

### Study of Colossians – Colossians 1:1-14 Bellevue Church of Christ – Fall 2013

#### I. Paul's Praise (1-8)

##### Timothy

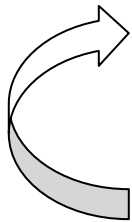
- Acts 16:1-5; 20:4-5; 2Co 1:19
- Not Co-Author, but Co-Sender. Likely included as a courtesy, because he was with Paul.
- Phil 1:1; 1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:1

##### Colossae

- Small town in the Roman province of Asia
- Located about 100 east of Ephesus
- Nearest neighbors were Laodicea and Hierapolis

##### Word of Truth

- Synonymous with the gospel message
- In contrast to any worldly "philosophy" that had led to the heresy being taught in Colossae



ἀπόστολος (apostolos) - Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Col, I & II Tim, Titus

#### By the Will of God

Acts 9:15, 22:14-15, 26:16-18; Gal 1:11-12

**Saints** = Believers (Not Dead Christians)  
\*Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2, II Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1, Col 1:2

#### Paul's Thanksgiving

-Rom 1:8; 1Co 1:4; Eph 1:16; Phil 1:3; 1Th 1:3  
-Contrast > Gal 1:6-10

#### Reasons for Paul's Thanksgiving:

- (1) **Faith** in Christ Jesus  
-Rom 3:21-26
- (2) **Love** (agapē) that you have for all the saints  
-Mat 22:34-40  
-Rom 12:9-21  
-1Co 13
- (3) **Hope** laid up for you in heaven  
-Rom 5:1-5  
-Mat 6:19-21

#### Paul prayed for them to...

- (1) Know His will
- (2) Walk in a worthy manner  
-Eph 4:1-3
- (3) Bear fruit  
-Eph 2:10  
-Jam 2:14-26
- (4) Increase in knowledge of God
- (5) Be strengthened with God's power  
-Eph 6:10-12  
-Phi 4:13  
-Jam 1:2-12
- (6) Give thanks to the Father

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus** by the **will of God**, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To the **saints** and faithful brothers in Christ at **Colossae**: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father.** < **Common Greeting** (Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Philem)

<sup>3</sup>We always **thank God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when **we pray for you**,

<sup>4</sup>**since** we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** that you have for all the saints,

<sup>5</sup>because of the **hope** laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the **word of the truth**, the **gospel**,

<sup>6</sup>which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world **it is bearing fruit and increasing**—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in **truth**,

<sup>7</sup>just as you **learned it from Epaphras** our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf < **Co1 4:12-13; Philem 23.**

<sup>8</sup>and **has made known to us** your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>**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,

<sup>10</sup>**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**.

<sup>11</sup>May you be **strengthened with all power**, according to his glorious might, **for all endurance and patience with joy**,

<sup>12</sup>**giving thanks to the Father**, who has **qualified** you to share in the inheritance of the saints in **light**.

<sup>13</sup>He has **delivered** us from the domain of **darkness** and **transferred** us to the kingdom of his beloved **Son**,

<sup>14</sup>**in whom** we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness of sins**.

#### II. Paul's Prayer (9-14)

The **ONLY** way to live a life pleasing to God is to **Know His Will**, and then put it into practice (**Jam 1:19-25**)

#### The Father...

- (1) Qualified
  - (2) Delivered
  - (3) Transferred
- Through His SON!

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**Paul's Authority / Credibility (Apostle)**

**693** ἀπόστολος (*apostolos*), ου (*ou*), ὁ (*ho*): n.masc.; ≡ DBLHebr 8938; Str 652; TDNT 1.407—**1**. LN 53.74 **apostle**, a special messenger of Jesus Christ, a restricted group, the exact number variously reckoned (Mt 10:2; Ac 1:2, 26; Ac 14:14; 1Co 12:28, 29); **2**. LN 33.194 **messenger**, envoy, one sent (Jn 13:16; 2Co 8:23; Php 2:25+)<sup>1</sup>

**Romans 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

**1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

**2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

**Galatians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle— not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

**Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

**Colossians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

**1 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

**2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

**Titus 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

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<sup>1</sup> Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)*. Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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**By the Will of God**

**Acts 9:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

**Acts 22:14–15 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.

**Acts 26:16–18 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, <sup>17</sup> delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

**Galatians 1:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. <sup>12</sup> For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Timothy**

**Acts 16:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup> He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. <sup>3</sup> Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. <sup>4</sup> As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

**Acts 20:4–5 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. <sup>5</sup> These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas,

**2 Corinthians 1:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

**Philippians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

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**1 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

**2 Thessalonians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

**Saints**

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

**2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

**Colossians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

**Paul's Common Greeting**

**Romans 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

**Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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**Philemon 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Paul's Thanksgiving**

**Romans 1:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

**1 Corinthians 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,

**Ephesians 1:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

**Philippians 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

**1 Thessalonians 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 1:6–10 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— <sup>7</sup> not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. <sup>8</sup> But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. <sup>9</sup> As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.

<sup>10</sup> For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.

**Reasons For Paul's Thanksgiving**

***Faith***

**Romans 3:21–26 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

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**Love**

**Matthew 22:34–40 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup> But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. <sup>35</sup> And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. <sup>36</sup> “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” <sup>37</sup> And he said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** <sup>38</sup> **This is the great and first commandment.** <sup>39</sup> **And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** <sup>40</sup> **On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”**

**Romans 12:9–21 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup> To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

<sup>13</sup> So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

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**Hope**

**Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Epaphras**

**Epaphras** - A Gentile believer from whom the Colossians learned the gospel message. Epaphras probably became a believer through Paul’s ministry in Ephesus and Asia (Acts 19:10). Because of the threat of false teachers in the church, Epaphras traveled to Rome seeking Paul’s counsel. Paul describes him as a servant-hearted leader who works hard on behalf of believers in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis (4:12–13).<sup>2</sup>

**Colossians 4:12–13 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. <sup>13</sup> For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

**Philemon 23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,

**Paul Prayed For...**

**(2) Walk in a Manner...**

**Ephesians 4:1–3 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

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<sup>2</sup> Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

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**(3) Bear Fruit**

**Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**James 2:14–26 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? <sup>17</sup> So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. <sup>19</sup> You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder! <sup>20</sup> Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? <sup>22</sup> You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by his works; <sup>23</sup> and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”—and he was called a friend of God. <sup>24</sup> You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. <sup>25</sup> And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

**(5) Be Strengthened**

**Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Philippians 4:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

**James 1:2–12 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

<sup>9</sup> Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, <sup>10</sup> and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. <sup>11</sup> For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits.



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<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

**Know God's Will AND Put it Into Practice**

**James 1:19–25 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. <sup>21</sup> Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.