

Colossians - Part 1  
In Christ and in the World  
11/01/2020

- Colossians
- 2 places at 1 time

*Col. 1:1-8 (ESV) I Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 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, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.*

- *To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae*
- Roman Roads
- Roman Peace or Pax Romana
- Roman Law
- Rome is not your hope
- Jesus is your hope
- Syncretism - The merging of different religions and schools of thought
- Rome exhibited its power by crucifying people to show their might
- Christ exhibits his power by being crucified and taking on the sins of the world

**How to Be in Christ and in the World:**

1st) In Christ you're a **SAINT** and you're **FAITHFUL**.

*Col. 1:2 (ESV) To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:*

- He tells believers who they are in Christ
- New Creation

*2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

- In the moment of salvation something happened

*1 Thess. 5:23 (ESV) Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Soul - mind, will, emotions

*Romans 12:2 (ESV) Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

- Your body is your tent
- At salvation you don't get a new body or a new soul but you do get a new spirit
- Which means when you stand before God he sees you as righteous

*2 Corinthians 5:21 (NASB) He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

- Not because of what you've done but because of Jesus

*Ephesians 4:24 (NASB) "And put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth."*

In the world it's **FAITHLESS**.

2nd) In Christ you have love for each **OTHER**.

*Col. 1:4 (ESV) since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints*

- In the New Testament, there is an inseparable link between trusting in the gospel of Jesus Christ and loving the saints.
- Bitterness
- Satan, the accuser, works through people
- You have to master bitterness or it will master you

*Heb. 12:15 (NIV) See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.*

- How to deal with bitterness -
- Identify it
- Admit it's wrong and it's hurting you

*Job 21:25 (NIV) Another dies in bitterness of soul, never having enjoyed anything good.*

- Look for the lesson in the pain
- Do not talk of your bitterness with friends

*Eph. 4:31(NIV) Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.*

- Stay in contact with godly people.

In the world there's **HATE**.

*John 15:18 (NIV) if the world hates you, keep in mind it hated me first*

3rd) In Christ you have **HOPE**.

*Col. 1:5 (ESV) because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.*

- Jesus is the reward
- Jesus is enough
- Where then does our motivation come from?
- It's a response to love
- It's a response to the Gospel
- The focus is now on the reward
- Jesus plus nothing equals everything
- The focus should be on Jesus
- When you came to Christ, you came because you saw in Him a hope that you didn't have.
- Don't allow anything to steal the hope you have in Jesus

In the world **HOPE** doesn't last

4th) In Christ you have **TRUTH**.

*Col. 1:5 (ESV) Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,*

- Our truth comes from God's word
- The most important book in your library or on your cell phone is your bible

*Matthew 7:13-14 (NIV) "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

*Matthew 7:21-23(NIV) "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*

In the world there's moral **RELATIVISM**

5th) In Christ you're **UNDERSTANDING** the Grace of God.

*Col. 1:5b-6 (ESV) the gospel, 6 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,*

- I'm not religious but I'm spiritual
- I'm a good person
- Some people reach out to angels, they're mystics
- Others are about good works
- Others are about rules

In the world the grace of God in truth is **MISUNDERSTOOD**

*2 Cor. 4:4 (NIV) The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

Discuss it with others - (Small group and home study)

1- Do you understand your identity in Christ?

Col. 1:2 2 Cor. 5:17

2- Where is your hope? Is it in Christ?

3 - How does a person's behavior affect their righteousness before God?

2 Cor. 5:21

4 - On a scale of 1-5 how do you rate your love for others?

Col. 1:4

5 - Have you noticed any change in your life from hearing the gospel?

Col. 1:5