

Colossians Prologue

Colossians 1:1-5

by Bob DeWaay
Gospel of Grace Fellowship

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Paul Addresses a Church From Prison

Colossians 1:1 (NASB)

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

- Paul is in Roman prison
- Paul speaks for God with binding authority
- Paul alone wrote Colossians

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Paul's Apostolic Greeting

Colossians 1:2 (NASB)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

- Though mostly unknown to Paul personally, these are "brothers" for whom he cares
- "Grace" is a modification of a common Greek greeting and "peace" is the Hebrew greeting "shalom"

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Prayer With Thanksgiving Is Offered

Colossians 1:3 (NASB)

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

- This is corporate prayer and thanksgiving, Timothy and others joined Paul in it
- We honor God by praying for those He has saved

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Faith Hope and Love

Colossians 1:4, 5a (NASB)
since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven,

- “Faith in Christ” includes the idea of Christ as the object of faith and the idea of being in the sphere of Christ
- Love characterizes Christians
- Hope includes both the heavenly sphere and eternal reward

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The Gospel Is the Word of Truth

Colossians 1:5b (NASB)
of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel

- “The gospel” is in contrast to false teaching
- It is the gospel which gives us hope

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Implications and Applications

- We must pray for one another
- The gospel offers eternal hope

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Devoted to Prayer

Romans 12:12 (NASB)
rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation,
devoted to prayer,

Colossians 4:2 (NASB)
Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it
with an attitude of thanksgiving;

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Gospel Hope

Colossians 1:23 (NASB)
if indeed you continue in the faith firmly
established and steadfast, and not moved
away from the hope of the gospel that you
have heard, which was proclaimed in all
creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul,
was made a minister.

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