



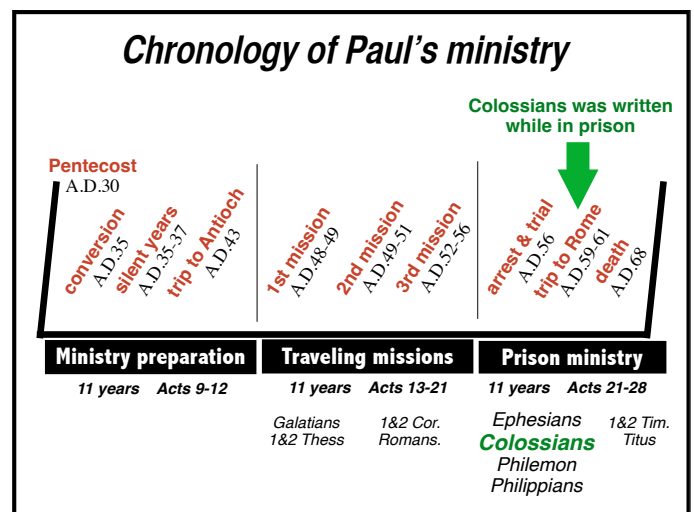
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3



4

Colossians 1

“¹ Paul, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² to the **saints** and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father.”

Three issues that launch Colossians

- **Apostolic authority** clarifies the Gospel
- **Saintly faithfulness** characterizes the Gospel
- **Grace, & Peace** constitute the Gospel

5

Colossians 1

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

- **Apostolic authority** clarifies the Gospel

Three traditions
Eastern Orthodox / Protestant / Roman Catholic

6

The word "apostle" means **one who is sent**.

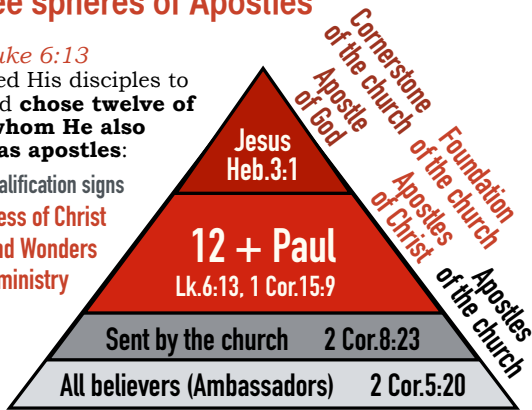
Three spheres of Apostles

Luke 6:13

"He called His disciples to Him; and **chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles:**

Special qualification signs

- Eyewitness of Christ
- Signs and Wonders
- Fruitful ministry

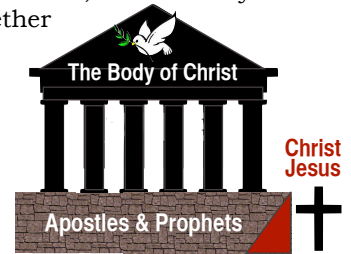


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Ephesians 2

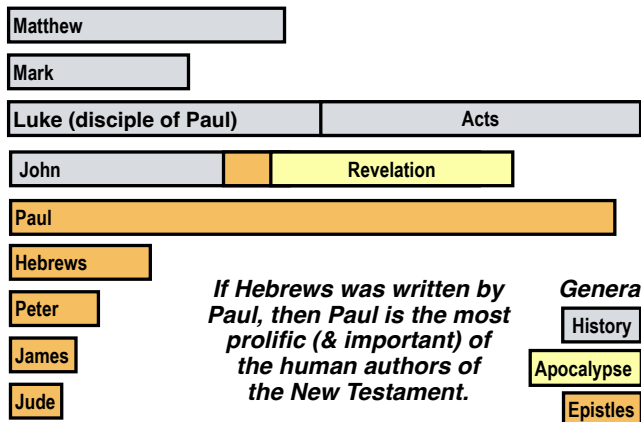
"¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of **God's household**, ²⁰ having been built upon the **foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone**, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a **holy temple** in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are being built together into a **dwelling of God in the Spirit.**"

Both building and being the Body of Christ is the mission of the church.



