

/Hello./ We will now begin with the twelfth lecture on the prison epistles.

/The main text is Colossians chapter 1./ The title of this chapter is, “The Gospel.”

/First, greetings. Verse 1-2./ Second, thanksgiving. Verses 3-8./ Third, desires. Verses 9-12./
Forth, Christ and His redemption./ Fifth, the salvation movement. Verses 25-29.

/First, greetings. Verses 1-2.

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

/The apostle Paul said that he was “an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God.”/ He was a true worker of God because he became an apostle not by the will of man, but by the will of God.

/Paul also called Timothy, “Timothy our brother.”/ In 1 Timothy 1:2,/ Paul called Timothy his “true son in the faith.”/ Timothy came to know Christ when Paul evangelized to him./ Acts 16:1

/Timothy respected Paul like a father and served faithfully. /Paul loved Timothy like a son, and Timothy loved and honored Paul like a father.

/Yet, here, Paul called Timothy, “our brother.”/ Through this, we can see that Paul was humble and that he respected Timothy.

/When we are above someone in terms of skills or status, we tend to ignore others./ However, we must have true humility like Paul.

/Verse 2./ To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

/Paul greeted “the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse.”/ The “faithful brothers” in this verse refer to the believers of Jesus Christ./ 1 Corinthians 3:16/ In this verse, it indicates that believers are the temple of God.

/Believers are also a unit of Christ./ They are a dish used precious by God./ Hence, they have been distinguished./ Paul writes, “to the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse.”

/We believers must be faithful./ The Word of God is faithful./ Our reborn spirits are faithful./ True believers cannot be unfaithful./ Also, we must use our good conscience.

/Therefore, if a believer is not faithful or truthful, he has parted from faith./ Those who live in faith must be faithful.

/Paul also writes, “Grace and peace to you from God our Father.”/ Because believers received God’s life when they were born again through the Holy Spirit, they call God the “Father.”

/Believers call God, Father, because they have received the spirit of adoption. /Romans 8:15,
/Galatians 4:6. /Here, it says, “Grace and peace to you.”

/This grace and peace comes from God./ The word “grace” refers to the redemption that was freely given by God through Jesus Christ.

/God elected us before creation,/ God sent his one and only Son Jesus Christ,/ Jesus bled for our sins on the cross,/ we were adopted as children of God,/ and God will take us to heaven, and these are all the grace of God.

/These are all recorded in the Bible./ Therefore, to accept the words in the Bible is the same as accepting grace./ Then, what is peace?/ “Peace” is the result of living in that grace.

/There are numerous hardships and difficulties in this world./ However, if we live in grace, our spirits can live in peace./ That peace comes from God, and it is different from what we gain from this world.

/True peace does not come from this world./ It does not come from material things./ King Solomon enjoyed honor and the riches of this world./ He did everything he wanted.

/Still, he wrote that without God, everything in this world is meaningless, meaningless, and meaningless./ If we live in the grace of God, whether we live in a shack or a palace, there is true peace and happiness.

/When a baby is in the embrace of his mother, there is true happiness./ When a fish lives in water, there is safety and happiness./ Hence, we believers can enjoy peace and happiness when we live in the grace of God.

/Now, let’s discuss the second point. Thanksgiving. Verses 3-8.

/Verse 3. /We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

/Paul always thanked God when he prayed for the church of Colosse./ If a pastor is thankful when he prays for a certain believer, then that person is living by faith.

/Therefore, if Paul was grateful when he prayed for the church of Colosse, we can see that that church of Colosse was faithful.

/If a person anxiously prays for a certain believer or a church, we could see that a believer or a church has a problem./ Then, what made Paul thank God when he prayed for the church of Colosse?

/Verse 4 tells us the reason why Paul was thankful./ He said, “because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—“

/In verse 5, it says, “hope.”/ It was the same for Paul’s letter to the church of Thessalonica./ In 1 Thessalonians 1:3,/ Paul states that this church had work produced by faith,/ labor prompted by love,/ and endurance inspired by hope.

/True faith causes one to act./ True love will cause us to labor for our loved ones./ When a grandmother carries her grandson on her back, she would not get tired because she loves him.

/If a grandmother carries a rock as big as her grandson, she will be tired and throw it away./ If we are motivated by love, we will labor and be thankful.

/If we have true faith, work must be produced by faith./ Then we will be joyful in sacrificing and laboring for others if we have true love. /However, we must first love Jesus.

/We must love other believers./ Then we can sacrificially labor and joyfully serve./ We must not desire to be loved, but we must love first./ Matthew 7:12.

/We must do to others what we would have them do to us. /This sums up the Law and the Prophets.

/Therefore, loving God, Jesus Christ, and our neighbors is the most important law and the prophets. /This is the teaching of Jesus.

/It says that the greatest commandment is to love God./ The second greatest commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves./ Everybody wants to be loved.

/All people from an infant to an elderly desire to be loved./ However, Jesus tells us that in order for us to be loved by others, we must love them first.

/We must not say there is no love in this place. If we love first, there will be love in this place and among the people.

/Then that love will eventually return to us./ Therefore, we must first passionately love Jesus Christ and other believers./ The church of Colosse also had hope.

