



THE BOOK OF  
**COLOSSIANS**  
COMMUNITY GROUPS 2023

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,  
rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,  
just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7 (ESV)



## INTRODUCTION TO COLOSSIANS

**Paul, the apostle, wrote Colossians with Timothy (1:1), while imprisoned in Rome, to a small church planted by Epaphras in the small town of Colossae.**

**Paul's main purpose in writing is to ground the young believers in the truth about Christ and encourage them to continue to walk in Christ (2:6).**

A major theme throughout the first half of the letter, which is the theological section, is the supremacy of Christ over all things. Christ is the fountainhead of spiritual knowledge and fullness, and our source of spiritual power and freedom.

**1. PAUL'S GREETING (1:1-2)**

What do we learn about Paul from his description of himself and his calling? Why is this important to us as we read Paul's letter?

What do we know about the believers at Colossae from Paul's description?

**2. PAUL'S THANKFULNESS (1:3-8)**

How would you describe Paul's prayer life? What is Paul thankful for in relation to the Colossians?

Paul tells us that the Colossian's faith and love is because of their hope. How does Paul's description of the Colossians in v. 2 help us understand what he means by "faith" here in v. 5?

The fact that Paul mentions the Colossians love twice means it was one of their distinguishing characteristics. What does it look like to love 'all the saints'?

What else does Paul mention in vv. 3-8 that he seems to be thankful for?

Why is Paul thankful for the fruit that the gospel is bearing all over the world? In light of v. 1, why should we care about the gospel bearing fruit all over the world?

### CONCLUSION

In his greeting and introduction, Paul includes some particulars that reveal what he wants to teach the Colossians in the letter.

1. Paul's words come with the authority of Christ and they reveal the will of God. Do I view this letter as revealing the will of God and necessary for my growth in faith and love?
2. Because of our hope we can continually trust in Christ and sincerely love one another. Does my hope show in my trust in Christ over every area of my life? Does it show in my love for 'all the saints'?
3. God's will is being accomplished as the gospel produces fruit all over the world. Do I care about this as much as I should?







#### REVIEW OF COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

From the opening verses of the letter we learned that it was God's will to send Paul out to proclaim the gospel of Christ. This is why he is thankful that the gospel is bearing fruit in the Colossians and the whole world (1:6).

What will become evident as we lead up to the letter's purpose statement in 2:6, is that Paul is rooting the Colossian believers in the gospel in order that they will continue to bear gospel fruit.

### 1. KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

In light of the fact that God's will is for Paul to proclaim the gospel and for it to bear fruit throughout the whole world, what does Paul mean by the phrase, "filled with the knowledge of his will?"

### 2. WALK WORTHY OF GOD

What does Paul list as the defining features of someone walking worthy of the Lord in v. 10?

In what ways can you more fully seek to please God? ...serve God? ...know God better?

### 3. BE STRENGTHENED BY GOD

Paul exhorts us to look to God and his infinite power for the strength we will need. What does that reveal about the nature of the task to "walk worthy of the Lord?"

Why do we so often feel like we do not have the strength we need? How might being filled with the knowledge of his will affect that?

What does Paul say that this divine strength will allow us to do? How does this affect your understanding of his will?

#### 4. GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Paul lists some things that God has done for us that we should be thankful for. What is so significant about the wording, "the Father, who has qualified you?"

According to vv. 13 and 14 how did God qualify us to be delivered and transferred into his kingdom?

#### CONCLUSION

God wants us to be saturated with, and moved and motivated by his will that the gospel that transfers us would transform us. Am I transforming into someone who pleases him, does good works, and knows him more and more?







#### REVIEW OF COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

In 1:15-20 Paul turns from his introductory comments to lay the foundational truths of “the word of truth, the gospel” so that the Colossians will more fully understand what they have come to believe. And he starts by revealing who Christ is and what he has done.

He explains how Christ is the supreme sovereign of creation and the sufficient savior of the new creation.

**1. CHRIST THE SUPREME SOVEREIGN OF CREATION (VV. 15-17)**

In v. 15 Paul makes two claims about who Christ is before he explains why the claims are true in vv. 16-17. What is Paul saying about Christ when he calls him “the image of the invisible God” and “the firstborn of all creation?”

Paul tells us that the reason he can refer to Christ as the firstborn of all creation is because all things were created by him and for him. What implications does this have for our lives?

Why is it so important that we realize that Christ is also the pre-existent one whose power holds the cosmos together?

