

In The Beginning

Colossians 1:1-8

Who are you?

- How do you see yourself?
- What adjectives do you use to describe yourself to others?

The Importance of Perception

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

² To the holy and faithful^a brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.^b

Colossians 1



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Colossians 1

The Importance of Perception

- **Paul's perception of himself**
 - An Apostle
 - An Apostle of Jesus Christ
 - An Apostle by the will of God
- **Paul's perception of the members of the church at Colossae**
 - They are holy
 - They are faithful

The Importance of Perception

- **Paul's perception God's disposition toward his people**
 - **Grace**

expresses God's unconditional, unmerited, uncaused love and favor which he displays toward mankind in Christ . . . however, it most probably refers to the result of God's attitude in terms of blessing
 - **Peace**

speaks of completeness, the full and abundant life enjoyed by God's people because of their relationship to one another and to God.

The Foundation for Perception

³ We 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 the saints— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our^a behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

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- ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, **THE GOSPEL** ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

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The Key to Everything is **THE GOSPEL:**

- Which speaks to us of the grace of God
- Which restores us into a living relationship with our creator and assures us of God's favor, peace
- Which is the source of hope
- Which calls us to faith in Christ
- Which establishes the foundation for our relationships as fellow believers (love)
- Which is spreading, with powerful effects, throughout the world

The problem revealed

- When the gospel is distorted it inevitably changes our perception of God
- When our perception of God is impaired our view of ourselves is changed and this inevitably impacts our behavior.

So What

- When you define yourself what influence does the gospel have on your self perception
- On the anniversary of 9/11 does the hope that is contained in the Gospel equip you to live in a world of uncertainty