8

Relative length of writings by N.T. authors



9

- Apostolic authority clarifies the Gospel

2 Peter 3:16 (Paul's authority)

"as also in all his (Paul's) letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures,**"

Paul's letters are the lens through which we understand the Gospel.

Read carefully

- prayerful, purposeful, persistently

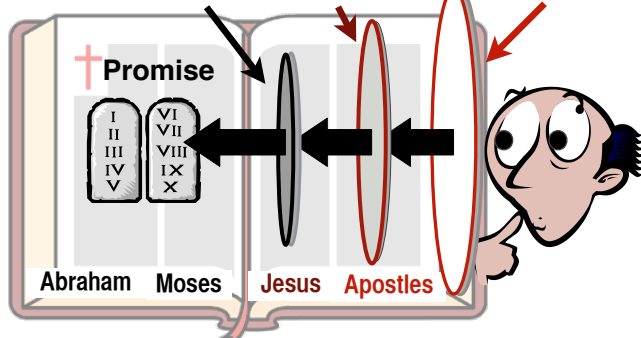
Read contextually

- genera, literary, theology, culture

10

The Epistles clarify the meaning and significance of the Bible.

Old Testament Gospels Epistles



11

All Scripture is written FOR us but not TO or ABOUT us.



12

Context of Colossians

- ✓ The common **structure** of Paul's letters.

Ephesians & Colossians

Our Wealth
Our Position
Christ's work for us

Ch. 1-3 (1-2)

Our Walk
Our Performance
Christ's work through us

Ch. 4-6 (3-4)

- ✓ Colossians, like Ephesians is written to a **Gentile audience**, It has no quotations from the Old Testament.
- ✓ Ephesians emphasis is on **The Body of Christ** while Colossians emphasis is **Christ**, the **Head of that Body**.
- ✓ Colossians is arguably the most explicitly "**Christ centered**" book in the Bible.

13

Context of Colossians

- ✓ Marcion, one of the first people to make a collection of Paul's letters in the 2nd century, identifies **Ephesians** as the letter to the **Laodiceans**.

Colossians 4:16

"When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read **my letter that is coming from Laodicea**."

- ✓ Two thirds of **Colossians** finds a direct parallel in Ephesians.

Ephesians can help us interpret Colossians.

14

Parallel texts

Ephesians 5

"¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; ²⁰ always **giving thanks** for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; ²¹ and **be subject** to one another in the fear of Christ."

Colossians 3

"¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ **Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom** teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** through Him to God the Father. ¹⁸ Wives, **be subject** to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."

15

Jesus promised the Apostles that the coming Holy Spirit would bring more **revelation & clearer understanding (after his death & resurrection).**

John 16:13

"But **when** He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into **all the truth**; . . . and He will disclose to you **what is to come**."

Old Testament
and Gospels



Paul's Gospel

Old Covenant

Acts - Epistles

16

Jesus' Gospel and Paul's Gospel

Mark 1

"¹⁴ Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "repent and believe in **the gospel**.""

Jesus refers to **the O.T.'s promised Kingdom and King**.

Paul refers to **Jesus' place & role as King in the promise**.

1 Corinthians 15

"¹ Now I make known to you, brethren, **the gospel which I preached to you**, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,"

17

The Apostles saw the coming of the Holy Spirit as **the beginning of the Christian community.**

Acts 11:15

"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us **at the beginning**."

The New Covenant was not an addition to the Old Covenant, **but rather a replacement of it.**

Hebrews 8:6-13

"In speaking of a new covenant, God **makes the first one obsolete**. And what is becoming obsolete and growing old is **ready to vanish away**."

Jer.31:31-34, Jn.1:17, Rom.6:14, Gal.3:24-25, 4:24-26

18

Colossians 1

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

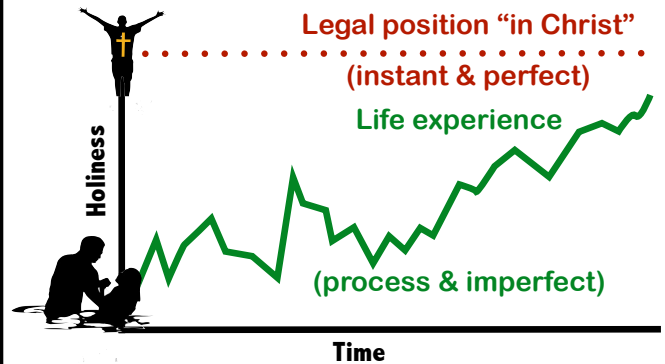
- **Saintly faithfulness** characterizes the Gospel

All believers are "saints" **imputed with the righteousness of Christ by faith** apart from the works of the Law.

