

Colossians 1: 1-14 Paul's Introduction and Prayer for Full Wisdom

Key Thought: Paul is countering Gnosticism, the false belief that God is distant and can only be understood with inside knowledge. Paul starts his counter-attack. God is not distant, look at what He has done. The proof is in changed lives wherever the Gospel goes. Paul's prayer is not that they receive *additional* knowledge, but they grow in what they *already have*.

Col. 1: 1 & 2 Paul's Introduction

- His typical greeting, Apostle by God's will, to the faithful in Christ at Colossae.
 - We are the faithful in Christ at Sacramento, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Carmichael, etc.
- Grace and Peace from God the Father
 - Always in that order. Grace is something God gives us that we don't deserve (mercy is when He doesn't give us something we do). The outcome of knowing this is eternal peace with Him.

Col. 1: 3-8 Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving (one long sentence in Greek)

- Paul is always in prayer, thanking God for the believers.
- He has heard of their faith *in Christ*. {Christ did this in the past, nothing needs to be added. This is the past tense of faith.}
- And the love they have for the saints (the present tense of our faith). This is also the command of Christ (John 15:12)
- The cause of their faith & action:
 - The Hope already stored up in Heaven (a completed action, and the future tense of our faith).
 - Have already heard the Word of Truth, The Gospel.
 - Implied Thought: No other word or truth is needed.
 - Proofs that the Gospel is all you need to know:
 - All over the world, the Gospel is bearing fruit. Its Truth is universal and sufficient.
 - The Colossians themselves experienced this.
 - They did so as soon as they learned the truth of Grace.
 - Implied Thought: No other word or truth is needed.

Col. 3: 9-14 Paul's Requests for The Brothers

- Full wisdom (Greek = "super knowledge") of God's Will.
 - How does this start? Knowledge of what He has already told us, His Word.
- So that they may live a life worthy of the Lord. What does a worthy life look like?
 - Bearing fruit in every good work.
 - Growing in the knowledge of God. (A baby is equipped with all it needs, it just grows. That is our model too).
 - Being strengthened by His power (not our own).
 - This is how we can show great patience and endurance.
 - Joyfully giving thanks to the Father.
- The Gospel – God's Good News
 - He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints (i.e. eternal life in heaven with Him).
 - Rescued us from an eternal life in darkness (i.e. away from Him).
 - Placed us into the kingdom of the One He loves.
 - Question: If He loves Jesus greatly, just how great do you think this kingdom is?
 - Granting us redemption and forgiveness of our sins because of Jesus.
- Thought: As in Ephesians, we see God had a plan for our good that He has executed, and has told us about. Would this be true of a distant, mysterious God that required special knowledge passed on through mysterious intermediaries?

Applications:

- The Gospel is appropriate for the whole world: everywhere and anywhere. Is it found everywhere and anywhere in our own world? What does it look like at work? At home?
- Having trouble? Focus on the past (what Jesus has already done), the present (how we show His love), and the future (Heaven). When we do, remember it's done living in His power (verse 11), not ours.
- How well does the list of a worthy life match ours? What do we need to work on? Who do we ask for help? (verse 8).