

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-14 "The Fruit of The Gospel"

12/02/2025

COL 1:5B-6 "Of this you have heard before in the WORD OF THE TRUTH, THE GOSPEL,⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth

A PARENTHESIS TO PAUL'S PRAYER

VERSES 5-8 are a "Parenthesis" Paul adds as he begins his prayer (which continues in VERSE 9). When he mentioned "the hope laid up for you in Heaven" he is drawn into an explanation of the source of that "hope." It is... THE GOSPEL itself.

I especially love the Translation of this section by J.B. PHILLIPS.

COL 1:5B-6 [PHILLIPS] *We know that you are showing these qualities because you have grasped the hope reserved for you in Heaven—that hope which first became yours when The Truth was brought to you. It is, of course, part of The Gospel itself, which has reached you as it spreads all over the world. Wherever that Gospel goes, IT produces Christian character, and develops it, as it had done in your own case from the time you first heard and realized the amazing fact of God's Grace.*

THE WORD OF THE TRUTH

Paul refers to The Gospel with the title, "THE WORD OF THE TRUTH."

He has used this phrase before in EPH 1:13

"In him you also, when you heard THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit..."

The only source of real truth is, THE GOSPEL. This is the message that God has communicated to mankind: It is the Good News... Truth... Salvation... Our HOPE.

"Hope" is an integral part of the message of THE GOSPEL. This Hope finds its goal in Heaven. The full scale of our salvation will only be realized as we stand "glorified" in heaven. This "Hope" is also the basis of our "endurance in tribulation."

Consider ROM 8:23-25

23) *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.*²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?*²⁵ *But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

THE FRUIT OF THE GOSPEL

Vs6 "...which [THE GOSPEL] has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it [THE GOSPEL] is bearing fruit and increasing..."

"It is, of course, part of The Gospel itself, which has reached you as it spreads all over the world. Wherever that Gospel goes, IT produces Christian character, and develops it..."

We often think that it is the "Preaching" or the "Teaching" of the message of THE GOSPEL [THE WORD] that produces "Christian Character" Paul here says that it is "The Gospel" itself that "produces - does the work". When THAT message is taught... IT PRODUCES what is was given to do. It is NOT our effort... It is the inherent power of God's Word.

IT IS HIS GRACE

God has relieved the Believer from the "work" of bringing forth "fruit" from the preaching of the Gospel. It is "the Grace of God in Truth" by which the Gospel produces.

The ESV says: vs 6) "...which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth."

Phillips days: "Wherever that Gospel goes, IT produces Christian character, and develops it, as it had done in your own case from the time you first heard and realized the amazing fact of God's Grace.

We share this message... preach it... teach it...

It is GOD'S WORD itself... "THE GOSPEL OF TRUTH" that brings for the "Fruit."