/In verse 5 it says, “the hope that is stored up for you in heaven.”/ Our hope is not in this world but in heaven./ Heavenly things cannot rust or be robbed by others.

/We must carry out this hope./ Romans 5:3-4./ It says, “we also rejoice in our sufferings.”/ Paul further writes that suffering produces perseverance;/ perseverance, character;/ and character, hope.

/Our hope is to conform to the image of Jesus Christ./ It is become like the image of Christ./ When sufferings arise, we can overcome it by faith.

/We must persevere when sufferings come /and produce character through our suffering./ When this happens, we will conform to the image of Jesus Christ with hope.

/Verses 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.

/This verse says that believers have heard the gospel and understood God's grace in all its truth./ It is important for us to hear the gospel and understand it./ Hosea 4:6 / Verse 14./ It says that people without understanding will come to ruin.

/A fish may live in a water but it does not realize the benefit of water./ People breath in air but they do not understand the benefit of it./ As such, there are numerous times where we do not recognize the grace of God when we live in the midst of it.

/We must understand the depth of God's love and grace, that he would send his one and only Son to die on the cross to redeem us. /Romans 8:32.

/We can know that God gave us everything by his grace and blessed us./ For example, there is an aquarium in my house./ I raised fish there./ I filled enough water to fill up the aquarium.

/One fish jumped out of the aquarium several days later and died. /The fish dried up and died./ It could have lived well in the water but it died because it jumped out.

/Each one of us believe that we are doing well, but apart from the grace of God we are doomed to die like a fish that dries up. /Psalm 49:20.

/It says, "A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish." /How preciously has God made us!/ He saved us and he calls us his children.

/Yet, if we do not understand this, we are like beasts that perish./ If we understand the grace of God, how immeasurable will our thankfulness be?/ Let's look at an example. A man was diagnosed with cancer and he could not cure the disease.

/He ran out of money for treatment./ He had no hope./ Yet, if a doctor heals the man for free, how grateful would the man be? /If we understand the grace of God, all we can do is thank him.

/Also, understanding the deep truth of God's Word is grace as well./ Sufferings, weaknesses, trials and all those painful experiences are all given by the grace of God.

/The apostle Paul was blinded on his way to Damascus./ By the grace of God, something like a scale was removed from his eyes but something like a thorn was still there.

/Paul became ill when he was a servant of Satan and his illness was not completely healed./ Therefore, when he evangelized, some people could have criticized Paul and said, "Heal your eyes first."

/In the book of Galatians, Paul writes that if it was possible, his beloved believers could have torn out their eyes and gave them to him./ Through this, we can see that Paul had eye troubles.

/Paul specially prayed three times for healing but God did not heal him. /God said that he gave Paul a thorn of grace so that Paul would not become arrogant by the many revelations he received.

/When Paul understood that, he was humbled/ and began to rely on God more sincerely./ He rejoiced when he understood this./ 2 Corinthians 12:7-11./ Therefore, we must understand the grace of God.

/We must not only thank God when all things are going well, but because we must have faith when trials and sufferings come, we must believe it is God's grace and be thankful.

/Furthermore, it says, "bearing fruit and growing."/ Fruit can grow when seed is planted./ As such, we can bear fruits when we grow in maturity.

/Verses 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

/We must be believers who bear fruit./ The bearing of fruit is proof that one has faith./ Loving others is to bear fruit./ Enduring with hope is to bear fruit.

/A dead tree cannot bear fruit./ Therefore, we must have living faith to bear fruit./ In Genesis, Abraham was about to offer his only son Isaac to God. /Isaac was Abraham's most precious son.

/Abraham was about to offer Isaac as a sacrifice with faith in the promise of God, and this is the fruit of faith./ In Philippians 4:17,/ it says that Paul is looking for what may be credited to the believers' account.

/God is pleased when we bear fruit./ If we love an unloving person, we are bearing the fruit of love. /Stephen loved his enemies even while he was being stoned to death. /If a believer possesses hope and endurance, he can bear the fruit of hope.

/It says that a fruitless tree will be cut off and be thrown into the fire./ Jesus cursed the fruitless fig tree./ Therefore, we must be fruit-bearing believers.

/Verse 7./ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,

/There was a man named Epaphras./ It says, "You learned it from Epaphras."/ He was a pastor who taught the believers in Colosse./ Colossians 4:12./ Paul was in a prison in Rome.

/Believers in Colosse sent Epaphras to the imprisoned Paul. /Philemon 1:24./ Epaphras went to Paul and told him everything about the church of Colosse.

/This caused Paul to pray for the church of Colosse every day. /He loved the church and prayed for the believers every single day./ Then the believers in Colosse prayed for Paul because he was imprisoned.

/The believers supplied the needs of Paul/ and he returned the favor by praying for them./ Though they did not meet face to face, they maintained a good relationship.

/It says, "You learned it from Epaphras."/ That is recognition that the church of Colosse learned the truth./ At that time, there were numerous heresies./ Various philosophies bewildered the believers.