They are expected to live out their faith **as ambassadors of Christ to the world.**

19

Two spheres of Righteousness, REPENTance, and sanctification



20

Ephesians 2

"⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is the gift of God*; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

21

Colossians 1

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

- **Grace, & Peace** constitutes the Gospel

The **Grace & Peace** are gifts **FROM** God to us with the call for us to pass it on **TO** the world by how we show and tell it.

22

The grace of God brings the peace of God



Social peace

What Christ does **THROUGH** us as his church.



Psychological peace

What Christ does **IN** us through his Spirit.



Theological peace

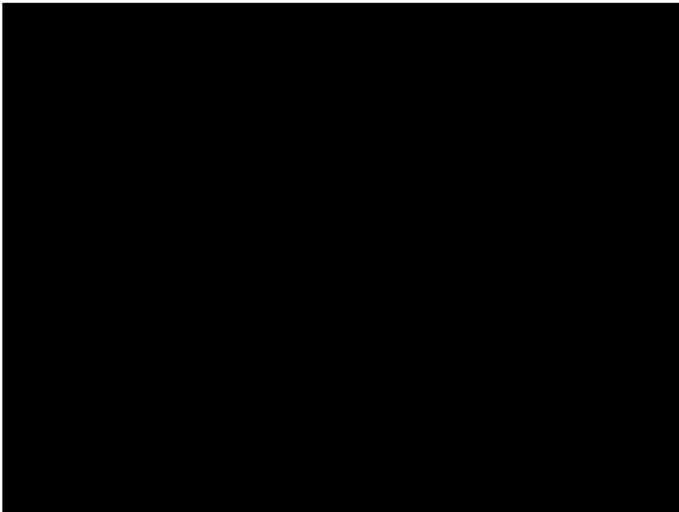
What Christ has done **FOR** us at the Cross.

23

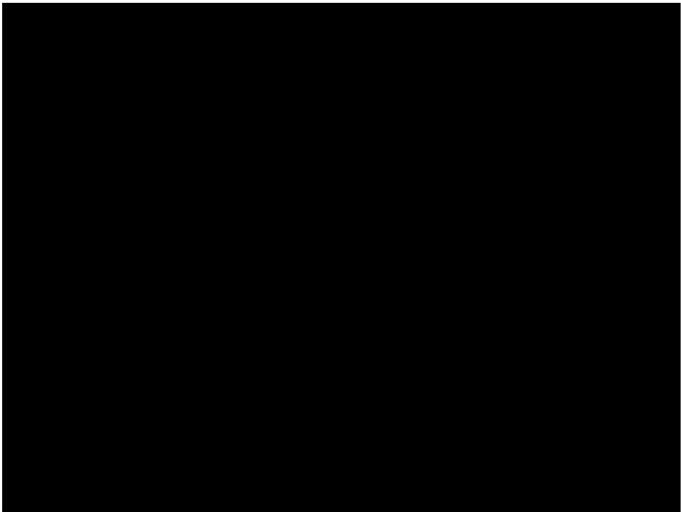
Colossians



24



25



26

Colossians

"1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ [who are] at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 ¶ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as [it has been doing] in you also since the day you heard [of it] and understood the grace of God in truth; 7 just as you learned [it] from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

9 ¶ For this reason also, since the day we heard [of it], we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please [Him] in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, [both] in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the [Father's] good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say], whether things on earth or things in heaven. 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, [engaged] in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

27

Relative length of writings by N.T. authors

Luke (disciple of Paul)

Acts

Matthew

Mark

John

Paul

Hebrews

Peter

James

Jude

Revelation

Revelation

If Hebrews was written by Paul, then Paul is the most prolific (& important) of the human authors of the New Testament.

Genera

Epistles

History

Revelation

28

the parable of two rich young rulers

Jesus had true wealth to give to the rich young ruler

Luke 18:18-27, Matthew 19:16-26

who first had to make room for it.

