

LG Notes: Fruitfulness on the line, 'Being a Mouthpiece of Truth, and Justice.' Colossians 1:9-14.

The we and the you's:

Background to this book of the New Testament: Paul and Timothy are the 'we' that are writing a letter to the Church at Colossae. This letter was circulated around the churches the 'you' that gathered in people's homes across the city set up by Epaphras who was possibly a native from Colossae.

Where is the 'Mouthpiece of Truth and Justice'?

No where in our reading does it mention about being a mouthpiece of truth and justice. So, are the writers of this course just using a convenient use of another 'M' word to keep up with the theme of m's. Last week was 'Moulding Culture,' the week before 'Ministering grace & love,' possibly yes, but it could be that it is implied.

Paul and Timothy are praying for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will through wisdom and understanding by the Spirit. The reason for this is that the Colossians would know how to 'live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way.' By doing this the Colossians would be fruitful in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. Notice here the circular motion of 'knowledge', Paul and Timothy are urging them to live a life based on the knowledge of God's will, that leads to more knowledge of God. By the very practice living for the Lord, we get to know Him more, practice makes perfect.

The desire to please the Lord is not gaining more favour from Him, as though we can earn His love and become His favourite child. No, it is based on the rest of the passage, we are indebted to Him for what He has done for us:

Verse 11: we are given power according to His glorious might, to give us endurance and patience.

Verse 12: Qualified us to be His holy people in the Kingdom of Light.

Verse 13: He has brought us out of the dominion of darkness into His own Kingdom of His Son.

Verse 14: He has redeemed us and forgiven our sins.

We are indebted to the Lord for all these gifts and more provided for us to make use of as we follow in on our frontlines.

A mouthpiece: Enables you to make a melody or play a harmony with a trumpet. Without a mouthpiece you can't play a note, so without the gifts of God we won't be able to live lives worthy of the Lord. No matter our efforts, words or deeds are just hot air or a lot doing without any coherent sound. Using the mouthpiece allows us to play in harmony to God's will, to His tune and purpose, in truth and Justice. To narrate the reason behind our deeds, 1 Peter 3:15 prepared to answer the question of the hope we have. So, perhaps we should change the title to 'using the mouthpiece of truth and Justice' than being the mouthpiece' as we don't want to be blowing our own trumpet but being all we can to make a pleasing melody that points to Jesus on our frontlines.

Questions:

1: If you could be a musical instrument for the Lord, what would you be and why?

2: Read James 2:18 – 26, reflect on this how does James's message help us to live a life worthy of the Lord?

3: What does success look like on our frontlines? What does success look like for our church? What does Paul and Timothy see as success? (Read Col 1:3-8.)

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