/In Colossians 2:16,/ Paul writes that some people claimed the need to observe a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day./ This is legalism./ 2:16./ Some people also claimed the need to worship angels./ 2:18.

/There was asceticism as well./ 2:21./ Paul then instructed the believers to firmly stand on what they learned from Epaphras./ In the same way, if we have received proper instruction and the truth, we must firmly stand on it.

/We must stand on the truth./ Then we must share the truth and let our children live in the truth.

/Verse 8./ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

/It says, “who also told us of your love in the Spirit.”/ Like Paul, we can have fellowship with believers whom we have never met through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

/Now let’s discuss the third point. Desires. Verses 9-12.

/Verse 9./ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

/It says, “since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.”/ While Paul was imprisoned in Rome, he never stopped praying for the church of Colosse after he heard about the church.

/Like Paul, pastors must pray daily for the church./ Paul prayed “to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

/He prayed for spiritual wisdom./ This is wisdom to properly know the spiritual truth./ He also prayed for understanding./ This refers to discernment to distinguish the truth from falsehood,/ and right from wrong./ This is discernment.

/Paul prayed for spiritual wisdom, which is the Word of God./ To accept the Word of God is to possess spiritual wisdom./ In Matthew 10:16,/ Jesus instructs us to be as shrewd as snakes.

/In the Garden of Eden, the serpent did not tempt Eve by its wisdom but by the wisdom of Satan./ We must not work with our wisdom but with God’s wisdom.

/Paul also prayed that they would know the will of God./ How can we know the will of God?/ First, we can find it in the Bible./ There are rules and principles in the Bible.

/Second, we must use our good conscience./ We must not do things that go against our conscience./ Third, we can find God’s will through the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit when we pray a lot.

/Fourth, we can find God’s will through the providence of God. We can know the will of God through his providence./ Fifth, we can find it through spiritual experience.

/If we want to know the will of God, we must let go of our greed./ Let’s say there is a small metallic material in a magnetic compass./ A compass points north and south.

/A ship can sail properly by following the directions of a compass./ If there is a small metallic material in the compass,/ the needle will be attracted to the metal.

/A sailor may believe he is properly following the compass but he will actually be going in the wrong direction because the compass is broken./ He will be going in the wrong direction.

/A metallic material is like greed./ If we have greed in us, we will go in the wrong direction and stray away./ If a ship detours from its proper route, it will be shipwrecked.

/As such, if our ship of faith goes in the wrong direction, it will become shipwrecked./ That is why it is important to properly know the will of God./ If we follow the will of God and obey it, we will achieve righteousness.

/Verse 10./ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

/If we found the will of God, we must live worthy of it./ That is how we can please God./ That would then be “bearing fruit in every good work.”/ We must act out good works.

/This means that we must have good attitudes./ By acting worthy of it, we can please God and bear good fruit.

/Also, Paul prayed, “growing in the knowledge of God.”/ He prayed for them to grow in the knowledge of God./ Our spirits will mature if we know God more and more.

/If we understand the love of God a hundred times, we will know God a hundred times./ If we understand the love of God as much as the earth, we will have known God as much as that.

/We desire to know God but oftentimes that is not enough./ We must know God deeper./ Our spirits must mature.

/Verse 11./ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully

/Paul also prayed, “being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might.” /The power of God is glorious. / God’s works come from the nature of God.

/Believers are empowered when they receive the power of God./ God empowers those who obey the guidance of God./ Also, Paul prayed that they would endure joyfully.

/We must endure and obey God in the midst of our difficulties./ We can endure joyfully if we have hope./ God will empower us when we do so.

/It also says, “that you may have great endurance and patience.”/ This refers to endurance in the midst of sufferings, persecutions, and insults./ We must learn to be patient./ Some people often fight with others because they can’t hold back their anger.

/Unlike them, we must learn the patience of Jesus Christ./ Also, as the Bible tells us, because vengeance is in the hands of God, we must rely on and wait for God to act.

/God will reveal everything./ We must not pay back evil with evil but overcome it with goodness./ Therefore, Paul prayed for the believers of Colosse to have patience.

/Verse 12./ giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

/It says, “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”/ We must dwell in light.

/That is how we can share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light./ The kingdom of light refers to the world of truth./ Jesus said, “I am the truth and the light.”/ Also, the kingdom of light refers to the world of love.

/We can earn the inheritance of love if we enter into the world of light, the world of truth, and the world of love./ Does the winner have authority? Does the loser have authority?/ There is spiritual authority if we win the good fight of faith.

/Then our reborn spirits will grow./ Those with mature spirits can receive greater rewards and inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

/Paul wrote, “giving thanks to the Father.”/ Paul was thankful because everything was done by the grace of God./ Believers are thankful because they have earned the inheritance.

/The inheritance of believers is not given as reward for obedience, but is given by the grace of God./ God does not give us an inheritance because we deserve it, but he gives it to us by his grace.

/King Nebuchadnezzar’s life was ruined because he constantly said, “I did it by myself; I did it for my glory.”/ We must always remember that even though it may seem as we did it by ourselves, it was actually God who made it happen by his grace.

/We must always be humble and thank God for his grace.

/With this, we will conclude the twelfth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.