29

In every circumstance there is a Godly response and a worldly response open to us.

Circumstances can be stumbling stones or stepping stones to "SHOWTIME".

30

The greater gift

"A monk in his travels once found a precious stone and kept it. One day he met a traveler, and when the monk opened his bag to share his provisions with him, the traveler saw the jewel and asked the monk to give it to him. The monk did so readily. The traveler departed overjoyed with the unexpected gift of the precious stone that was enough to give him wealth and

security for the rest of his life. However, a few days later he came back in search of the monk, found him, gave him back the stone, and entreated him, 'Now give me something much more precious than this stone, valuable as it is. Give me that which enabled you to give it to me.'"



Anthony De Mello
Indian Jesuit priest

31

"The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. We each have to lay aside something. I had to ask myself, 'What does that mean for me?'"

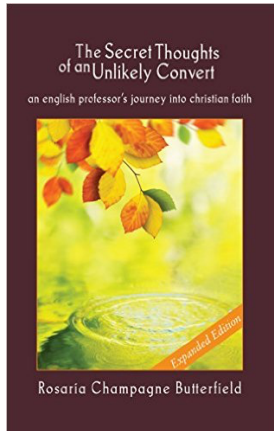
Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield
lesbian,
former postmodern, feminist,
English professor



32



"To follow Jesus, we must lose our life to find it. What have you given up to know him and yourself?"



33



EWTV
GLOBAL CATHOLIC NETWORK

As a powerful woman, how do you respond to those who say that women are not free to be ordained in the Catholic Church?

"Power in the Kingdom of God is love. I do not need a position or a title to be free to exercise that power."

34

Ephesians 1

"1 . . .to the **saints** (who are at Ephesus) and who **are faithful** in Christ Jesus;

- ✓ **saints** - means **holy, sanctified, set apart**.
He refers to "saints" nine times in this letter (1:1,15, 18; 2:19; 3:8,18; 4:12; 5:3; 6:18).
- ✓ **are** - not (can be, should be, or will be).
(**positional status "in Christ"**)
- ✓ **faithful (believers)** - possessing a **living faith** (not to be confused with spiritual perfection).

All who have a living faith in Christ are **SAINTS** with **two homes**: 1. In Christ, 2. In this world.

35

Colossians 1

"1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of 2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father."

The **Grace of God** apart from our works of the Law is the source of **peace with God**.

Colossians 2:12

"having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through **faith in the working of God**,"

36

Ephesians 1

“¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

1. Paul explains the Gospel of Christ.

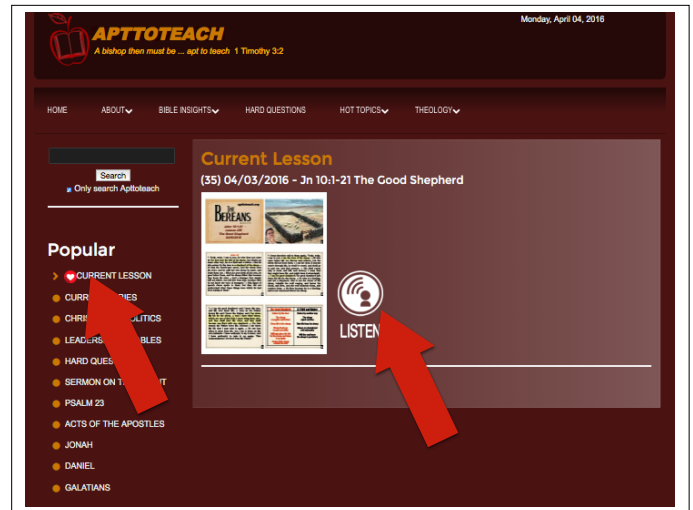
to the saints (*who are at Ephesus*) and who are faithful in Christ Jesus;

2. We are “saints” by faith in Christ.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

3. The Gospel’s light is grace / peace.

37



38

Ephesians 1:2

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- ✓ **grace** - redemption based on the merit of Christ.
- ✓ **peace** - reconciliation with God, self, and others.

שלום **Shalom**

Having a clear **conscience** before God,
in harmony with the deepest **purpose** of God,
and fully human, reflecting the **image** of God.

