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Experiencing Christ Through Colossians

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Week 1 | [Colossians 1:1–14](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1)

## Memory Verse for the week:

We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9–10)

# Day 1

## Read

### Colossians 1:1–2 (NIV)

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

2 To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

## Study

* Get an overview of Colossians by watching this [9-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXlDxQsvc&t=38s) from Bible Project.
* Discover more about Paul and Timothy in the *Faithlife Study Bible* Notes at [Biblia.com](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1). (This is a free resource, but you’ll need to sign up for an account. For full instructions, [click here](https://cfhome-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/lscheffler_cfhome_org/EaSveBbbczVNu7Q19c31QnoBysbRgAGXNqQgDy9LE67tCw?e=CKOShz).)
* Paul uses the term “holy people” (or *hagio* in Greek). Sometimes this is translated as “saints.” What does the *Faithlife Study Bible* study note on 1:2 say about this term?

## Think about

We often think of saints as super holy people who are remembered long after death. Yet, Paul uses the term here for all believers. What does it mean to you that you are considered part of the “saints” or a member of “God’s holy people?” How does it affect how you see yourself? What blessings and responsibilities do you think come with that title?

## Pray

In your prayer time today, praise God that in Christ you have been made right with God. All your sins have been washed away. God has welcomed you into his kingdom and his family. You belong to God and are part of his holy people.

## Talk about

*Have a meaningful conversation about this passage with one of your CF Encouragers, your small group, or join us virtually in the Faithlife Community. (Search groups for Engage God Daily. For full instructions,* [*click here*](https://cfhome-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/lscheffler_cfhome_org/EYNh8cUxJRxClFV-Wt6QNe0BtkK34MHJDqeHamAwxlGmbQ?e=RL3RSh)*.)*

Paul calls the Colossian believers “holy people,” and he also calls them brothers and sisters. Imagine together what Christ Fellowship would be like if all of us truly thought of one another as siblings, in the best sense of the word? What would our relationships with one another be like? What impact could we have on our community?

# Day 2

## Read

### Colossians 1:3–5 (NIV)

3We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people—5the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel

## Study

* Notice that Paul is thanking God for the faith and love demonstrated by the Colossian Christians. Go to [Biblia.com](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.3). In the [*Faithlife Study Bible*](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.3), what do you learn about the word faith (Greek, *pistis*) and the word love (Greek, *agape*)? (For full instructions on how to access the free *Faithlife Study Bible* , [click here](https://cfhome-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/lscheffler_cfhome_org/EaSveBbbczVNu7Q19c31QnoBysbRgAGXNqQgDy9LE67tCw?e=CKOShz).)
* If you haven’t had time yet, get an overview of Colossians by watching this [9-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXlDxQsvc&t=38s) from Bible Project.

## Think about

* How should greater faith in Christ give us greater love for all people?
* The *Faithlife Study Bible* note on 1:5 defines “hope” as “confident expectation, not wishful thinking.” How is that different from the way we often think of hope in modern English? In your experience, how do faith and love spring from gospel hope?
* How often do you thank God for the faith, love, and hope that your brothers and sisters in Christ demonstrate? Why not do so now? This could be a great prayer habit for us to get into!

## Pray

In your prayer time, thank God for the love that he has poured out on you through Christ. Praise him for your faith and for the opportunity to share his love with others and give them hope for their future. Pray for specific people that you’d like to have meaningful conversations with about Jesus.

## Talk about

*Have a meaningful conversation about this passage with one of your CF Encouragers, your small group, or join us virtually in Faithlife Community. (Search groups for Engage God Daily. For full instructions,* [*click here*](https://cfhome-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/lscheffler_cfhome_org/EYNh8cUxJRxClFV-Wt6QNe0BtkK34MHJDqeHamAwxlGmbQ?e=RL3RSh)*.)*

In our time, the word “gospel” is almost exclusively associated with Christianity. That wasn’t true in the ancient world where “gospel” was a common word that was often used of royal decrees that came from Caesar. The gospel that Paul and the other apostles preached announced that Jesus, the Jewish Messiah, is the reigning Savior and Lord. Through his sacrificial death, miraculous resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God, Jesus has redeemed all those who put their faith in him and reconciled them to God.

