

Paul's Gratitude and Prayer for the Colossians

Colossians 1:1-14

The Church at Colossae

- Had never met Paul (2:1)
- Had been ministered to by an evangelist named Epaphras (1:6-7)
- Appears to have been troubled by some false teaching (2:4,8,18)

Colossians and Paul's Other Letters

- Written from prison (4:18)
- Written and sent by Tychicus & Onesimus at the same time as Ephesians and Philemon (Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7-9; Phil 1:10-12)
- Linked with Ephesians in content and presentation
- Linked with Philemon geographically and relationally

Paul's Gratitude for the Colossians

- Was continuous gratitude (1:3-5)

Colossians 1:3-5

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always** for you, 4 **since we heard** of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of **which you previously heard** in the word of truth, the gospel

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- For Their Faith (1:4)

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- For Their Faith (1:4)
- For Their Love (1:4)
- For Their Hope (1:5)

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- For Their Faith (1:4)
- For Their Love (1:4)
- For Their Hope (1:5)
- Came from the gospel (1:5)

Colossians 1:5-8

because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in **the word of truth, the gospel** 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

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Epaphras

- He was a native Colossian (4:12)
- They had been taught the gospel by him (1:6-7)
- He had taught there and in the neighboring cities (4:12-13)
- Paul got his information regarding Colossae from Epaphras (1:7-8)
- He was a faithful, committed, gospel preacher that Paul took great pains to uphold to them (1:7; 4:12-13)
- He appears to have become a prisoner in Rome along with Paul (Philemon 1:23)

Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

- Was continuous prayer (1:9)

Colossians 1:9-12

And so, **from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you**, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

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- For Their Faith (1:4)
- For Their Love (1:4)
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Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.