39

Paul was a chosen Apostle of Christ.

Ephesians 1:1

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God,**”

- ✓ Paul describes himself as **chosen by the will of God** (not aspiration, usurpation, or nomination).

The choice (election) of Paul in this context is for **service** (not salvation).

Election to salvation (**predestination**) will come up later in this chapter.

40



41

**Are we familiar with
all the apps on our
new life in Christ?**



42

Ephesians 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father
**(The blessings go in two directions. God
blesses us so that we can be a blessing to Him.)**

of our **(not “the”)** Lord Jesus Christ,
(We have an intimate connection with Christ.)

who has **(past tense)** blessed us
(The issue is what Christ has already done.)

with every spiritual **(not material)** blessing
(We lack for nothing spiritually.)

in the heavenly places **(our true home)**

in Christ, **(used 12 times in this chapter)**

43

Ephesians 1:3

*Paraphrase taking into account the opening
words of Colossians.*

“We heap praise on God, the
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
because He has shown us great
favor by including us as a part of
the Body of Christ, where we are
made to share in the full measure
of His image in this life and even
more in the life to come.”

44

1.

**The blessings of God are given so that we
might **be a blessing** to God and others.**

The goal of the Christian life is not only our
blessing but also our **BEING A BLESSING**.

2.

**The blessings of God through Christ are
a package that **has been** delivered to all
believers alike.**

The first two chapters are about
what **WE HAVE** in Christ,
not about what we could or should have.

45

1 Corinthians 12:13

“For **by one Spirit we were all baptized
into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks,
whether slaves or free, and we were all
made to drink of one Spirit.”

**2a. The baptism of the Spirit is the
initiation of every believer into
the Body of Christ.**

- Water baptism is a sign of this initiation.
- The Body of Christ or church is an egalitarian
spiritual community united by a common Spirit.
- Vs 13 mentions the Spirit as a “seal” and “pledge”
of our inheritance but Paul does not suggest that
there may be some Christians who are left out.

46

1 Corinthians 12

“⁴ Now there are varieties of **gifts**, but the
same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of
ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ And
there are varieties of **effects**, but the
same God who works all things in all
persons. ⁷ But to each one is given the
manifestation of the Spirit for the
common good.”

**2b. Like an athletic team - each believer
has a distinct role or function and
each has unique experiences and
effects.**

47



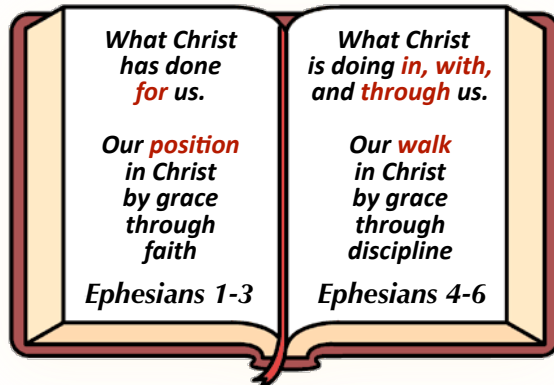
“A team plays for
the name on the
front of the jersey
not for the name
on the back!”

Dean Smith



48

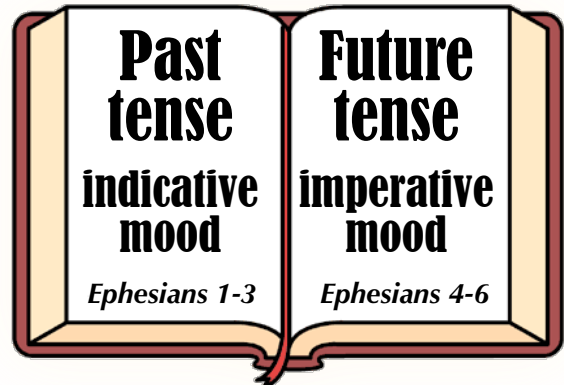
Ephesians



This order is consistent in all of Paul's letters and significant.

49

Ephesians



This order is consistent in all of Paul's letters and significant.

50

Common misconceptions.

1. The Body of Christ is a **class** system.
This is not a new problem - see Corinth.
2. If you don't **feel** it, you don't have it.
Blessings are claimed by faith not feelings.
3. What we need is a special **experience with Christ's Spirit** that will give us what is lacking.
Our problem is not a greater blessing but our walk in faith.

