

Finding True North 2!

I. SIMPLE PRIORITIES

Pondering the essentials, the things that produce and reproduce Eden, Heaven on Earth, a holy culture and civilization.

Saul of Tarsus → Paul, an apostle of Christ, by the will of God.

This Jewish zealot, who encountered Christ, was transformed, and became the busiest of all the apostles, traveling over western Asia, southeastern Europe, working, talking, praying, with signs and wonders, writing letters that altogether are less than 80 pages. Less than a single treatise of Plato or Aristotle. Yet one of the most read, spoken on, and written on of almost any man in history.

True North statements that outlive all the heresies and paganism, all the selfishness and anger of over 2000 years.

Last week: *Slide 1*

Col 3:1 "If then you have been **raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, **where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**"

This week:

Col. 1:25 ... **I became a minister** according to the stewardship from God that was given to me **for you, to make the word of God fully known**^{1, 26} the **mystery hidden for ages and generations** but **now revealed** to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known **how great** among the Gentiles **are the riches of the glory of this mystery**, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

Hope of prophets - God would act to restore the fortunes of His people. (Ps 126; Is 2) The secret plans that God was reserving for the last days. Anticipated ... but NOW at last unveiled!

¹ NIV present to you the word of God **in its fullness**

1Cor 2:7 NKJ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery², the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; ...

9 But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man. The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

II. BASIS

A. Gospel —> NEW CREATION

Col. 1:3 We **always thank God, the Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your **faith** ... of the **love** that you have ..., ⁵ because of the **hope** laid up for you **in heaven**.

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**—

(Gen. 1:28 Be fruitful & multiply & fill the earth & subdue it,)

B. Gospel —> New Exodus

¹³ He has **delivered us** from the **domain³ of darkness** and **transferred us** to the **kingdom of his beloved Son**, ¹⁴ **in whom** we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness** of sins.

C. Gospel —> Incarnation & Reconciliation

Col. 1:15 He is the **image** of the **invisible God**, the **firstborn⁴** of all creation. (over all creation - it is His inheritance)

<**Humanity** was made as the crown of the first creation: the true **humanity of Jesus** is the climax of the history of creation, and at the same time the **starting-point of the new creation**.

² NIV - we speak of God's **secret wisdom**...hidden...**destined** for our glory **before time began**.

³ Gk - *exousia*

⁴ Ps 89.27 David made the **firstborn**, the **highest** of the kings of the earth

<Humanity was designed to be the perfect vehicle for God's self-expression within his world, so that he could himself live among his people **as one of them**, could rule in love over creation **as himself a creature**. Heaven AND Earth

Col. 1:16 For **by him all things** were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things** were created **through him** and **for him**.

¹⁷ And he is **before all things**, and **in him all things** hold together. ¹⁸ And he is **the head** of the body, the church. He is the **beginning**, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. **Slide 3**

¹⁹ For **in him all** the **fullness of God** was **pleased**⁵ to dwell, ²⁰ and **through him** to **reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, making **peace by the blood of his cross**.

< **RECONCILIATION** – RESTORE TO ORIGINAL HARMONY!

< **Scope** of this new creation – Because humanity plays the key role in the ordering of God's world, **human reconciliation** will lead to the **restoration of creation**, just as human sin led to creation's fall (Rom 8:19).

D. Gospel —> THE NEW HUMANITY

Col. 1:21 **And you**, who **once were alienated** and **hostile in mind**, doing evil deeds, ²² **he has now reconciled** in his body of flesh by his death, **in order** to present you **holy** and **blameless** and **above reproach** before him,

²³ if **indeed** you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from **the hope of the gospel** that you heard, which has been

⁵ NKJ For it **pleased the Father** that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

proclaimed in **all creation*** under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

E. Gospel —> The OVERFLOW

Col. 2:9 For **in him** the **whole fullness** of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you **have been filled in him**, who is the head of all rule and authority.

Col. 1:26...**HOW GREAT** among the Gentiles **are the riches of the glory of this mystery**, which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

III. RESPONSE: MAKE ROOM!

Col. 3:5 **Put to death** therefore what is **earthly in you**: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry..

⁸ But now **you must put them all away...** ⁹ ... *put off the old self* with its practices

¹⁰ ... *put on the new self*, which is **being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.**

¹⁴ **And ... put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

¹⁵ And let **the peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, ...

¹⁶ Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly**, ...

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, **do everything in the name** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ministry PRAYER FOR FULLNESS RECONCILIATION

Healing. Holy Spirit Baptism.

Rom 5:5 ... **God's love has been poured into our hearts** *through the Holy Spirit* who has been **given to us**.

2Cor 5:20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, **be reconciled** to God.

Col 1:9 And so, from the day we heard, we **have not ceased to pray for you,**

asking that you may be **filled** with the **knowledge** of his will in **all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

¹⁰ so as to **walk** in a manner **worthy** of the Lord, **fully pleasing** to him, **bearing fruit** in **every good work** and **increasing** in the **knowledge of God;**

Understanding fuels holiness and fruitfulness. Holiness deepens comprehension and apprehension of **power (dynamis) for living as a creative source.**

¹¹ being **strengthened with all power,** according to **his glorious might,** for **all endurance and patience with joy;**

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