



Colossians 1

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Colossians 1:1-2

Paul, with Timothy by his side, Paul's remembering every time he writes these words of the Grace which the Lord showed him in his darkest hour(s) of persecuting and putting Christians to death for their trust in Jesus Christ which he has now come to not only trust in but to be a faithful minister of. Paul had not always been an Apostle or a follower of Jesus Christ, but his transformation is an example and an encouragement of the work that the Lord does in the life of an individual and that He desires and it's possible in the life of all. Paul's including Timothy in his greeting to the Colossians could have likely been not only to encourage them that there is a host of those who are praying for them and agree with Paul, but also an example of what a faithful brother in Christ looks like. Timothy wasn't in prison with Paul, but Timothy was laying aside his personal comforts and desires to minister to Paul so that others might be equipped and edified by and through Paul. And we see as in all of Paul's letters the Grace and Peace which is from the Lord, and that the Lord desires to give to the believers.

Study Questions:

Was Timothy in prison when he was in Rome with Paul?

What was Timothy doing there in Rome?

Who is Paul writing to?

Who are the "Faithful Brethren"?

Colossians 1:3-11

Paul writes about his prayers and the prayers of those with him that they have had for the believers in Colossae. Paul says that his thankfulness and prayers are driven by the news of their trust in Christ Jesus and the Love that they have for all Believers. Paul highlights that the trust and love which they have has come from the Hope that they long for and have for what is laid up for them in Heaven by God, and Paul goes on to say how it is that they gained this knowledge and how they have grown in it and where he encourages them to continue to receive it from, from the Word of the truth of the Gospel. Paul encourages the Colossians that this continues to spread throughout the entire world, and the things which have previously hindered its spread are being overcome, and that this is something to pray for as he does; along with the fruit which grows forth from the Gospel being planted and strengthened in the heart of life of the individual. Paul includes Epaphras, a faithful minister to the Colossians in this section of what he prays for, and so it is good and right for believers to pray for faithful men and women to be raised up as examples of the Word and Fruit growing in an individual's life, so that they will be fruitful servants of the Gospel.

Paul then transitions from what he prays constantly for, to now dropping everything and just praying. Paul's prayer is that they will be filled now with the knowledge of His will through the Word. Paul's recognition in his prayer that it's the Lord who gives spiritual understanding by His Word, and that we can start right now to walk worth of our callings to life, bringing forth fruit of the Gospel in our life, and to be strengthened so that we may have patience and longsuffering with joy. This progress is an important aspect and should mark the life of every believer as we continue to mature in the things of the Lord for our Spiritual Growth.

Study Questions:

What is Paul's thankfulness and prayers for?

How often does Paul give thanks and pray for the Colossians?

Who is "We" that Paul says is giving thanks and praying?

Who does Paul give thanks to and pray to?

Do we ever see in scripture giving thanks to and praying to anyone other than God?

Should we pray or give thanks to anyone other than God for the Spiritual Work and maturity in someone's life then?

What has reached Paul's ears about the Colossian believers?

Where does the Colossians faith and love stem from?

Where did they hear about the hope they have?

Where should the Christian continue to receive their hope from?

How has this hope spread throughout the world?

What is God's intention for the Gospel, as is given from the Word, for going through the World?

Colossians 1:12-18

Jesus has once and for all, He DID qualify us for our inheritance in Heaven for all eternity. He DID deliver us from darkness. He DID transfer our citizenship from our earthly spiritual corrupt passport to our eternal and Heavenly passport for eternal life by His Blood once and for all being poured out an never needing to be repeated or any other action to be done other than our accepting of it, He redeemed us loosening and releasing us from the grip of sin and death upon our lives and we have forgiveness for our sins by His Blood.

He is the image of the invisible God, and He is the preeminence, above and over in importance of all things that are created and all things which are eternal unto life, the Church which He is head over and is the most important thing to and for the Church where all growth comes from and rests in.

Study Questions:

When is good to pray for others?

What has Jesus done and given to us?

What does redemption mean?

Are we then tied back to our old life?

Should we go and tie ourselves back to our old life before the Holy Spirit started His work in us?

How were we released from our life in the world?

So then how do we continue to grow in this new life we have?

Is there anything we can do to release ourselves from any sin in our life?

What does first born mean?

Who is the head of the Church?

Who is the head of all those who have been redeemed?

Colossians 1:19-23

The working of the ministry of the Gospel in the life of the individual is exemplified in the unity and Agape Love seen within the Trinity. Each person within the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and The Holy Spirit are not jealous or at war with one another. For the heart of the individual Believer this is an example of not being at odds for the attention and that Christ has and is rightfully His over His Bride the Church and leading the Church. Also not being at odds with others within the Church and that we find our unity within the Person and Will of God through Jesus Christ for the reconciliation of all things to Himself. The individual who understands they were alienated and now are reconciled, and this as an example to all for the hope and desire of all that it is possible for the Lord to a powerful work in their life as well. This is done only by the death of our desires and accepting the plan of God in and for our life, and it's by this we continue in our trust of the Lord for the hope that the Gospel gives us.

Study Questions:

What pleased the Father?

Do we see any jealousy or enmity in the Trinity?

Should we be jealous of others in the Church and the Lord working through them?

What should our response then be?

How can we pray for others?

Why is the significance of repetition in Scripture?

What is the transformation which happens when the individual places their trust in Jesus Christ as Lord of their life?

What is the Lord's intention in taking us from being alienated to reconciled?

How can we imitate Christ through His death to His desires?

What does Paul encourage the Colossians to continue in?

How does Paul describe a life that continues?

What are we not to be moved away from?

What is the "Hope of the Gospel" that we see described elsewhere in scripture?

Colossians 1:24-29

The working of the ministry of the Gospel then outward from the life of an individual, begins with a heart which rejoices in all things that the Lord has done, because the individual understands that everything happens for a reason and it's learning to be content in any of these situations in sitting in His will and that He is in control of all things. It's from this heart which the Lord then works from the Power of His Spirit through the life of the individual to fill up and equip the church in what is lacking. We mature Christian must see themselves as stewards only of their time and resources which were given for the purpose of building up and equipping other in the knowledge and understanding of Christ Jesus. It is the Church which the Lord has decided to do all things through here on earth, He places a high importance on the Church, and Christ as the head of the Church and all that we do as parts of the Church.

Study Questions:

Is the work of the Gospel intended to only stay in the life of the individual it has worked so powerfully within?

How does the Gospel go forth to others?

How is it that we can lay aside our wants and desires so that others may be strengthened and built up in the faith in Christ Jesus?

What things can we lay aside that we like to do to meet others where they are?

What hobbies of ours are not used to encourage and strengthen others in a real and intentional walk with Christ?

How should we look at our time and resources?

Why has the Lord given us time and resources?

What things can we begin by removing from our life which consumes our time and resources that does not strengthen and encourage others in growing in the knowledge and understanding of Jesus?

What is the mystery?

What does ministry look like for the Church?

What is the purpose of ministry for and in the Church?

How do we receive the working of the Holy Spirit in our life?