



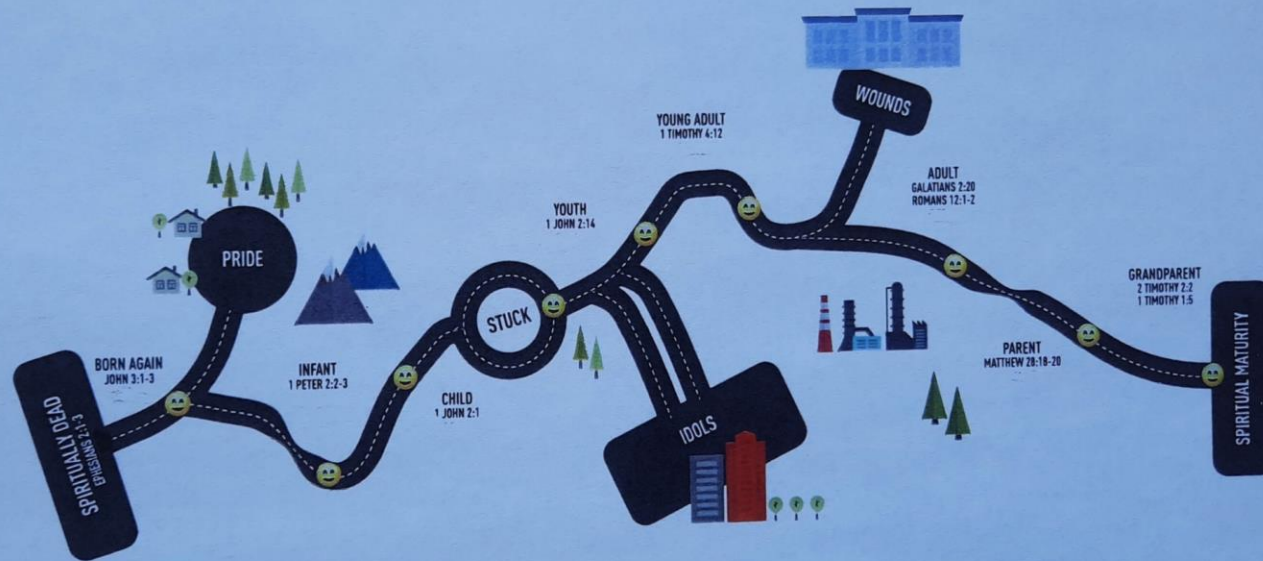
The Christian Journey:

The Journey of Faith, Love, and Hope

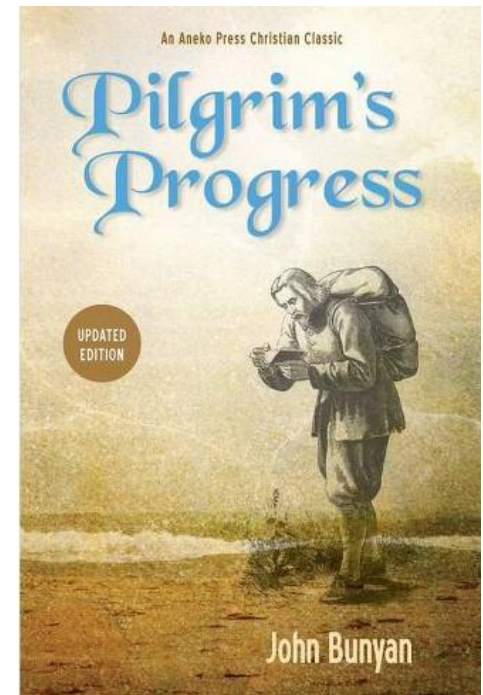
Colossians 1:1-8

- The Christian journey begins with a new birth.
- “Journey as a Disciple of Jesus”

JOURNEY AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS



- God's goal for every follower of Jesus is spiritual maturity (Christ-likeness).
- The church should help all believers to grow and to lead others toward maturity in Christ.
- "Pilgrim's Progress"
- The ultimate destination of the Christian journey is eternity with Christ ("The Celestial City").
- The BIG Idea: Healthy followers of Christ demonstrate
 - A living faith
 - An all-embracing love
 - A solid hope



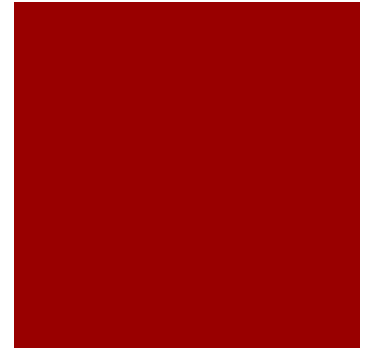
Hear the Word of the Lord:

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.



