



[Powerful](#)

Colossians 1:9-14

Wayne Braudrick

February 15, 2026

[Life Change: We walk worthily](#)

It's a jungle out there

Paul asks God to give His people:

9-10

Spiritual insight

When God illumines our minds, we value things as we ought. We fear, serve, and obey God over man (Acts 5:29). We prefer heaven over earth and the salvation of our souls over the comforts of our bodies (Matt. 6:33). We choose present and temporal affliction over future and eternal affliction (2 Cor. 4:17-18). We pursue godliness over profit and pleasure (1 Tim. 6:6). We choose the greatest suffering over the least sin (Heb. 11:25). This is illumination.

– J. Stephen Yuille, *The Path of Life: Blessedness in Seasons of Lament*

Worthy walking

Paul asks God to give His people power for:

11-12

Endurance

Patience

Joyful thanksgiving

We especially give thanks because we are:

12-14

Joined with the holy ones

Rescued from darkness

Full citizens of Jesus' kingdom

Redeemed, forgiven in Christ

Religion is returning, but no one knows what kind. It could become another therapeutic brand, spirituality retooled for stress management, or it could become again what it once was, a grammar for awe. A generation ago, we taught rules without warmth and drove children to rebellion. Now we teach warmth without weight and risk raising souls unable to bow. If we want faith to endure, we must recover the weight of the One before whom we stand...The world does not need more curators of mood. It needs mediators of mystery. – Adam Eilath, “The Grammar of Reverence”

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Faithful Truthful Powerful Wonderful Masterful Graceful Mindful Purposeful Delightful Joyful

valueFUL

letter to the Colossians

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy middleearthnj

**It's a jungle out there
Disorder and confusion everywhere
No one seems to care
Well I do
Hey, who's in charge here?
You better pay attention
Or this world we love so much might just kill you
I could be wrong now, but I don't think so
'Cause it's a jungle out there, it's a jungle out there
– from Randy Newman, “It's a Jungle Out There.”**

IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE
from MONK

Words and Music by
RANDY NEWMAN

Moderate shuffle (♩ = 2 = ♪)

It's a jungle out there.

Dis - or - der and con - fu - sion ev - 'ry - where.

No one seems to care, well, I do. Hey, who's in

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⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1 CSB

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Colossians 1 CSB

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Colossians 1 CSB

**⁸ Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the Lord requires of you:
to act justly,
to love faithfulness,
and to walk humbly with your God.**

Micah 6 CSB

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Greek: συνέσει πνευματικῇ synesei pneumatike

- **Synesei = putting things together; synthesis.**
- **Pneuma = air, wind, breath, or spirit.**

When God illumines our minds, we value things as we ought. We fear, serve, and obey God over man (Acts 5:29). We prefer heaven over earth and the salvation of our souls over the comforts of our bodies (Matt. 6:33). We choose present and temporal affliction over future and eternal affliction (2 Cor. 4:17–18). We pursue godliness over profit and pleasure (1 Tim. 6:6). We choose the greatest suffering over the least sin (Heb. 11:25). This is illumination. – J. Stephen Yuille, *The Path of Life: Blessedness in Seasons of Lament*



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- It's from my office, where it sits on my desk.
- It belongs to me and thus is very likely filled with things I enjoy.
- Children love it when the top comes off this jar.

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Colossians 1 CSB

**How? How does a
person walk worthy
of the Lord?**





¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God

Theology isn't important. It's boring. It's divisive. I don't want to talk about that.



¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God

I don't want to do the work it takes to grow up in Jesus. I have my justification set by God's grace, and now I am content to coast in my sanctification.



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**Wisdom + illumined understanding = spiritual insight.
Knowing + growing = worthy walking.**

I love this prayer and pray it for myself and others often. A few years ago, my attention was captured by Paul's comment: "We haven't stopped praying for you." I began to pray for spiritual insight and worthy walking for the guys in our [men's Bible] study, for my family, myself, and others on a regular basis. – David Wade

¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

Colossians 1 CSB



Up a steep hill...on skis...moving at 6 minute-per-mile pace...after having sprint-skiied for a mile.



Johannes Klaebo with his 7th Olympic Gold Medal



¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully

Colossians 1 CSB

**¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith,
let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up.**

And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

**² We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus,
the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.**

Hebrews 12 NLT

**¹¹ being strengthened with
all power, according to his
glorious might, so that you
may have great endurance
and patience, joyfully**

Colossians 1 CSB



Impatience is understandable, because no one enjoys the results of a broken world where brokenness can make things take too long. Yet impatience is inexcusable in a Christian because it violates God's sovereignty.



