IMMERSE
BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS
COLOSSIANS

Matt. 28:18-20 (NASB) And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "*All authority* in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What does “baptize” really mean?

John 15:3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. (NASB)

Eph. 5:26 …so that [Christ] might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word… (NASB)

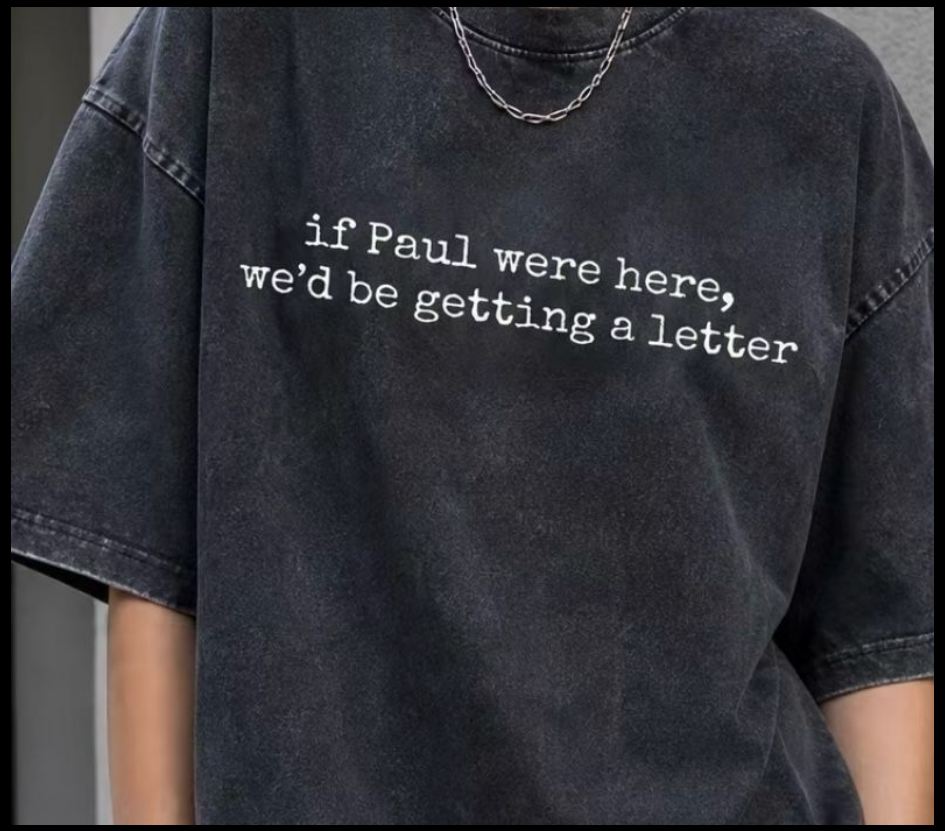

Aegean Sea
CASUAL ENGLISH BIBLE®
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Paul spent 3 years here
Ephesus
120 Miles (190 km) Colossae to Ephesus
Hierapolis
(Pamukkale)
Laodicea
(Curuksu)
There's no record
Paul ever came here.
Colossae
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Who were the key people of Colossians?

- Paul
- Epaphras
- Colossians

What is the problem?

- Is Jesus really enough?



- If he is enough, enough for what?

Colossians 1

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and
Timothy our brother,

2To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and
sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
when we pray for you, 4because we have heard of your faith in
Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—

5the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6that has come to you.

- Faith = confidence
- Love = desire for the good of others
- Hope = joyous anticipation of good
- Stored up in heaven = an inheritance you can draw from now

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. 7You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

- **Mercy lets you off; grace helps you live.**

Colossians 1:5-8 gives us a picture of a person "who suddenly learns that he has inherited a fortune, the Colossians are possessed of new knowledge which cannot but revolutionize their lives." (N. T. Wright)

9For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10so that you 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, 11being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

13For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

24Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

“He came to this world … to spread to other men the kind of life He has—by what I call ‘good infection’.”

(C. S. Lewis — *Mere Christianity* Book IV, chapter 4, “Good Infection.”)

Rom. 5:2 …through whom we also have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we celebrate in hope of the glory of God.

Colossians 2

1I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

“Christ Himself is the mystery of God, not just a clue or a key to it. Everything we might want to ask about God or ask God about can and must now be answered in Jesus.”

(N. T. Wright)

6So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

8See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. 9For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

11In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,
12having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

13When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

16Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. 18Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

19They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow. 20Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21"Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"?

22These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Colossians 3

<u>Since</u>, then, you have been raised with Christ, <u>set your hearts</u> on <u>things above</u>, <u>where Christ is</u>, seated at the right hand of God.

Matt. 6:10, 33: "your kingdom come, your will be done…seek first his kingdom and his righteousness"

Philippians 3:20 (NASB)"For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;"

2Set your minds on things above, <u>not on earthly things</u>.

Mark 8:33 But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's purposes, but on man's."

Psalm 2:1; Psalm 33:13-20

2<u>Set your minds</u> on things above, not on earthly things.

Phil. 4:7-9 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers *and sisters,* whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

"God's intention for each of us is that we should grow to the point where He can empower us to do what we want." (Dallas Willard)

3<u>For you died</u>, and <u>your life</u> is now hidden with Christ in God.

2 Corinthians 4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

John 14:6 "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

3For you died, and <u>your life is now hidden with Christ</u> in God.

1 John 5:11-12 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Compare Col. 3:3 and Luke 15:24 (my son was dead and has come to life again…)

4When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

John 14:19-20 "Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you."

4When Christ, who is <u>your life</u>, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Matthew 16:25 (NASB) "For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Romans 8:6 (NASB) "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

Romans 8:18-19 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God.

4When Christ, who is <u>your life</u>, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 John 3:2-3 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3And everyone who has this hope set on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Revelation 2:17 NASB The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. 'To the one who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows except the one who receives it.'

4When Christ, who is <u>your life</u>, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Matt. 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Heb. 12:2 (NLT) Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame.

4When Christ, who is your life, appears, then ***<u>you also will appear with him in glory</u>****.*

Exodus 34:29-35

Acts 6:15

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled faces, looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

4When Christ, who is your life, appears, then ***<u>you also will appear with him in glory</u>****.*

"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest most uninteresting person you can talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree helping each other to one or the other of these destinations." – C.S. Lewis *The Weight of Glory*

Romans 12:1-2 NASB Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

6Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.

Daniel 2:34-35

Psalm 118:22 Luke 20:17-18 (Matt. 21:42-4) Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.

7You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

9Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Mark 1:17

Luke 9:54-56

11Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Col. 4:9 with me is "Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother"…

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness and patience.

13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

14And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

1 John 4:16 God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Gal. 5:14 For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

15Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

John 20 – …peace be with you…

16Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

Jer. 31:33 I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

2 Cor. 3:3 …written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Hymns: Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:15-20; 1 Tim. 3:16

“All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.”

— Julian of Norwich

Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026

17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

2 Cor. 5:20 we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us…

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you…

1 John 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Gen. 1:3 God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

John 1:1-5 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being. 4In Him was life, and the life was the Light of mankind. 5And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not grasp it.

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule…

Matt. 5:14 “You are the light of the world…”

Matt. 5:45 “…prove yourselves to be sons of your Father who is in heaven…”

Ephesians 5:8 …you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light…

Revelation 22:5 (NASB)

And there will no longer be *any* night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illuminate them; and they will reign forever and ever.

Matthew 11:30

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

- Jesus the Messiah

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit…

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

-Frederick Buechner