

Year C #551
Christ, the Pleroma
050203 - 1

Hello! This is Dorothy -

The Bible tells us that Jesus, Yeshua, left Heaven's glory and was conceived in the womb of a virgin. He came into this world of sin and need for: **All have sinned and all have come short of the glory of God.** However, praise God, it is written of Jesus - **in Him there was no sin.** Yes, Jesus came into the world of sin and need, and through His spotless life showed man what man should be. By His death upon the Cross of Calvary, we have redemption through His precious shed Blood. Our Lord Jesus Christ conquered death and Satan at the Cross. and rose victoriously as He shouted forth, **It is finished!** The work is done. Jesus was buried, but He rose again.

He was seen of many and then He ascended into Heaven. Today the God-man is gathering a people unto Himself in this period of time called the Church. These are not those who just go to a building called the church, but to those who have been born again of the Spirit of God. That is the Church. He, who is the Head, is Jesus.

Now the **Book of Colossians** - and I would love you to start to read that Book in the New Testament - emphasizes Christ is the fullness

of God. There is a word for that. It is called *pleroma*. It means Christ is *the fulness of God*. The Apostle Paul, who under the inspiration of the Spirit of God wrote the **Book of Colossians**. This was not written from some nice pastor's office or some spacious building, but from a prison! He was in prison because He had proclaimed the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus. Paul, from that prison, reached people he had no idea would be reached. And he is reaching you and he is reaching me through one of these writings, the **Book of Colossians**. Paul wrote to a faithful fellow believer, who had been a fellow prisoner with him. This person was Epaphras. He begins by saying -

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus - Timothy, his son in the faith - our brother;

2 . . . Grace be unto you, and peace. . . Now some of you perhaps say, "I have no peace. I live in turmoil all the time." You do not realize there is no peace without grace. What is *grace*? Grace could be summed up as *God's unmerited favor*. From around the world, there are nations and peoples crying out, "Peace! Peace! Peace!" Everybody seems to be looking for peace. Everybody is talking about peace, but we speak about peace that can only be found - as it says here - . . . **from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**. Dear listeners, why not, just at this very moment, ask God to be your peace? By His Spirit, the Lord will show you by His grace how this is actually possible.

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you. . . In other words, in prison Paul, who had heard much about this church at Colossae, was praying for them. He was not just praying for them saying, “Well, everything is great.” But when you pray for somebody, the Spirit of the Lord shows you the need and how to pray. He says - . . . ***praying always for you,***

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love which ye have to all the saints - fellow believers, fellow Christians. I wonder, as I am speaking to someone who loves the Lord Jesus at this moment, how much time do you spend praying for others? I am not just talking about some prayer meeting; I am talking about during the day as you do the routine things. How much of the day is being used of the Spirit of the Lord as you are going from *A* to *B*, that you are praying for others? You will soon find the Lord will put people upon your heart; situations upon your heart. You are being shown these things not to criticize; you are being shown how to pray, how to believe what the Lord is waiting to do. It staggers me as a born-again believer and being part of the family of God of whom the Head is Christ Jesus, that He involves us in praying for the family. It is wonderful that we can be praying for someone in another place and we can thank God He is going to bring it forth. Then we read -

5 For the hope that is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye

heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth.

6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world, and bringeth forth fruit . . .

Also, as he had learned of Epaphras, the pastor, the same message is to you today. Is Christ the fullness of God to your life? Is Christ that One who takes over and is what you cannot be because of the precious Blood which He shed on your behalf? Say *Yes!* to Him now.

For His glory. Amen.