Paul cites the gospel message as the source for our hope. Discuss your understanding of the gospel. Talk about how it gives hope for what the world is going through right now.

# Day 3

## Read

### Colossians 1:5–8 (NIV)

5the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. 7You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

## Study

* Let’s see what we can learn about the gospel from just these few verses. Yesterday, we discussed how the gospel gives us hope. What else do you notice about the gospel?
* Watch this short [4-minute video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABPVVw_aw44) from The Bible Project on God’s grace. Now connect what you learn with Col. 1:6. How does the gospel demonstrate God’s grace?

## Think about

* Verse 7 indicates that Paul was not the one who first preached the gospel in Colossae. He may have never been there nor met with this church. How might that have shaped this letter?
* How have you responded to God’s grace as expressed in the gospel message? Have you put your faith in Christ and committed to following him? If so, how has the gospel born fruit in your life? If not, you can pray and receive Christ today! Then, please let us know about your decision by sending an email to [impact@cfhome.org](mailto:impact@cfhome.org). We want to help and support you!

## Pray

Pray that the gospel will bear much fruit in the whole world, and among this faith community. Pray that, like the Colossian believers, we would be known for our love. Invite the Spirit to show you how you can be a part of his work.

## Talk about

* Discuss what gospel-fruit would look like in our community. What would change if more and more people committed to following Jesus and were filled with the love of the Spirit?

# Day 4

## Read

### Colossians 1:9–10 (NIV)

9For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

## Study

Spend some time reading slowly and carefully through these verses. A good Bible study technique is noticing words that link thoughts together. When you come upon phrases such as “for this reason” or “so that” (both are found here), pause and think about what connection or conclusion is being made. Ask yourself:

* For *what* *reason* is Paul and his coworkers praying continually for the Colossians? (Hint: you will need to go back and look at yesterday’s, [Col. 1:5–8](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.5) for the answer.)
* “So that” answers the question “why?” So *why* is Paul asking God to fill the believers with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding? (Hint: the answer is in [Col 1:10–14](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.9).)

## Think about

The kind of life change that Paul is praying for is empowered by the Spirit. God is not standing on the sidelines judging our performance. He does not set impossible expectations only to find us unworthy. He right there with us giving us the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding to live for him. In what areas of your life do you need knowledge of God’s will? What wisdom do you need to live a life worthy of being God’s child and a part of God’s holy people? Talk to him about it today.

## Pray

Use Paul’s prayer as a model for your own. Pray for yourself, and for someone close to you.

## Talk about

As Christians, we can sometimes underestimate the power of prayer. Encourage one another by discussing times when God answered one of your prayers.

# Day 5

## Read

### Colossians 1:9–14 (NIV)

9For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,  10so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## Study

*To keep the flow of Paul’s thought, I’m including the verses we read yesterday, but we’ll focus on verses 11–14*.

* Earlier in the week, we talked about the gospel and the fruit that it bears. In Paul’s prayer, we gain further insight into the effects that faith in Christ has. Make a list of grace-gifts that are available to those who believe.
* At [Biblia.com](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.11), the [*Faithlife Study Bible*](https://biblia.com/books/niv2011/Col1.10), includes helpful notes on this passage that explain terms like inheritance, kingdom, redemption, and forgiveness*.* Take some time to investigate any questions you have.

## Think about

* Reread Paul’s prayer and look at the list you made of grace-gifts available to those who trust in Christ. Which one do you most need reminding of today? Why?

## Pray

Like we did yesterday, use Paul’s prayer as a model for your own as you pray for yourself and someone else.

## Talk about

* Share an area of your life where you are needing patience and endurance. Pray for one another.
* Together, make a list of reasons you can give joyful thanks to the Father. Pray and thank God for his grace.