

COLOSSIANS 1

-The book of Colossians is a letter that God wrote through Paul during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome.

Let's read Colossians 1:1

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

-It was not Paul's decision to become an apostle.

-Paul was persecuting Christians and putting them in jail.

-It was the will of God alone that made Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus.

-Just like Paul, it is the will of God that brings all Christians to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-If you believe in God, it is the will of God that has brought you to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

-We also learn from verse 1 that Timothy was in Rome to visit and encourage Paul when he was in jail.

Let's read Colossians 1:2

2-To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you

from God our Father.

-If you are a Christian, then you are one of God's holy people, and you are a faithful brother or sister in Christ.

-Although Paul had not been to Colossae, he had heard of the faith of the Christians there.

Let's read Colossians 1:3-6a

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

4-because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people-

5-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

6-that has come to you.

-Not only should we thank God for our own faith, but we should also thank Him for the faith of other Christians.

-How does the strong faith in Christ of other Christians affect us?

-It greatly encourages our own faith.

-Even though Paul had never met the Christians in Colossae, their faith and love greatly encouraged him.

-As we read in Colossians 1:5, faith and love spring from the hope that has been stored up for us in heaven.

-As we have God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, we also have faith, hope, and love which are taught in 1 Corinthians 13:13.

Let's read Colossians 1:6b

6-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.

-Even though Paul was in prison, the Gospel continued to bear fruit.

-This teaches us that Satan, his demons, nor anything else in the world is able to stop the Word of God from bearing fruit.

Let's read Colossians 1:7-8

7-You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,

8-and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

-With this verse, we learn that God used Epaphras to plant the church in Colossae.

-Like Paul, Epaphras was a servant of God, doing that which God had saved him to do.

-God is able to do His work by Himself, yet He has chosen us to work alongside of Him.

-God has saved all Christians that He might reach out through us to save other people.

-As Christians, we can either be selfish, or allow God to do His work through us.

-It seems that Epaphras also told Paul of the Colossian Christians' love in the Spirit.

-As Christians, what is a true sign that Christ lives in us?

-That we have love for others including those whom we have never met.

Let's read Colossians 1:9

9-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,

-What is the best that we can do for others?

-Teach them the Word of God and pray for them.

-While Paul had never been to Colossae to teach the Word of God, he still prayed for the Christians there.

-Even if we cannot go to another place and teach the Word of God, we can pray for the people there.

-What was one of Paul's prayers for the Colossians?

-That God would fill them with the knowledge of His will.

-What is the result of a life which is filled with the knowledge of the will of God?

Let's read Colossians 1:10

10-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,

-To be filled with the knowledge of the will of God means this:

-That our lives on earth are not wasted, but worthy.

-That our lives please God in every way.

-That our lives bear fruit in every good work.

-That we grow in knowing our God.

-To be filled with the knowledge of the will of God is the foundation for the Christian life.

-When we are filled with the knowledge of the will of God, how else do we benefit?

Let's read Colossians 1:11

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

-We are strengthened with the power of God which gives us endurance and patience.

-As you know, life on earth is not easy.

-We greatly need endurance and patience in order to do well on this earth.

Let's read Colossians 1:12

12-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.

-Here, Paul is thanking God because it is God alone who qualifies us to share in His inheritance in His kingdom.

-Some Christians think that we must work in order to

earn God's favor.

-It is Christ alone who has already finished the work to earn God's favor.

-It is Christ alone who has already finished the work on the cross to pay for our sins which has earned God's favor.

-If Christ has already finished the work which has earned God's favor, then what must we Christians do?

-We must work alongside of our God to teach others about Christ's finished work on the cross.

Let's read Colossians 1:13

13-For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

-From the verse above, we understand this truth:

-God has already rescued us Christians from the kingdom of Satan.

-God has also already brought us into the kingdom of Christ.

-Our problem is that we do not fully understand this

truth, nor do we live our lives according to this truth.

-If we live our lives understanding that God has already rescued us from the kingdom of Satan, how will our lives be different?

-We will not be afraid of Satan or evil.

-We will completely trust God in the middle of the sin and evil here on this earth.

Let's read Colossians 1:14

14-in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

-The forgiveness of sins means a sending away of our sin.

-To where is our sin sent?

-To the cross where the Lord Jesus has completely paid for it.

-Because the Lord Jesus has completely paid for our sin on the cross, sin can no longer separate us from God.

-This is the true meaning of redemption.