51

Characteristics of the Foundation Apostles

An eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus

Acts 1:21-22

"Therefore it is necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us - beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us - one of these must become **a witness with us of His resurrection.**"

1 Corinthians 9:1

"Am I not an apostle? **Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?** Are you not my work in the Lord?"

52

Characteristics of the Foundation Apostles

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Signs and wonders

2 Corinthians 12:12

"The **signs of a true apostle were performed among you** with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles."

53

Characteristics of the Foundation Apostles

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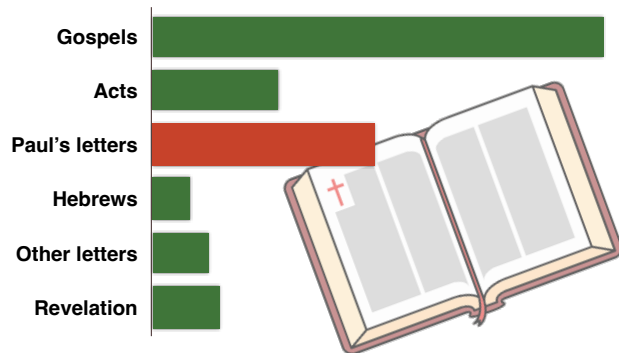
Fruitfulness in ministry

1 Corinthians 9:1

"Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? **Are you not my work in the Lord?**"

54

The Gospels and Paul's letters dominate the New Testament



55

Colossians 1

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

1. Paul explains the Gospel of Christ.

to the **saints** and faithful brethren **in Christ** who are at Colossae: and who are faithful in Christ Jesus;

2. We are "saints" by faith in Christ.

² **Grace** to you and **peace** from God our Father."

3. The Gospel's fruit is grace / peace.

56

Why were the 12 Apostles important?

57

The importance of the brethren in Christ

58

Ephesians 1

"¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

1. Paul explains the Gospel of Christ.

to the saints (*who are at Ephesus*) and who are faithful in Christ Jesus;

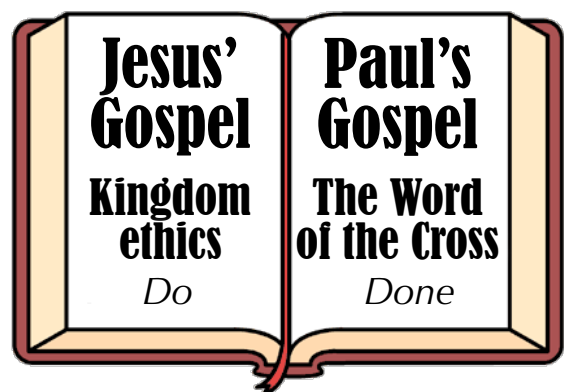
2. We are "saints" by faith in Christ.

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3. The Gospel's light is grace / peace.

