



**In a moment, life can go
from *exhilarating* to
exhausting to *excruciating*.**



**Kyrian
Vincent
Mitchell
Calo**

Born: March 15



**While we can't suffer *for*
people, we can walk *with*
people in their suffering.**



**Behind every face is a story
of pain and triumph.**



WRESTLING PRAYER

A GATEWAY COLLECTION

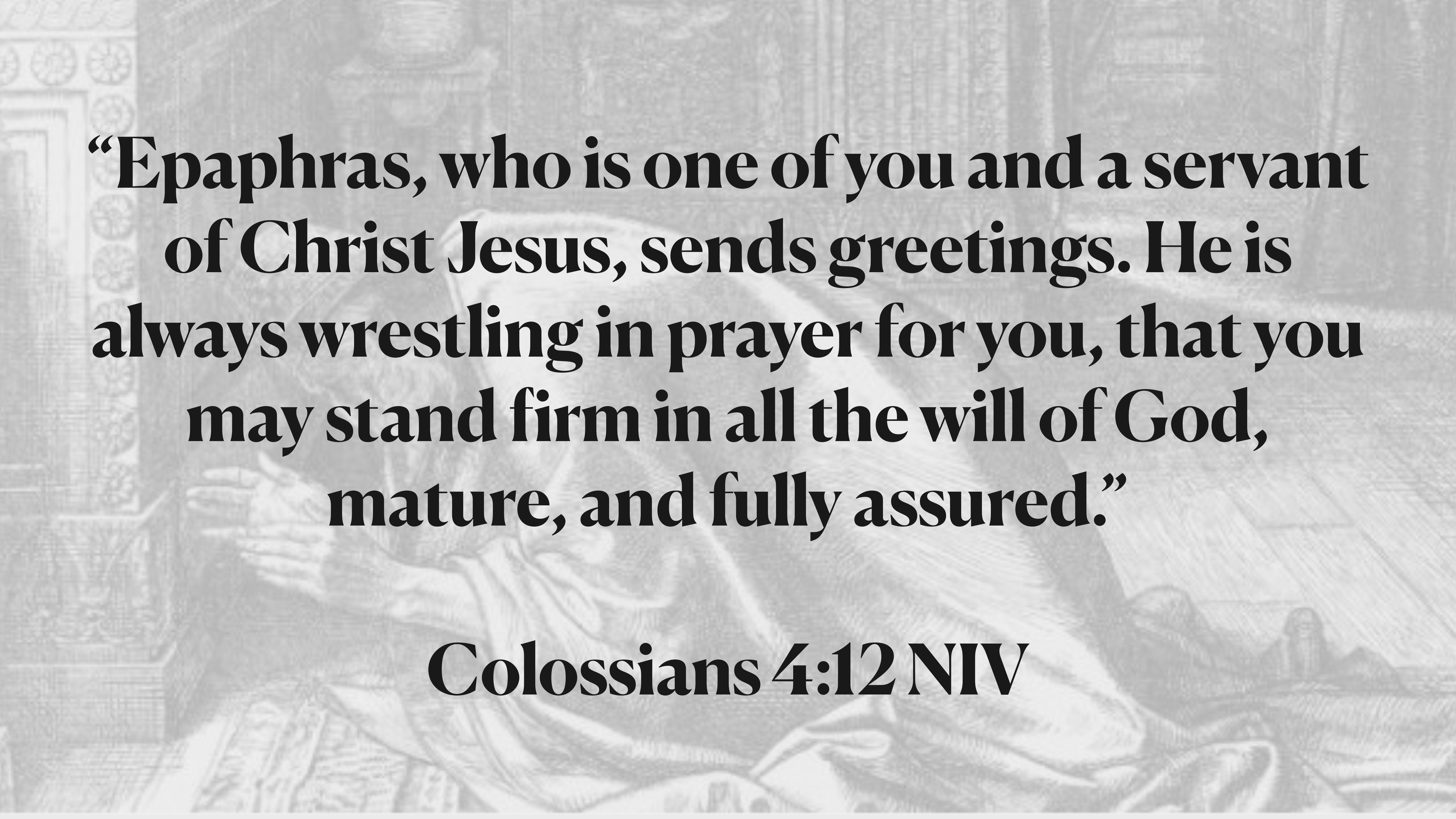


Let's declare this together:

This is God's word.

