

Like a Good Neighbor

Pastor Jeff Alexander + Pentecost 5 + July 14, 2019



Colossians 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

What do we know about the Colossian believers?

How does Paul know them?

Colossians 1:3-8

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Paul commends the Colossians for their FAITH and their LOVE.

How are these like two sides of the same coin?

If faith is real, love will be real. For love to be real, its source will be our Real. Present. God.

In the story of the Good Samaritan, the man's question for Jesus is: Who is my neighbor?

After telling the parable, Jesus shows His concern for His people is: Be a good neighbor to all people, no matter who they are.

How can we at Mount Olive continue to be equipped to be the neighbors God wants us to be?

Colossians 1:9

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

Seek the KNOWLEDGE of His will and growth in the Holy Spirit

Colossians 1:10-11

¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

With patience and ENDURANCE, keep living our lives in Christ and share Him with others

Colossians 1:12-14

¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Joyfully GIVE THANKS to the Father for the rescuing work of His Son