

Read:

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. 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. (Colossians 1:1-10 ESV)

The Point:

Whether you've had a strong beginning or a rough start, we've never arrived, but are always arriving. We all need the gospel. We all need to grow in knowledge of God and in deepen in obedience to his Word. Commit to maturing in your faith as you surrender more and more to Jesus.

Quote:

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (John 15:8)

Questions:

1. What was your big takeaway from today's sermon?
2. Read Colossians 1:1-10
 - a. What strikes you about the passage?
 - b. What does it teach about God? (his character, his actions, his love)
 - c. What does it teach about us? (the way humans tend to think, act, etc)
3. Take some time to look at the chart available online under this week's sermon (or you can type it out from here <http://bit.ly/22yHsHw>)
4. Where are you on this chart? Why do you say so?

5. How have you grown in the last 12 months? 24 months?
6. Think back to the beginning of your faith journey with Christ (if you are a follower of Jesus). Would you say that you had a strong start or a weak start? What went well? What didn't?
7. God wants us to know him more, obey him more, bear fruit, and so grow deeper in love with our savior. Thinking back on that chart, what steps should you take to continue to mature this year?
8. Here are some potential next steps:
 - a. [Start reading the Bible](#)
 - b. Come to prayer the first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m.
 - c. [Sign up for Discover Revolve](#) on January 17 and learn about the church
 - d. Come to Underground and learn about why the Bible can be trusted on January 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 - e. [Go on a mission trip in 2016](#). We have an information session for the Czech Republic on Wednesday, January 6 at 6 p.m. and one for Indonesia on January 13 at 6 p.m.
 - f. [Figure out your thread - your spiritual wiring](#)
 - g. [Join a Serve Team](#) and start giving back to God's work on Sunday mornings
 - h. [Start giving](#) to the work of God