It gives us life.

We believe it.



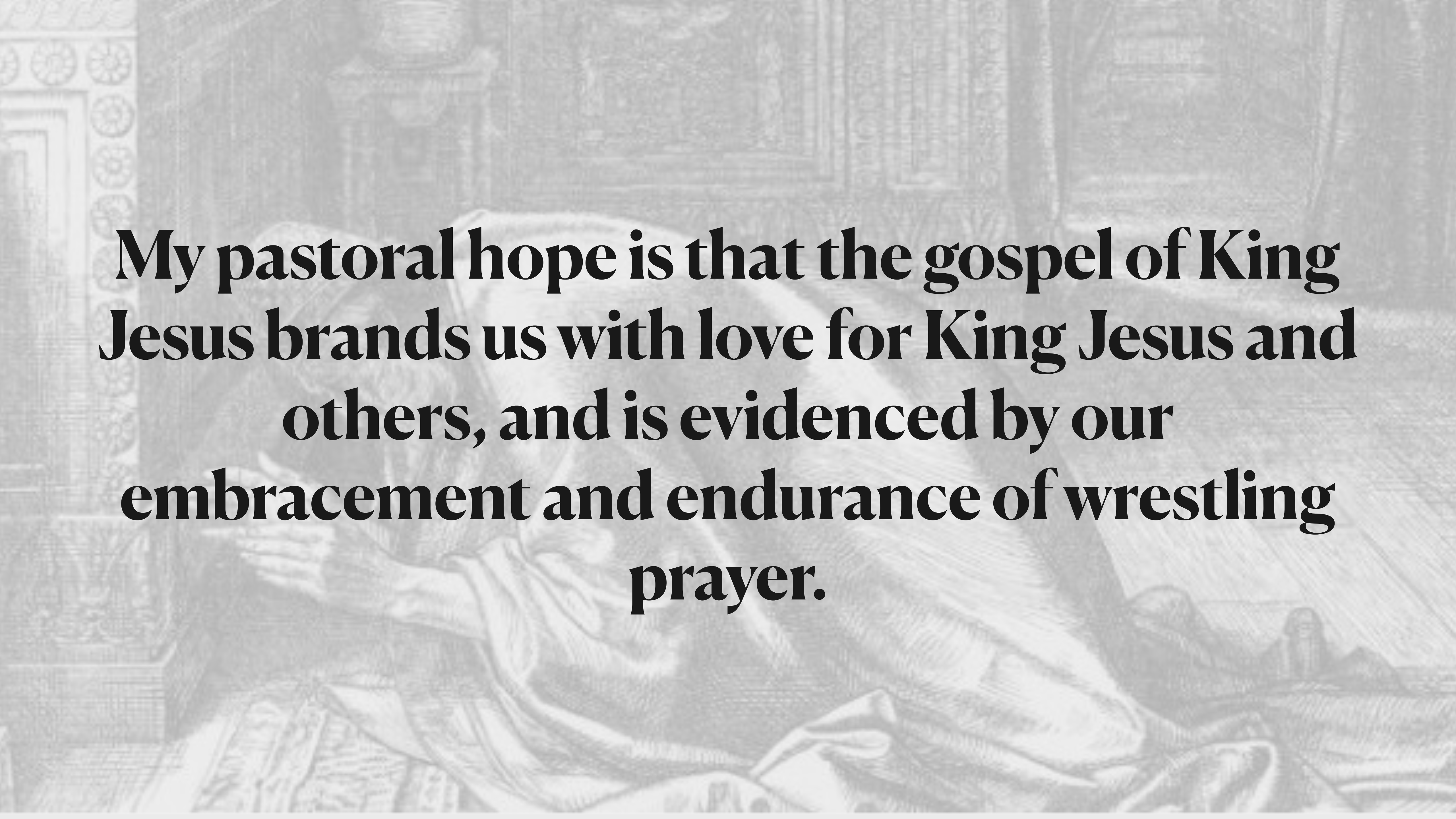
“Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature, and fully assured.”

