

Deception is Deceptively Easy
The Centrality of Prayer
Colossians 1:1-14

Paul didn't begin the church (personally)

It was probably planted through Epaphras during Paul's (3 year) ministry in (Ephesus)

Acts 19:8-10

8 Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

9 But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

10 This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

Paul wrote Colossians to (correct false teaching) that (threatened) the future of the church

Read Colossians 1:1-2

An apostle is someone (sent out) with a purpose

Read Colossians 1:3-8

The key to prayer is getting our petitions in line with the will of God - Greg Laurie

Read Colossians 1:9-14

Romans 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will.

“The church should be a community of dates instead of pumpkins. Pumpkins you can harvest in six months. Dates have to be planted and tended by people who will not live to harvest them. Dates are for future generations.” George Chauncey

Ephesians 2:1-6

- 1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,
- 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.
- 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.
- 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
- 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-- it is by grace you have been saved.
- 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus came to (rescue) us, not to make us (happy)

In Jesus we have (everything) we need for (life) and for (eternity)

Connect with another person and pray Colossians 1:9-11 over them tonight

*“I ask you God to fill _____ with the knowledge of your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,
10 so that _____ may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,
11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that _____ may have great endurance and patience”*