**¹¹ being strengthened with
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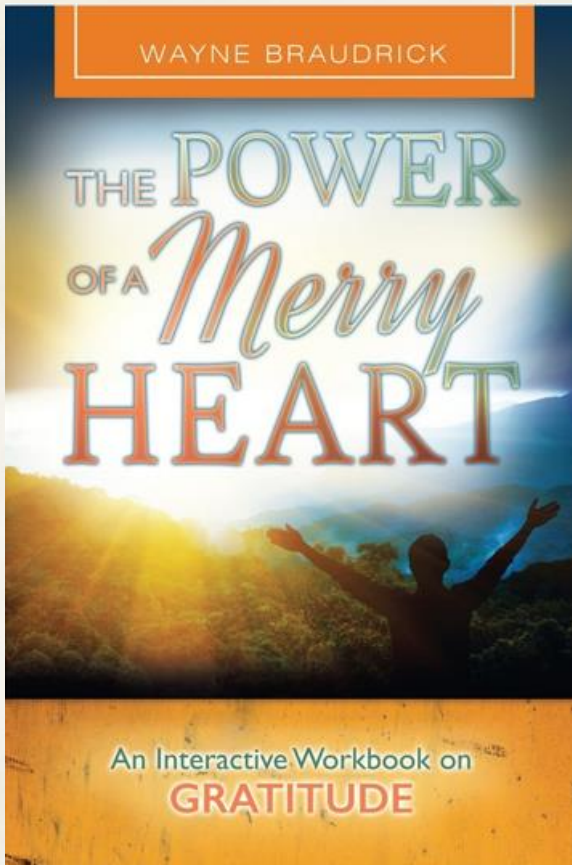
Colossians 1 CSB



Impatience is understandable, because no one enjoys the results of a broken world where brokenness can make things take too long. Yet impatience is inexcusable in a Christian because it violates God's sovereignty.

**Stille, mein Wille! Dein Jesus hilft siegen;
Trage geduldig das Leiden, die Not;
Gott ist's, der alles zum Besten will fügen,
Der dir getreu bleibt in Schmerzen und Tod.
– Katharina von Schlegel**

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide;
In every change, He faithful will remain.**



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Colossians 1 CSB

When put into practice, gratitude creates a virtuous circle. It fosters contentment, joy, respect, and connection to our world and the people in it. Gratitude makes us feel good inside. And when we share it, other people feel good inside. And you know what happens then: The feel-good-insiders send their goodwill to more people, who in turn start feeling good inside. Good feelings boomerang everywhere.

**– Elizabeth McCracken, “Thanks!” in
Unstuck magazine *November 25, 2013.***





What humility does is to open the mind and heart to greatness...Humility thus is related also to gratitude, the willingness to accept a gift, and to give oneself to it; in its ultimate form, man's free and joyful submission to the grace of God. – Anthony Esolen, “Humble Pie” in *Word & Song*, 9 February 2026



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Colossians 1 CSB

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1 CSB



John Pierpont Morgan's reading room



**My study space
in research wing**




courtesy Bettman Archive

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Colossians 1 CSB

ones made holy through trusting God's grace alone




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Colossians 1 CSB

Greek: ἐκλεκτός eklektos = selected for a purpose.


Hebrew: בְּחִיר *bā·ḥîr* = someone set aside by the God of Israel for His pleasure & plan.




¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, as does Mark, my son.

1 Peter 5 CSB

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Greek:
ἐξουσία
exousia = a
way of life;
not location
but rather
capacity



Greek: σκότος skotos = more than absence of light.
German theologian Hans Conzelmann:
“σκότος [is] an enveloping sphere described as a hindrance to movement and action, to foresight. It is [the space] of objective peril and subjective anxiety.”

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Greek: βασιλεία
basileia =
kingdom, direct
royal rule



courtesy Destiny Rescue

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Colossians 1 CSB



Wayne,

What struck me in this passage was the completeness Paul prays for us. Filled with knowledge, in all wisdom and understanding, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every work, strengthened with all power, having great endurance, and sharing the saint's inheritance. My trust that God answers this prayer in me is nothing short of thrilling! I am so grateful.

– Evan Beck





courtesy rcza

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Colossians 1 CSB



- **God inspires Paul to pray that the Lord would empower His people with 2 things: spiritual insight & worthy walking.**
- **He then prays God will grant power for 3 necessities involved in walking worthily: endurance, patience, & joyful thanksgiving.**
- **The text recounts 4 massive reasons for continual gratitude: being joined with the saints, being rescued from darkness, becoming full citizens of Jesus' kingdom, and being forgiven.**

**¹⁴ In him
we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.**

Colossians 1 CSB

¹⁴ In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

We are reminded that this is all by God's grace. We didn't earn anything. We were redeemed by the sacrifice of God the Son on our behalf. Our sins kept us in darkness, where we belong. Only by Jesus' intervention on the cross and through the tomb are we in the light.

Something is stirring across the West...a new hunger for transcendence. After decades of polite secular confidence...religion is returning, but no one knows what kind. It could become another therapeutic brand, spirituality retooled for stress management, or it could become again what it once was, a grammar for awe. A generation ago, we taught rules without warmth and drove children to rebellion. Now we teach warmth without weight and risk raising souls unable to bow. If we want faith to endure, we must recover the weight of the One before whom we stand...The world does not need more curators of mood. It needs mediators of mystery. – Adam Eilath, “The Grammar of Reverence”



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