HIT THE GROUND RUNNING – MESSAGE OUTLINE



Colossians 1:3-8 NKJV

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Introduction

Today we begin a new series in the book of Colossians. The series title is *From Faith to Flourishing - Fundamentals To The Colossians.*

Paul explains how the Colossians as new Christ followers can *hit the ground running* from beginning faith to powerfully flourishing and thriving in the Christian life.

God wants you to have a flourishing life in Christ.

What is your vision for a life FLOURISHING in Christ?

Showing Grace

So should we pray only to the Father, or is it okay if we pray to Jesus? Is Jesus God?

Jesus and the Father are equal—all the way back to eternity past—Jesus was not created, He is God.

So when you pray, you can pray to God, you can pray to the Father, AND/OR Jesus.

The root of encouragement is humility, where the root of criticism is from pride.

Take a step back and appreciate anything you can find about them. What you are about to say is much more palatable, powerful and effective.

Pray to the Lord, thankful for the people you are involved with in life—your Spiritual condition will be much healthier. You will all be changed. You will become powerful.

Appreciate people, even when it is hard to.

Faith, Love, Hope
From here, Paul begins to introduce his famous triad—faith, love, and hope.

Paul is thankful to have heard about their faith, and there is a report of seeing results of that faith.

What were the results of that new faith they had? What had shown their faith to him?

Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more **1 Thessalonians 4:8-10**

A stagnant Christian is a badge on the devil's chest.
A stagnant church is a plaque on his wall.

What does it mean to be Spiritual? What does it look like? This is your answer, being like Jesus: *love one another as I have loved you.* **John 13:34**

That is walking in the Spirit. Loving each other. You cannot be more spiritual than Jesus.

They were also sharing the faith. By these he knew THE HOLY SPIRIT is living in them.

It seems as though something is always working against us. We are all going to die.

Jesus Christ died to pay for the sins of Man, but also that they can have the Spirit.

Man does not need to reap fruit from the ground—rather Man can produce their own fruit.

You see, the curse is being reversed.

Have you wondered why the promises of God are not happening in your life?

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. **Matthew 6:33.**

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**

Do you want to have the blessings of God pouring down all over you? Get moving.

God is not going to bless a stagnant Christian, and He will not bless a stagnant church.

10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. **John 10:10**

That is the difference between the god of this world and our God, Jesus Christ.

Man's Real Problem
Disobedience wasn't their only problem.

The message of the cross has always been, "call on the name of the Lord and you shall be saved," both in the OT and the New. (Joel 2:32 / Romans 10:13)

They did not believe that Yahweh Saves, not kills. Adam believed in the Law. He did not believe in grace. Why? Adam was a legalist, and assumed God was also a legalist.

But praise God! Our God is not a legalist. Our God is full of grace.

The gospel: Man has been given Jesus the Christ, meaning the anointed one, who came in place of us, so that believing in Him, we have EVERLASTING LIFE. (John 3:16)

Everlasting life is the hope that we have been given.

Grace
We need to get out from the mentality of legalism and get into the mentality of grace.

GIVE THEM GRACE

By giving people grace, you begin to stop acting like legalist Adam who died, and you begin to act spiritual, like Jesus, who lives forever and ever.

That's how to live with your new everlasting life. Starting now in the Spirit.

And doing this, you will produce fruit more than what you could ever achieve. And as you give grace you will be blessed, and the Lord will open for you the windows of heaven, And pour out for you such blessing, that there will not be room enough to receive it. (Malachi 3)

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
December 30-31, 2023

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