

THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 1: Marks of a Healthy Church

Colossians 1:1-8

- I. **Grace and peace:** As an apostle, Paul longed for the church at Colossae to know the unmerited favor of God and the stability that a relationship with Christ brings (*Colossians 1:1-2*)
 - A. **His role:** Paul knew his part in God's plan and embraced it (*Colossians 1:1*)
 - B. **His appreciation:** He valued the Colossians' walk with Christ (*Colossians 1:2a*)
 - C. **His desire:** He wanted them to continue to experience and to walk in God's unmerited favor (*Colossians 1:2b*)
 - D. **His longing:** He yearned for them to experience stability in every type of circumstance (*Colossians 1:2c*)
- II. **Thanks and praise:** Paul thanked the Lord for their authenticity (*Colossians 1:3-8*)
 - A. **Their faith:** This church body actively depended on Christ, having received and walked with Him by faith (*Colossians 1:3-4a*)
 - B. **Their love:** This church expressed genuine care and devotion for one another (*Colossians 1:4b*)
 - C. **Their hope:** The Colossians lived with an eternal focus, looking forward to their certain foundation for the future (*Colossians 1:5*)
 - D. **Their impact:** The people in this church body expressed the life of Christ in the world in which they lived by making a difference for Christ (*Colossians 1:6*)
 - E. **Their report:** Paul was encouraged when Epaphras delivered the good news of the Colossians' Christ-like character to him (*Colossians 1:7-8*)

Next week: Colossians 1:9-14