**2. CHRIST THE SUFFICIENT SAVIOR OF THE NEW CREATION (VV. 18-20)**

What claims does Paul make about Christ in v. 18?

What reasons does Paul give for making these claims about Christ?

### CONCLUSION

All things were created by him and for him and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the church and the new creation. He is preeminent in everything.

How would your life be different if Christ was the preeminent concern by which everything was defined and purposed around; the preeminent object of your desires and goals?





REVIEW OF COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

In 1:15-20 Paul introduced who Christ is and what he did.

In 1:21-23 he further explains how we came into a relationship with Christ and how we continue in our faith.

# 4

## COLOSSIANS 1:21-23 | LESSON FOUR

### 1. OUR RECONCILIATION (VV. 21-22)

Why is it helpful to understand how alienated, hostile, and evil we were before Christ began changing us?

According to v. 22, who and how were we reconciled? When was reconciliation accomplished for us? What role did we play in being made right with God?

What is Christ's ultimate goal for you? Is that the goal of your life?

### 2. OUR CONTINUATION (V. 23)

According to v. 23, what is our role in being presented as holy, blameless, and above reproach?

What does it mean to be stable and steadfast? What does it mean to "not shift from the hope of the gospel?"



What are some things that can move people away from the hope of the gospel? What can we do to make sure this doesn't happen to us?

### CONCLUSION

Paul reminds the Colossians what they were like before Christ rescued them, how he rescued them, and how to continue on toward a new goal for our life.

## APPLICATION

*We are told to always be ready to respond to people in regard to our hope and faith (1 Pet 3:15; Col 4:5-6). We should always be ready to explain our story of coming to Christ. Honesty and vulnerability are very important when telling our story. We do not need to embellish what Christ has done. We only need to be a witness; to give our testimony to the reality of His work in our life. Write out your story in 100 words or less, using these questions as a guide.*

### **My life before Christ**

What did my life revolve around? Where did I get my security, identity or happiness from?

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How did those things prove to be unsatisfying or insufficient? (Don't overplay it.)

.....

What are some key words that summarize your life before Christ?

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### **How I came to trust in Christ**

When was the first time I heard the gospel? What were my initial reactions?

.....

When and why did my perspective begin to change?

.....

What did I struggle with and why did I finally receive Christ?

.....

### **My life after giving my life to Christ**

How is my life different now? List changes in character, attitude, perspectives, and lifestyle.

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How have my motives, values, purpose, meaning, and identity changed? (Don't embellish.)

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How does knowing Christ help me in my struggles and sins?

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#### REVIEW OF COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

Paul's primary prayer for the believers in Colossae is that they be filled with the knowledge of God's will, which is all about the gospel being proclaimed in the world, transferring people into God's kingdom, and transforming them into those who are prepared to live forever in his kingdom as his people.

In 1:24-29, to help the Colossians understand the nature of the proclamation part of God's will better, he reveals to them the nature of his ministry. Paul uses a chiastic structure to funnel our attention toward the heart of his ministry: Christ in you the hope of glory.

**1. SUFFERING (VV. 24-25)**

Why does Paul say that he suffers and is afflicted? How did he feel about his suffering?

Why would God purposely use suffering as part of Paul's ministry for the sake of the church?

How are Paul's afflictions "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions?" In what ways were Christ's afflictions not lacking?

How are we able to fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions?

**2. MAKING KNOWN THE WORD OF GOD (V. 25)**

What has Paul become a minister and steward of? What does stewardship mean?

What do you think Paul means when he says, "fully known?"

### 3. THE MYSTERY (VV. 26-27)

What is the mystery?

At the heart of Paul's apostolic calling is the idea of being unified with Christ forever. Why is this important for us to know and understand?

### 4. PROCLAIMING CHRIST (V. 28)

What are the two facets of Paul's proclamation ministry? What's the difference?

What is the aim of his proclamation ministry?

### 5. STRUGGLING (V. 29)

How does Paul say that he endures the struggle of his ministry? How is that similar to his prayer for the Colossians in 1:9-11?

### CONCLUSION

At the heart of Paul's ministry, and ultimately God's will, is that people would come into a relationship with Christ and one day live forever with him in heaven. But the nature of Paul's ministry was suffering and proclamation. If we are to be aligned with God's will, as Paul prayed, we must be willing to suffer in order to make Christ known as well.



**NOTES**

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COMMUNITY GROUP CONTACT INFO

Leader: .....

Participants: .....

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