

# **Sermon**

## **The Church: A Community of Change**

*Colossians 1:1-14*

**Jeff Jackson**

**“Living For the One Who Branded Us...Jesus”**

## TEXT:

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

<sup>2</sup> We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

May God our Father give you grace and peace.

### ***Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer***

<sup>3</sup> We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, <sup>5</sup> which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

<sup>6</sup> This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

<sup>7</sup> You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. <sup>8</sup> He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

<sup>9</sup> So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

<sup>11</sup> We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, <sup>12</sup> always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup> who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

# MESSAGE:

## I. Excitement (3-14)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Question:** Does God at work excite you?

## II. Expression (3)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### British Novelist Charlotte Brontë

"Happiness quite unshared can scarcely be called happiness; it has no taste."

## III. Expectation (5)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### A. B. Simpson

God has boundless resources. The only limit is in us. Our asking, our thinking, our praying are too small. Our expectations are too limited.

### Matthew Henry

We cannot expect too little from man, nor too much from God.

## IV. Evidence (3-10)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Henry Drummond

"Not more certain is it that it is something outside the thermometer that produces a change in the thermometer, than it is something outside the soul of man that produces a moral change upon him. That he must be susceptible to that change, that he must be a party to it, goes without saying; but that neither his aptitude nor his will can produce it is equally certain."

## V. Endurance & Encouragement (11-12)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Anonymous** – When you feel like you're drowning in life, don't worry – your Lifeguard walks on water

## VI. Exchange (13)

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Michael W. Smith

Transformation in the world happens when people are healed and start investing in other people.

### Ravi Zacharias

When you find your definitions in God, you find the very purpose for which you were created. Put your hand into God's hand, know His absolutes, demonstrate His love, present His truth, and the message of redemption and transformation will take hold.

## Conclusion:

### “Christian Experience”

#### Colossians 3:1-11

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. <sup>2</sup> Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. <sup>3</sup> For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory.*

*<sup>5</sup> So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. <sup>6</sup> Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. <sup>8</sup> But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. <sup>9</sup> Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. <sup>10</sup> Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. <sup>11</sup> In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us.*