



Sunday, October 20, 2019  
Dale Marshfield

## **Intro to Colossians 1:1-14**

Faith comes by hearing the word of Christ proclaimed by those who have been sent to preach it. This is the divinely-ordained means by which God translates people from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of His beloved Son. So, it is crucial that we hear “the call of the kingdom.” This call is, first, to become subjects in the kingdom. We must recognize that Jesus is our rightful King that that all of our lives are to be lived according to a loving allegiance to Him.

The second “call” is the call to spread the news of this kingdom. It really is good news. No one is totally free. We are all subjects of one kingdom or another. Either we are subjects in the domain of darkness, in which we are oppressed by our own sinful desires as well as a myriad of oppressive cultural forces, or we are subjects in the kingdom of God’s beloved Son, where we flourish as God intended. So, our call to spread this news is really for the good of people, that they learn in an increasing way to come under the good authority of the God who made them and sent His own Son to die for them so that they might have abundant, eternal life.

## **Context**

Colossians is considered one of Paul’s “prison epistles” along with Ephesians and Philippians. Colossians echoes many of the same themes and largely follow the same logical argument as the book of Ephesians. In this opening section, we see gratitude to God expressed because of His work in the lives of the Colossians, just as praise is lifted up to God for similar work in Ephesians. The emphasis is on the sovereign grace of God in working in the hearts of sinners to redeem them and draw them back to Himself.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Colossians 1:1-14

“The Call of the Kingdom”

1. The Tragedy of Silence...the Power of Darkness (Col. 1:13)
  - Father Rescues
  - Father Transplants
  - Father Redeems
  
2. The Power of the Call...the Gospel (Col. 1:5-6, 13-14)
  
3. In the Grip of the Call (Col. 1:24-29)

## Discuss

- 1) Dale gave us some vivid examples of people and cultures devoid of Christ. How would you describe life in the “domain of darkness”?
  
- 2) Who has played the role of Epaphras in your life (1:7)? What were some of the key truths that they shared with you that “gripped” you?
  
- 3) Read 1:13-14 again. What is your response to the fact that God accomplished all that is said in those verses?
  
- 4) Dale also said that “the cross was the metaphor of Paul’s life.” In other words, Jesus’ willingness to sacrifice Himself for our sake led Paul to sacrifice himself for the sake of others. Is that true of your life? How do you know?
  
- 5) Read Revelation 7:9-12. How does the goal of the mission impact the way you view the day-to-day tasks of the mission?