Colossians 4:12 NIV

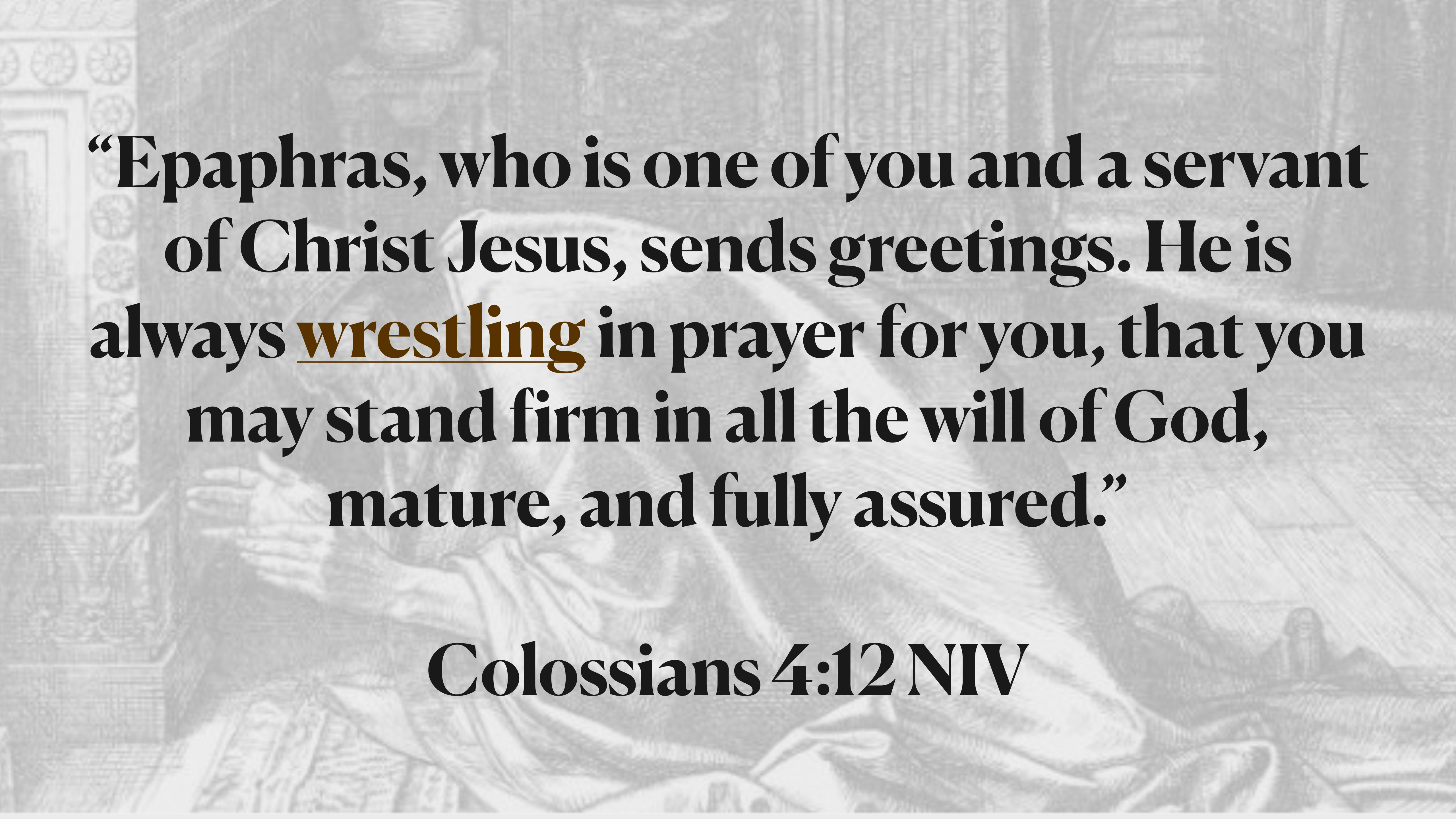


Epaphras

A Man with a
Message for Our Time



My pastoral hope is that the gospel of King Jesus brands us with love for King Jesus and others, and is evidenced by our embracement and endurance of wrestling prayer.