59

Jesus and Paul



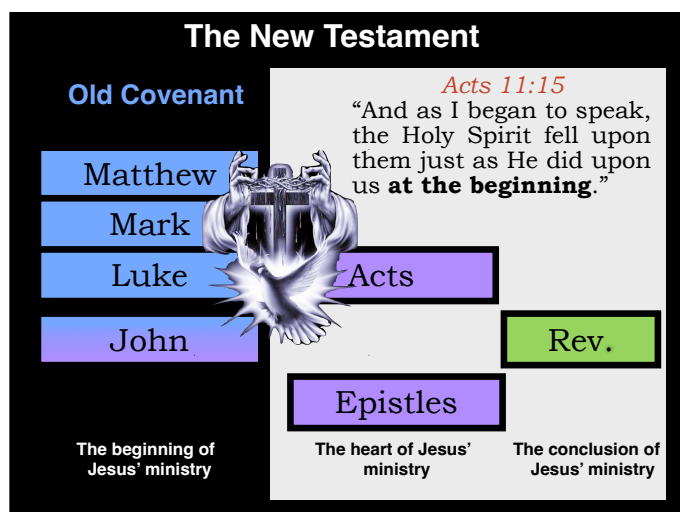
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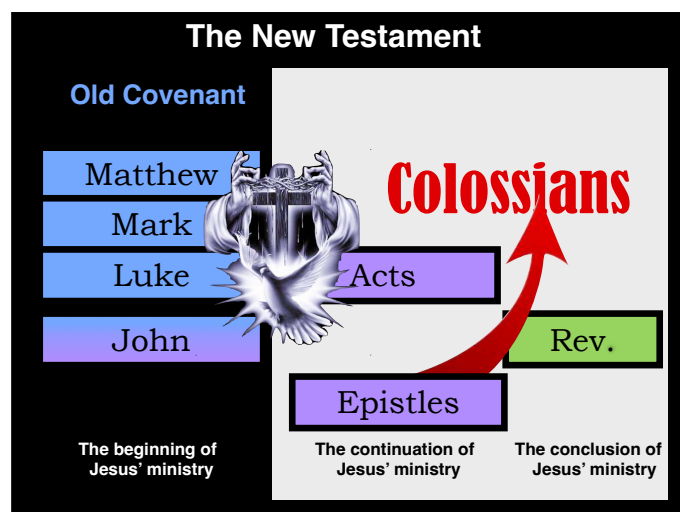
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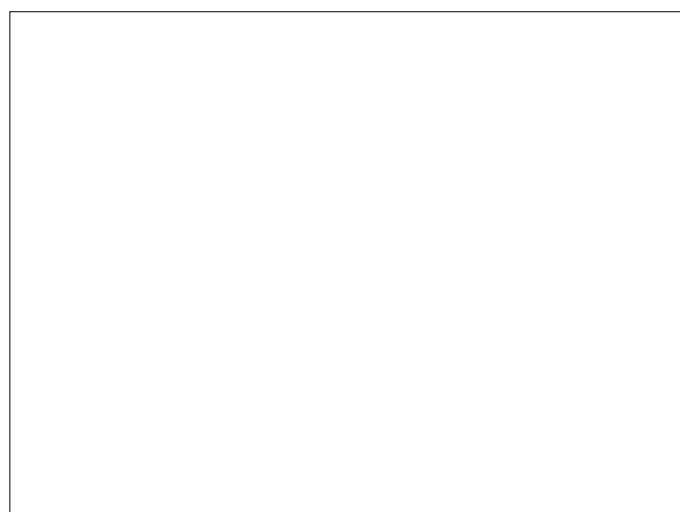
62



63



64



65

Ephesians 1:2
"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

✓ **grace / peace** - in *Colossians* (after 1:2)

1:20 "**peace** is through the blood of Christ"

3:15 "**peace** is to rule in our heart"

1:6 "**grace** is linked to truth"

4:6 "speech is to be with **grace**"

✓ **grace / peace** - in *Ephesians* (after 1:2)

6:15 "the gospel of **peace**"

2:14 Jesus is "our **peace**".

2:15 Jesus "made **peace**" by his cross.

2:17 Jesus "came and preached **peace**".

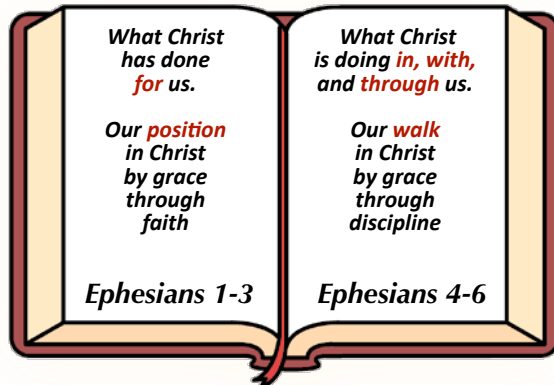
4:3 "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of **peace**"

2:5,7,8 "by **grace** we are saved"

3:2,7, 4:7 by **grace** we are gifted for service

66

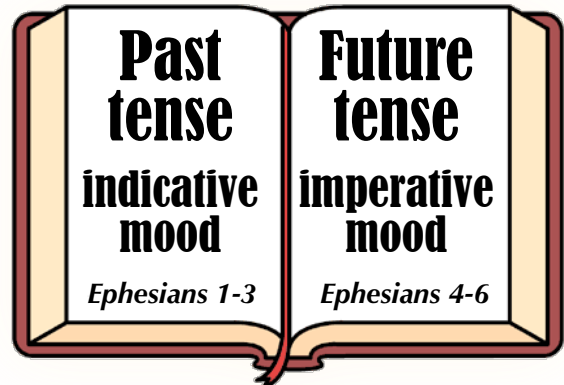
Ephesians



This order is consistent in all of Paul's letters and significant.

