

Colossians 1

- Imagine that you are in the church at Colossae, and Epaphras returns and reads this letter to the whole congregation.
- By extension, we at Calvary Southport are recipients of this letter

Chapter 1

- Paul's Greetings to the saints [1-2](#)
- Paul thanks God for the Colossians' reception of the gospel [vs 3](#)
- Paul prays that they would be filled with knowledge, walk worthy, bear fruit, and be strengthened [9-14](#)
- Christ has preeminence in creation, the church, and Paul's ministry [15-29](#)

Greeting

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: **Grace to you and peace** from God our Father.

- by the will of God – Paul understood that it was God's will that he was called to be an apostle.
 - God's will that he was in Rome under lock & key.
 - God's will is the best place to be, the safest place to be!
- Timothy our brother – Tim joined Paul on his **2nd missionary journey**.
 - Our brother – Paul calls Tim his "child"
 - [2 Timothy 1:2](#) – To **Timothy**, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - [1 Timothy 1:18](#) – This charge I entrust to you, **Timothy**, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,
 - [1 Timothy 1:2](#) – To **Timothy**, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae
 - "Saints" – [ἅγιος](#); **hágios**; hag'-ee-os: a most holy thing, a saint
 - The Colossians were **set apart** for God's service, and they belonged to God
 - "Faithful" because they remained faithful to Christ and the message of Him.
 - "brothers" – because they belong to the people/family of God
 - Remember, Paul is a Jew, calling Gentiles (Primarily) brothers.
 - God made the two one in Christ!
 - This doesn't designate two separate groups; it is a description of the same group-believers at Colossae.

- NFL example: If I said, “To the fans and football lovers/family in Philadelphia,”
- **Grace to you and peace** – Paul combines the western (Gentile) and eastern (Jewish) greetings
 - **Grace** – The typical Greek greeting was: χαίρω; **chaírō**; khah'ee-ro; meaning *rejoice, farewell, be glad, God speed, greeting, hail, joy (-fully), rejoice*.
 - **Peace** – The typical Jewish greeting is “Shalom” in Hebrew, and εἰρήνη; **eirénē**; i-rah'-nay in Greek
 - Paul modifies the Greek greeting from: χαίρω; **chaírō**; khah'ee-ro, to
 - χάρις; **cháris**; khar'-ece: **GRACE** – Unmerited favor from God
 - **Mounce-** *the state of kindness and favor toward someone, often with a focus on a benefit given to the object; by extension: gift, benefit; credit; words of kindness and benefit: thanks, blessing*
 - We only have peace with God because of the Grace of God!
- **[MAPs] Colossae can only be guessed. 3 Missionary journeys**
 - No recorded visit to this church.
 - The closest Paul came was at Ephesus, or the meeting with the leaders, Acts 20:17-36
 - Probably started by Epaphras
 - “our beloved fellow servant,” “a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf” (Col 1:7), “a servant of Christ Jesus” (4:12), and “my fellow prisoner” (Philem 23).

Thanksgiving and Prayer

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

- CC Waupaca and CC Jacksonville have committed to pray for this work, and they thank God when they do.
- It is 100% important to thank God as part of prayer!
- All my prayers start with thanksgiving!!!

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,

- we heard of your faith – Paul was given a report by Epaphras.
 - It is so encouraging to get reports from others about saints growing in faith!

⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

- the hope laid up for you in heaven – What is this hope? Paul will talk about the “Hope of Glo-ry” Col 1:27
- This is as bad as it gets for the believer! Glory awaits.

- No eye has seen
 - [Isaiah 64:4](#) –⁴ ^(A)From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, ^(B)no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him.
 - [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) –⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—
 - [Psalm 31:19](#) –¹⁹ Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!

⁶ which has come to you, as **indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing**—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,

- indeed in the whole world, it is bearing fruit and increasing – the whole world
- Paul is using hyperbole – Kosmos
- The gospel was spreading through the empire while Paul was in prison.
- The message of Christ produces fruit
 - Unto repentance: a change from flesh-driven to Heaven-minded
 - People being set free from bondage!

⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

- He shared the message that set him free!
 - [The Reproducers book](#) is about people like him.
- Minister – [διάκονος](#); **diákonos**; dee-ak'-on-os
 - one who executes the commands of another, esp. of a master, a servant, attendant, minister
 - the **servant of a king**; a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use; a waiter, one who serves food and drink
- of Christ – Serving Jesus by serving the message of Christ to the people.
 - As a pastor, I do the same. I serve Christ by serving you.
 - When serving you deviates from serving Christ, I must adhere to serving Him 1st.
 - Meaning, if serving you does not serve Christ, but instead detracts from my service of Him, then I must default to Him.
- the Spirit – Only mention of the Spirit in this letter.

○ **Ephesians & Colossians are similar**

▪ **Ephesians** – The Body of Christ “Spirit” **14x**

▪ **Colossians** – The preeminence of Christ “Spirit” **1X**

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

- Knowledge – A super knowledge, not a secret knowledge
- Wisdom – of Ultimate things/ God
- Early Gnostic heresy – a-gnosis; latin: ignoramus
- not ceased to pray – Pray and do not cease praying [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)
 - This is a prayer we can pray for others!
 - It is amazing that Paul probably didn't know most or any of this congregation, except for Epaphras, yet they were added to his prayer list.

¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- walk in a manner worthy – Same wording as [Ephesians 4:1](#)
- qualified you – [ἱκανόω](#); hikanóō; hik-an-o'-o: **to make sufficient**, render fit; to equip one with adequate power to perform duties of one.
 - It goes beyond signing a permission slip!

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

-----**The Preeminence of Christ**-----

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- Image – [εἰκών](#) – eikōn –i-kone'
an image, figure, likeness
an image of the things (the heavenly things)
image, likeness, portrait
 - Computer icon
- Firstborn of all creation – From an earthly, human perspective, He is not in enumeration/ succession/ progression but in prominence.
 - From a redemption perspective, He has the title of firstborn from among the dead.

- Jacob and Esau.
 - For a meal, the oldest gave up his right to be called the 1st born.
- Firstborn is a compound Greek word: [πρωτότοκος](#); prōtōtokos; pro-tot-ok'-os
 - **Proto** – [πρῶτος](#); protos; pro'-tos: first in time or place; in any succession of things or persons; **first in rank**; influence, honour; chief; principal; first, at the first
 - **Tickto** – [τίκτω](#); Tiktō; tik'-to: to bring forth, bear, produce (fruit from the seed); of a woman giving birth; of the earth bringing forth its fruits; metaph. to bear, bring forth
 - NT usage: 
 - [Romans 8:29](#) – *For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained the image of his Son, that he might be **the firstborn** among many brethren:*
 - [Hebrews 12:23](#) – *and to the assembly of the **firstborn** who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,*
 - [Revelation 1:5](#) – *⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood*

¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him** and

for him.

- by him all things were created –
 - Jesus is not a junior partner in creation! He walked with Adam, spoke the words, “Let there be light,” he hung the moon and stars.
 - This same creation would reject him
 - This same creation continues to reject Him.
-  [Hebrews 1:1-2](#) – ¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world.**
- <  [John 1:1](#) – ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ **All things were made through him**, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
-  [Genesis 1:1](#) – In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth.
 - “‘Elohiym”– [אֱלֹהִים](#); ’ēlōhiym; el-o-heem' [Definition](#)
 - A plural (intensive - singular meaning)

- School of Fish, Flock of birds, cluster of grapes
- Tri-une God: Father/Son/Spirit

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

[Calvary Southport](#)