Greeting pilgrims on the Christian journey (1-2)



¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

- We are a family of pilgrims.
- We live in two locations.
- We have a high calling.
- We are blessed by God

Expressing thanksgiving to God in prayer (3)



³ *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,*

- Our prayers should be filled with thanksgiving for God's work in people.
- It is a privilege to know God as Father.
- We can only know God as Father because we know Christ as Son.

Being encouraged by the progress of God's family (4-8)



*⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—
⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you.*

- The presence of **faith** is essential; the practice of faith is a sure sign of health and growth.
- When **love** is both sacrificial and inclusive, it is God's kind of love.
- The **hope** of the Gospel stimulates faith and love among God's people.

Being encouraged by the progress of God's family (4-8)

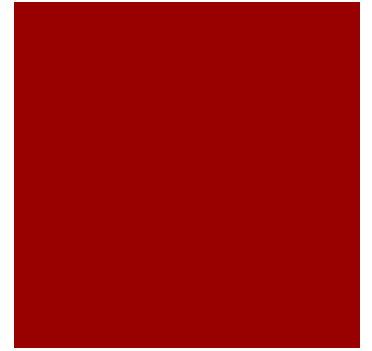


All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

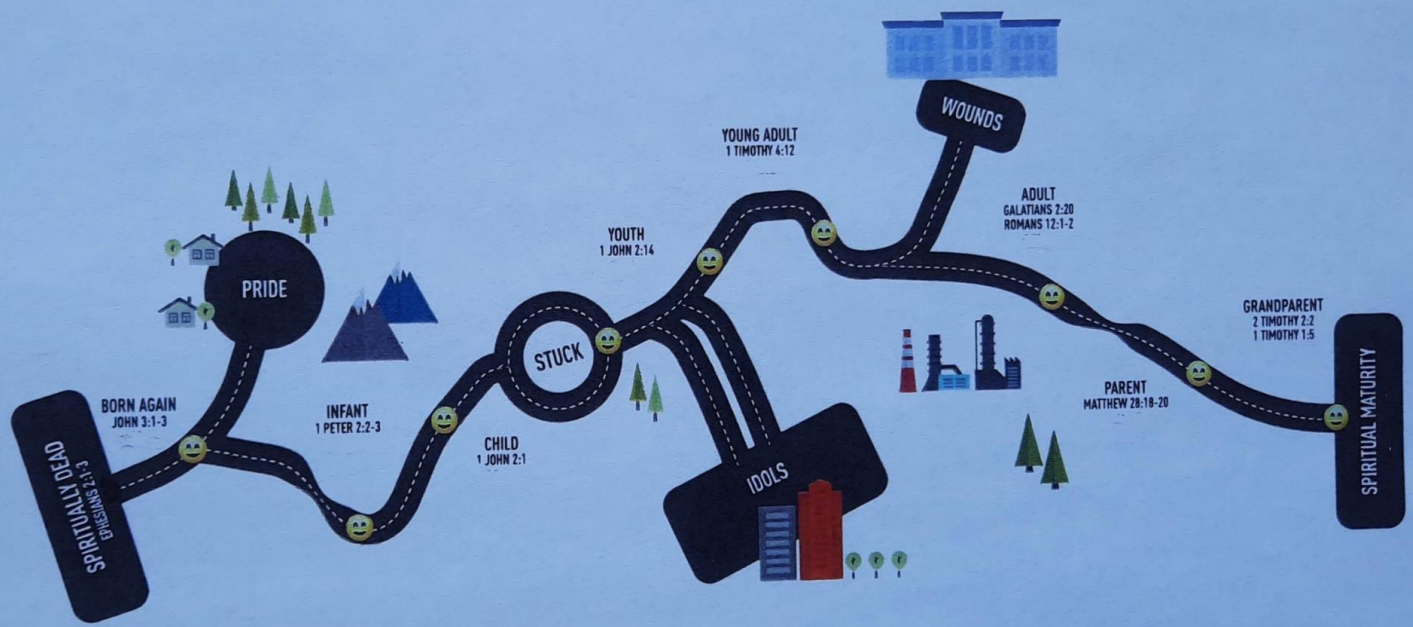
- The Gospel bears fruit.
- The Gospel brings growth.
- The Gospel is God's truth.
- A Gospel-centered church is a Christ-centered church.
- Grace is the theme of the Gospel: *"We are more sinful and flawed than we ever dared believe yet more loved and accepted in Jesus than we ever dared hope."* (Tim Keller)

Applications for Living:

1. Where are you on the Journey as a disciple of Jesus?



JOURNEY AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS



Applications for Living:



1. Where are you on the Journey as a disciple of Jesus?
2. Take a fresh look at those walking on the Christian journey; then express thanks to God.
3. Examine your spiritual health by measuring your
 - Faith—are you living it?
 - Love—does it extend beyond a few?
 - Hope—is it solid?
4. Take a “step to the right” today.