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Colossians 4:12 NIV

Wrestling Prayer

- 1. Why do we wrestle?**
- 2. What do we wrestle?**
- 3. How do wrestle?**

Colossae: The City

- :: Polytheistic Roman city**
- :: *The church was being influenced by false teachers and those belittling the deity of Jesus***
- :: City in decline**
- :: *Severely damaged by an earthquake in 17 AD and 60 AD (after Paul wrote this letter)***



Rome

ITALY

ROMANIA

BULGARIA

MACEDONIA

ALBANIA

GREECE

TURKEY

Laodicea

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Colossae

CYRPUS



Colossae: The Overlooked City

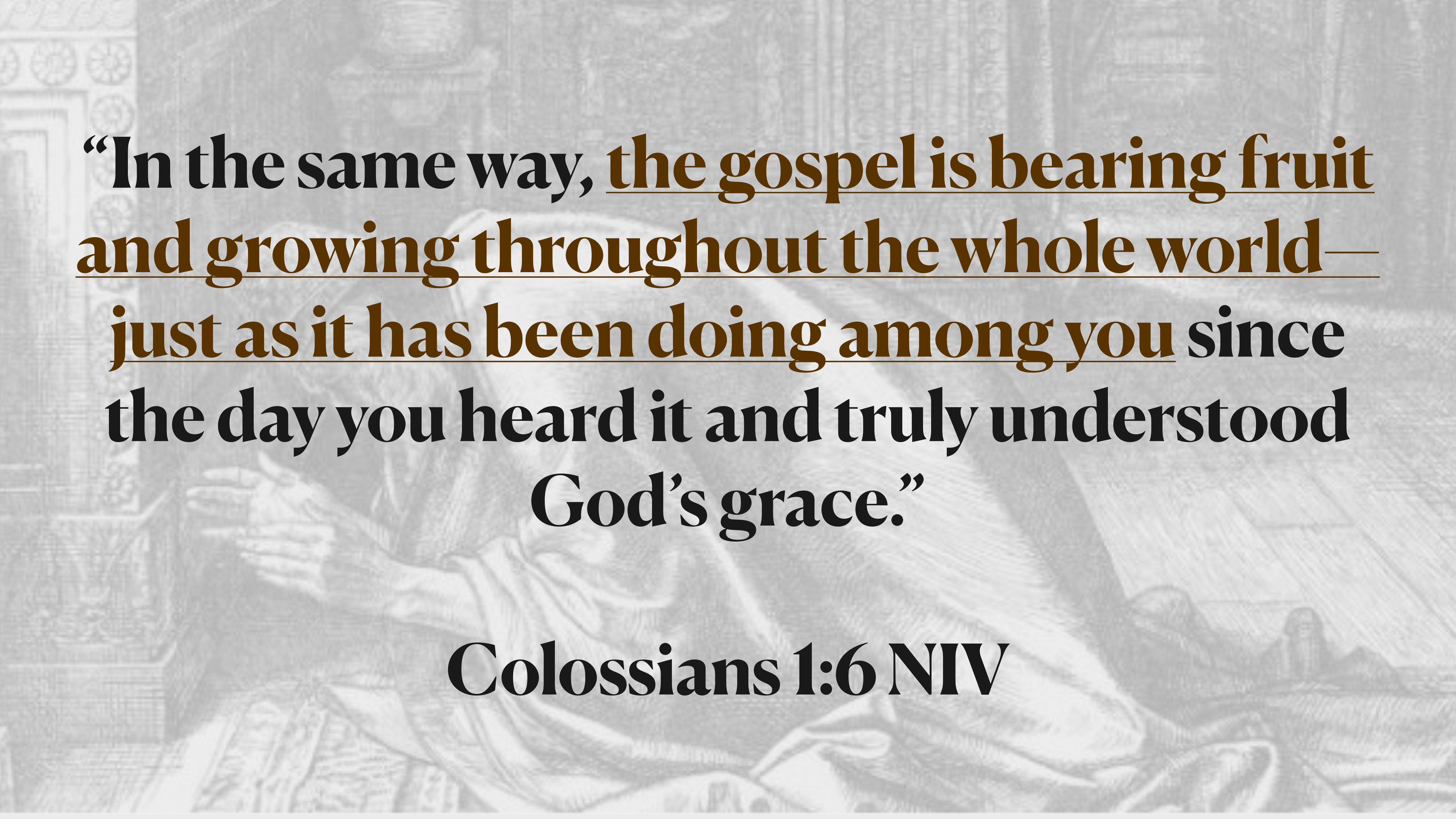
:: The overlooked city = The overlooked life

