

Just Jesus: The Power of The Gospel

(Colossians 1:1-14)

Introduction

A) In 1949 the Communist Party established the People's Republic of China. This resulted in a cultural revolution within China. Tremendous restrictions were placed on the Christians and other religious groups by the communist government.

This resulted in many Christians choosing to go “underground” to practice their faith. “House churches” or “underground churches” emerged throughout the country. The urbanization of China further fueled the growth of “underground churches.”

A 2011 Pew study estimated there more than 65 million Christians inside China. Purdue University Professor Fengang Yang estimated that China will soon become the largest Christian country in the world.

Interestingly, the government told Christians in China to “tone down” their faith and it flourished.

B) Introduce the Series, Just Jesus.

C) Contextualize Colossians 1:1-14.

- 1) Back story of how the church at Colossae came into existence.
- 2) Back story of the epistle to the Colossians.

D) Today, modern believers are told to “tone down” their promotion of Christianity.

- 1) Attempts are made to eliminate Christianity from the public arena, while other religions like Islam are tolerated and even promoted.
- 2) The Political Correctness movement tells us to “tone down” the “Jesus only” rhetoric and tolerate others as equal.
- 3) The Separation of Church and State crowd continues to apply pressure in the public arena and win because they out-shout Christianity.

E) What is the answer? Should modern Christianity quietly succumb to the pressure? Should modern Christianity use radical and abrasive tactics to promote the Gospel? Let's notice what Colossians has to say about the power of the Gospel.

I. Remember The Power Of The Gospel

A) Specific change (1:3-5, The Colossians knew personally the power of the Gospel to change lives.)

- 1) Faith
- 2) Love
- 3) Hope

B) Broad Change (1:6-7, Paul informed the Colossians of the broad spread of the Gospel as evidence of it's power.)

C) Dynamic Change (1:8, The power of the Gospel is it's supernatural nature.)

II. Rely On The Power Of Prayer

A) Filled with knowledge (v. 9-10)

- 1) Nature of the request (v. 9)
- 2) Motive of the request (v 10)

B) Strengthened by power (v. 11-12)

III. Rejoice The Power of Transformation (v. 13-14)

A) Rescued

B) Redeemed

C) Reconciled

Conclusion