

Series: Greater Than
Passage: Colossians: 1:1-14
Sunday: April 16, 2023

On April 16, we will be kicking off our next series called “Greater Than.” This is a series focused on the Letter to the Colossians and the idea of exalting Jesus as greater than all else.

Colossians 1:1-14 (ESV)

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which 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, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And 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, ¹⁰so 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; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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1. Think of a time when you saw someone’s life radically change for the better. How did you react to the change? What did you think and say to that person?

 2. In this passage, Paul speaks of “fruit of the gospel.” What qualities does Paul see in the lives of the Colossians that indicate the gospel is bearing fruit in their lives? How do those qualities reflect the good news of Jesus?

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3. In verses 5-6, Paul describes “the word of truth, the gospel” as something that increases and brings about fruit. This word of the gospel is powerful. God himself works through it, spreading into new life. To what extent would you say the fruit of the gospel is evident in the life of Shore Church, in your community, in your own life?

4. Paul’s prayer for the church in Colossae provides a wonderful pattern (verses 9-12). What does Paul pray concerning the will of God (verses 9-10)?

5. Why is understanding God’s will important for spiritual growth in our lives?

6. Looking at Paul’s prayer in verses 9-12, what areas of your life do you need someone to pray these things for you? How can you better pray these prayers for others?

7. Where in this passage do you see that the work of Jesus and his gospel are GREATER THAN all else?