written at the same time (see the endings) so Paul’s mindset was the same in writing it. But there are some details that are different and some teachings are amplified in the Colossian letter. Let’s read it now and see the glories of God’s abundant grace revealed even in the introduction.

[READ] Col. 1:1-6

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

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which* ye *have* to all the saints,

5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard of *it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

- “Saints and faithful brethren”: ***These are such heavenly words of introduction. Paul sees all believers as exalted in the heavenlies ... already. And “your faith in Christ Jesus” continues his thought.***
- ***That they had a “hope which is laid up in heaven” is, as he writes here, what “the word of the truth of the gospel” had revealed to them so clearly. This was the hope that sustained them as believers, he is reminding them here. We should all be regularly so reminded.***
- “Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard of *it*, and knew the grace of God in truth”: ***There is such an unmeasurable power in the word of truth, the gospel of grace through our Lord Jesus Christ and his finished work. Romans 1 says the same most directly:***

Rom. 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

[READ] Col. 1:7-11

7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

- *Paul's great desire is stated next here, that they all* "might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding". *For that reason he prays unceasingly for them (and us).*
- *The object of his prayers is heavenly indeed and should transport us all as it surely did the Colossians to heavenly living here on this earth.* "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness". *Note the "all", "every", "all" and "all". The life of a believer under the fullness of God's unlimited grace may be described so well as Paul has written here. "Amen" is an appropriate response. For, it is truly our privilege to live life to the fullest, filled to overflowing with his joy!*
- *Paul's point here is so different from what is so commonly being taught today, that knowledge of God's word is not really that important, after all, since we know more than we need to know. What we need now is "obedience"! Paul's teaching here is so contrary to that. "Knowledge" and its cognates, "wisdom" and "understanding", are mentioned four times in two verses here!*

Without the knowledge Paul writes about here HOW CAN WE STAND?

II. Our Position: Having Been Translated into the Kingdom of His Dear Son Who Is the Fullness of God (Col. 1:12-20)

- *As we continue in chapter 1, we now see declared two great realms of truth. Firstly, Paul makes clear how the redemption that is in Christ Jesus has accomplished even our forgiveness from sins. His shed blood, he proclaims, has redeemed us, even paid the full price required! And along with that we have been placed into the Kingdom, the Kingdom of His Beloved Son:*

[READ] Col. 1:12-14

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet **[Gk. Root = enough, so close you can grasp on to it, if you will!]** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

- ***Then, In verses 15-20 he continues that teaching with even more concerning our Lord Jesus and creator and sustainer, redeemer, and reconciler. Our blessings through him are summarized in these few words: “that in him should all fullness dwell” and ON THAT FOUNDATION, EVERYTHING RESTS!***

[READ] Col. 1:15-20

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

- ***Some other verses come to mind when we consider this Pauline concept of “the fullness”:***

Col. 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

Eph. 1:23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Eph. 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

- ***The teaching here is that in Christ the full essence of Almighty God has been expressed in material form, or “bodily”. This is surely beyond our understanding and we must be content to accept it by faith. Then, that essence of God expressed bodily is now also being expressed also in some equally incomprehensible way into the Body***

as a spiritual organism created by God. Finally, he then teaches here how in us individually and personally we may all be “filled with all the fulness of God”! Just stand in awe of this magnificent expression of truth that surely is intended to transform using our circumstances of life, no matter how humbling they may appear to be.

- *And the apostle writes this to the humblest of us all, as the world sees us! Praise God for the abundance of his unlimited grace.*

III. Our Prospect: Being Found Holy, Unblameable and Unreproveable in His Sight (Col.1:21-23):

[READ] Col. 1:21-23

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

- *And now we learn that this reconciliation even applies to us sinners! Most wonderful. It was accomplished of course as he now again states “In the body of his flesh through death”.*
 - *Now the desired consequence in us is stated. This is what the foundation provided has enabled: “to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight”. This points forward to the Judgment Seat of Christ (1 Cor. 3). But there is a big IF here, isn’t there? Or is there? “If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel”. Very interesting is the wording found here in the Greek. For there are present tenses here following the past tense of “to reconcile” in verse 21.*
 - *Every man shall have praise of God, according to 1 Cor. 4:5: “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”*
 - *In the depths of our beings, we all shall never be “moved away from the hope of the gospel”, since that is the foundation of our*

faith. All that might take away from that will be removed according to the Corinthian passage and we shall stand before Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ “holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight”. Amen and amen!

Conclusions & Application:

- ***Such truth. Our privilege, our position, our prospect, and our practice. Truth that transforms. If only this letter endured, what a blessing indeed for those who are his by grace. THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN LAID. WILL WE BUILD UPON IT?***

I pray that we will redeem the time and therefore the opportunities as provided by the Lord. Let us do so as he writes in Col. 3:

Col. 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.