



## The Believer's Top Priority is Bible Study: A Summary of Colossians 1:3-12

- 1) Knowledge of eschatology regarding one's secure place in heaven and the blessings that are in store for us there motivate unconditional love for one's fellow believer: "Having heard the report of the faith of you all in Christ Jesus, and the love which you have toward all the saints; because of the confidence of what is preserved for you in heaven," (**Colossians 1:4-5a**).
- 2) This knowledge is learned through the study of the Bible: "... which you heard before in the study of the Word of truth," (**Colossians 1:5b**). The words "heard before" are the aorist active indicative of the verb, **προακούω, proakouō**. The constative aorist contemplates the action in its entirety and gathers it into a single whole. What these believers heard before they retained and it became a motivation for action, specifically unconditional love for their fellow believers.
- 3) In addition there is the inculcation of the entire biblical message due to a study of the gospel, that is, the Word of God as taught by Paul, Epaphras, and others.
- 4) In **verse 6** we learn a number of things. First of all this confidence was "constantly bearing fruit" because they were producing divine good.
- 5) In addition this divine good was having measurable impact by "increasing," which refers to producing dividends: others benefited by being the recipients of divine good actions and the believer benefited by both spiritual growth and advancing his prospects for rewards in time and eternity.
- 6) These dividends accrued from the time they "heard of the gospel and began to fully understand the grace of God in the sphere of biblical truth." Grace is the policy of God toward the human race and grace can only be truly understood from the biblical perspective of the believer.
- 7) Believers have to be taught in order to grow in grace. Those at Colossae were taught "even as" were others throughout the world. Those believers were "constantly bearing fruit and advancing" in the plan of God "even as" these in Colossae had been doing "since the day they heard of it and began to fully understand the grace of God in the sphere of biblical truth."
- 8) **Verse 7** emphasizes the one who taught them this doctrine, "even as you were taught from the source of Epaphras," their pastor-teacher.
- 9) These "even as" clauses emphasize the fact that whoever makes an advance in the plan of God does so by means of Bible study.
- 10) **Verse 8** tells us that Epaphras is the one who informed Paul and those with him about the reciprocal love possessed by the members of the Colossian church.



11)

In **verses 9-12** we learn it was because these believers possessed reciprocal love that Paul and his associates were motivated to pray for them. These prayers were power packed and give us insight into what is rightly expected of a congregation that is positive to the study of the Bible.