:: The overlooked city = The city in decline

:: The overlooked city = The overlooked employee

:: The overlooked city = The overlooked friend or spouse

:: The overlooked city = The overlooked opportunity



“In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world— just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.”

Colossians 1:6 NIV



**The gospel of Jesus Christ is
the answer to an overlooked**

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What is the gospel message?

- :: We are rescued from a dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of Jesus (the Son He loves). (1:12)**
- :: We have redemption and forgiveness of sins. (1:12; 2:13-14)**
- :: We are no longer enemies of God and alienated from Him because of our evil behavior. (1:21; 3:5-9)**
- :: Through Jesus' crucifixion, we have reconciliation with God the Father. (1:22)**
- :: We are holy in His sight, without blemish, and free from accusation. (1:22)**
- :: The mystery of the gospel is the message that Christ is in you, the hope of glory. (1:27)**

What is the gospel message?

:: Jesus Christ is Lord. (2:6)

:: We are buried with Him in baptism, and therefore raised with Him (into a newness of life) through our faith in the working of God. (2:12; 3:10-15)

:: We were dead in our sins, but now we are made alive with Christ. (2:13; 3:5)

:: Demonic, spiritual powers, and authorities have been disarmed, triumphed over, and publicly embarrassed by the cross of Jesus Christ. (2:15)

What do we learn about the gospel?

- :: The gospel requires faith in Jesus Christ. (1:4)**
- :: The gospel produces love for God's people. (1:4)**
- :: The gospel needs to be taught & heard. (1:5)**
- :: The gospel produces fruit. (1:6)**
- :: The gospel needs to be learnt. (1:7)**
- :: The gospel message is revolutionary and not always accepted joyfully. (1:24-29)**



The finished work of Jesus and the supremacy of Christological truth requires a prayerful response in responsibility and reverence.



“You learned it (the gospel) from Epaphras, our dearer fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us your love in the Spirit.”

Colossians 1:7-8 NIV

I'm telling you all of this because:

:: A false gospel still exists. Reject it!

:: *Demonic powers and principalities (that seek establishment within societal systems, people groups, and persons) harass, tempt, oppress, and resist devout followers of Jesus.*

I'm telling you all of this because:

:: The gospel of King Jesus changes lives when the gospel is taught, heard, responded to, and obeyed.

:: Pray and keep praying, even when things are going great. Don't let fruitfulness tranquilize your spirits into a sluggish and lazy lifestyle.



**The gospel of Jesus Christ is
the answer to an overlooked**

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Application:

- 1. Learn and receive the gospel of God's kingdom.**
- 2. Identify what effects the gospel will have on your life.**
- 3. Live hopeful because the gospel does not overlook anyone.**
The gospel reveals our value and empowers us to live holy, dedicated lives for the glory of King Jesus.
- 4. Pray and keep on praying. It's not time to diminish prayer, but time to give yourself to it.**



WRESTLING PRAYER

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