

How to Buy a Can of Peas

Ricardo Campos, Teaching Elder Grace Chapel, Orange, CA February 21, 2010

I. Introduction

The city of Colossae was once a prominent city, but by Paul's day the city had declined. It had a mixture of Oriental, Greek, and Jewish influences on its culture and various religions, influences that Paul later addresses in his letter to the Colossians.

One of the things we learn from the beginning of this letter is that our knowledge of God's will for our lives should always be on the rise so that our walk with Him will continue to new heights. Knowing that God has delivered us from the world's darkness, redeemed us, and forgiven our sins by the blood of His Son, should give us hope in the midst of our daily struggles and drive us to thank Him all the while.

II. Paul and Timothy Greet the Colossians (Col. 1:1–2)

Though one might skip over the introductory greeting, Paul is actually pointing to the Colossians' set-apart (holy) state as believers and he wishes God's blessing upon them similar to how Aaron and his sons were to bless the children of Israel, Num. 6:22–27.

III. Paul and Timothy thank God for the Colossians' faithful Christian walk Reported by Epaphras (Col. 1:3–8)

Paul and Timothy reveal that they always pray for the Colossians. In particular, they thank God for their magnificent walk with Christ. Their fruitful walk was due to the transforming power of their present life in Christ and their future glorious state. It was Epaphras who first taught them the "grace of God in truth" and watched the Colossians blossom. He then reported this great news to Paul and Timothy.

IV. The Colossians' Fruitful Walk Spurs Paul and Timothy to Constantly Pray for them (Col. 1:9–14)

Epaphras' report drives Paul and Timothy to pray for the Colossians, that God would increase their knowledge of His will so that their faithful walk will continue to reach new heights.

Your knowledge of God is supposed to increase week by week, month by month, and year by year. This in turn is supposed to permeate the core of your being so that everything you do in life is done in Christ and not according to your own wisdom or the world's, even something as insignificant as buying a can of peas.

And you will do it all with a heart of thanksgiving towards God because He's taken you from the power of darkness and placed you in the power of His Son, who redeemed you and forgave your sins. He delivered you from the world's darkness and gave you the ability to overcome your sin nature and bear fruit for God.

V. CONCLUSION

When we realize the living hope we have in Christ, in the deliverance He has wrought for us from the power of this world and our sinful nature, our lives will change in dramatic fashion like those of the Colossians to whom Paul wrote. There were now in Colossae fruit-bearing trees (1:6) where there were once rotting and decaying trees (3:7).