

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the COLOSSIANS

Introduction – Chapter 1:1-14

Author: Paul

Date: Approximately A.D. 60

Theme: “CHRIST, OUR ALL & ALL!”

Setting: Paul wrote the epistle from prison (4:3,10,18), but he did not indicate where he was imprisoned. Caesarea and Ephesus have been suggested, but the most probable place is Rome (Acts 28:30).

Book Structure: Chapters 1 & 2 (DOCTRINAL); Chapters 3 & 4 (PRACTICAL)

Chapter by Chapter:

- Chapter 1 - “CHRIST—OUR SAVIOR!”
- Chapter 2 - “CHRIST—OUR TRUTH!”
- Chapter 3 - “CHRIST—OUR COUNSEL!”
- Chapter 4 - “CHRIST—OUR FRIEND!”

Key Verses: Colossians 1:15-17; 3:16-17

Insight: False teaching had taken root in Colosse - This teaching combined Jewish observances (2:16) and pagan speculation (2:8); it is possible that this resulted in an early form of GNOSTICISM.

Chapter 1 - “CHRIST—OUR SAVIOR!”

I) “COLOSSE GOOD NEWS!” (v1-8)

(v1-2) Observe the inspirational greeting, “GRACE to you and PEACE from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Insight: Jesus was not only the beneficiary of God's grace (Luke 2:40), but He was also its very embodiment (John 1:14), bringing it to mankind for salvation (Titus 2:11). By His death and resurrection, Jesus restored the broken fellowship between God and His people, both Jew and Gentile. The only way of salvation for any person is “through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 15:11). In regards to PEACE, Jesus said in John 14:27 - Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. (Romans 5:1-2)

(v3-6) Paul compliments the Colossians for they are filled with: (1) FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS! (2) LOVE FOR ALL THE SAINTS! (3) THE HOPE OF HEAVEN!

(v7-8) Epaphras (*Charming*)- “A faithful minister”- 1 Peter 5:2-4

II) “GREAT PRAYER FOR ALL!” (v9-14)

How to develop your prayer LIFE with POWER:

#1 – Pray for yourself and believers to be filled with the knowledge of His WILL in all wisdom and spiritual understanding! HIS WILL - Ps 40:8- I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart. Ps 143:10- Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Matt 12:50- “For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.” Matt 26:42- He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.” John 7:17- If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. 1Thes 4:1-6- It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or take advantage of him. The Lord will punish men for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you.)

#2 – Pray that you and fellow believers would WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God! ENOCH (dedicated) is a great example of one who walked worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him (Genesis 5:24; Hebrews 11:5-6; Jude v. 14-13). Being fruitful in every good work – Spiritual fruit is the by-product of a righteous life. The Bible identifies spiritual fruit as leading people to Christ (1 Cor. 16:15), praising God (Heb. 13:15), blessing one another (Rom. 15:26–28), living a godly life (Heb. 12:11), and displaying the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22, 23).

#3 – Pray that you and the body of Christ will be strengthened WITH ALL MIGHT, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy!

#4 – GIVE THANKS for your INHERITANCE, DELIVERANCE, LOVE, REDEMPTION, & FORGIVENESS OF SINS! (Redemption through His blood means, “to deliver by payment of a ransom,” and was used of freeing slaves from bondage. Here it refers to Christ freeing believing sinners from slavery to sin. The forgiveness of sins speaks of “to pardon” or “grant remission of a penalty.”) (See Paul's ministry Acts Chapter 26 – How about you? Almost or yes, SAVE now!)