67

Ephesians



This order is consistent in all of Paul's letters and significant.

68

Ephesians 2:19-22

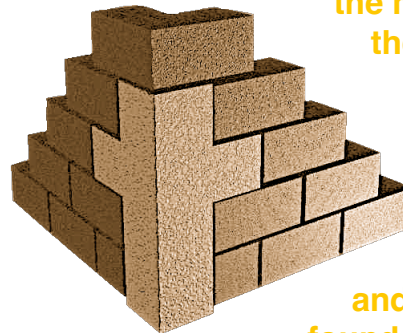
"¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;"

Jesus (corner stone)
in his death and
resurrection.

Apostles (foundation)
explain the meaning
of the cross and
resurrection.

69

The Epistles explain
the meaning of
the Gospel



and provide the
foundation teaching
of the Christian faith

70

Positional truth

- ✓ It is a declaration & non-experiential.
- ✓ It is not progressive.
- ✓ It is not related to human merit.
- ✓ It is not related to moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It must be learned through teaching & applied by faith.

71

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

**It is not our job to overcome
the world.**

**We are not troubled or afraid
because it has been done by Jesus.**

72

Ephesians 1

“² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- ✓ **grace** - redemption based on the merit of Christ.
- ✓ **peace** - reconciliation with God, self, and others.
- ✓ **our Father** - the ground is level at the foot of the cross.
- ✓ **and the Lord Jesus Christ** - the Godhead - same in essence, distinct in subsistence.

Our position “in Christ” is the basis of our
Peace and Walk.

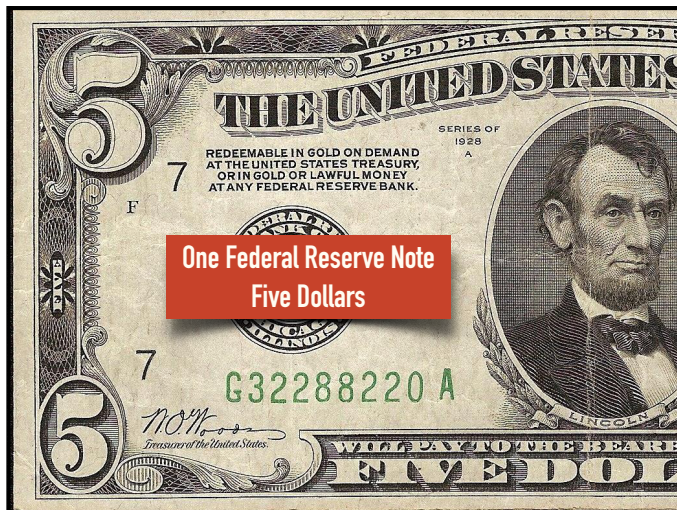
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Timothy I (greatest patriarch of the Eastern church 8th century) in responding to the Muslim caliph, al-Mahdid’s question about the Trinity -



God is like a three denarii gold coin - “one in its gold, that is to say in its nature, and three in its persons, that is to say, in the number of denarii”

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4.

**Grace and Peace (Shalom)
is at the heart of the
Gospel message and the
spiritual life.**

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Take home

1. **Who we are “in Christ”** - is a done deal that is secure by Christ’s moral merit and redemptive work on the cross apart from our moral merit.
2. **Faithfulness** - is a state of abiding in a faith (trust) relationship with Christ who is our hope for reconciliation with God & others.
3. **Grace and Peace** - should mark our experience with and expression of God in this life.

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Luke 6:13 (choosing the twelve)

“He called His **disciples** to him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as **apostles**.”

Acts 1:21-22 (replacing Judas)

“It is therefore necessary that of the men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us - beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us - one of these should become a witness with us of His resurrection.” (2:32, 3:15 13:31)

1 Corinthians 15:5,7 (Many other apostles)

“and then He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. . . . then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles.”

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