



**Route 66**  
**Christian Greetings**  
**Colossians 1:1-14**

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**Colossians 1:1**

*“This is a letter from Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and from Timothy, the brother, to the dedicated people of God and faithful brothers in Christ who are in Colossae.”*

A Christian always moves in two spheres. He is in a certain place in this world; but he is also in Christ. He lives in two dimensions. He lives in this world whose duties he does not treat lightly; but above and beyond that he lives in Christ. **In this world he may move from place to place; but wherever he is, he is in Christ. That is why outward circumstances make little difference to the Christian; his peace and his joy are not dependent on them.**

**The Double Commitment**

**Colossians 1:1-8**

*“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.”*

**Thanksgiving and Prayer**

*“We **always thank God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—the 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 that has come to you. 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. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.”*

## The Essence of Prayer's Request

### Colossians 1:9-11

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

**(i) Prayer begins by asking that we may be filled with an ever-growing knowledge of the will of God.** It so often happens that in prayer we are really saying, "Thy will be changed," when we ought to be saying, "Thy will be done." The first object of prayer is not so much to speak to God as to listen to him.

**(ii) This knowledge of God must be translated into our human situation.** We pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding. Spiritual wisdom is Sophia, which means knowledge of first principles. Understanding is sunesis, which is what the Greeks sometimes described as critical knowledge, meaning the ability to apply first principles to any given situation which may arise in life. So, when Paul prays that his friends may have wisdom and understanding, he is praying that they may understand the great truths of Christianity and may be able to apply them to the tasks and decisions which meet them in everyday living. A man may quite easily be a master of theology and a failure in living; able to write and talk about the eternal truths and yet helpless to apply them to the things which meet him every day. The Christian must know what Christianity means, not in a vacuum but in the business of living.

**(iii) Paul prays that his friends may conduct themselves in such a way as to please God.** There is nothing in this world so practical as prayer. It is not escape from reality. Prayer and action go hand in hand. We pray not in order to escape life but in order to be better able to meet it.

**(iv) Paul prays that his friends may be strengthened with the power of God.** The great problem in life is not to know what to do but to do it.

**God tells us his will, he also enables us to perform it.**

### Two Great Gifts: Endurance and Patience

**Endurance** is long suffering. Means not only the ability to bear things, but the ability, in bearing them, to turn them into glory. It is a conquering patience.

So, the Christian prayer is: "Make me, O Lord, victorious over every circumstance; make me patient with every person; and give me the joy which no circumstance and no man will ever take from me."

## **Prayer's Great Thanksgiving**

### **Colossians 1:12-14**

*"and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."*

### **Acts 26:18**

*"to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."*

**(a) It meant a transference from darkness to light.** Without God men grope and stumble as if walking in the dark. They know not what to do; they know not where they are going. Life is lived in the shadows of doubt and in the darkness of ignorance. In Jesus Christ, God has given us a light by which to live and by which to die.

**(b) It meant a transference from slavery to freedom.** It was redemption, and that was the word used for the emancipation of a slave and for the buying back of something which was in the power of someone else. Without God men are slaves to their fears, to their sins and slaves to their own helplessness. In Jesus Christ there is liberation.

**(c) It meant a transference from condemnation to forgiveness.** Man in his sin deserves nothing but the condemnation of God; but through the work of Jesus Christ, he discovers God's love and forgiveness. He knows now that he is no longer a condemned criminal at God's judgment seat, but a lost son for whom the way home is always open.

**(d) It meant a transference from the power of Satan to the power of God.** Through Jesus Christ man is liberated from the grip of Satan and is able to become a citizen of the Kingdom of God. Just as an earthly conqueror transferred the citizens of the land he had conquered to a new land, so God in his triumphant love transfers men from the realm of sin and darkness into the realm of holiness and light.