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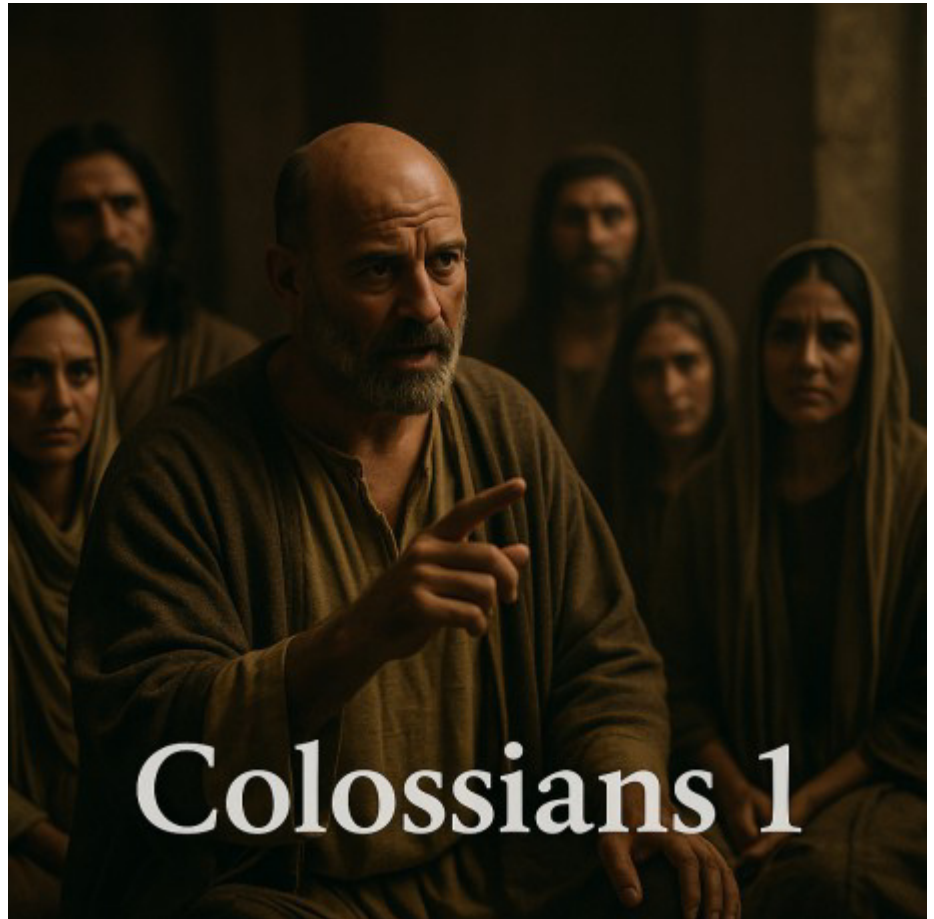
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Colossians 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Colossians 1

Colossians 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

† Paul writes with apostolic authority, joined by Timothy, showing the shared labor of ministry.

† The Colossian believers are called saints and faithful, their

identity grounded in Christ.

† Similar greetings are found in Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 1), who emphasized unity in Christ and peace from God.

Colossians 1:3-4

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 the love which you have for all the saints.

† Faith and love are the marks of a true church.

† Their love extended to all the saints, not just their own assembly.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 49) praised love as the bond that unites the church in every place.

Colossians 1:5-6

Because of the hope reserved for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.

† Their hope was certain, reserved in heaven, not distant but secured in Christ.

† The gospel was spreading throughout the known world, bearing fruit in every place.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.3) noted the rapid spread of the gospel in the first century.

Colossians 1:7-8

Just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

† Epaphras was a faithful teacher who had nurtured the Colossians in the gospel.

† The Spirit's work was evident in their love.

Colossians 1:9-10

For this reason we also, since the day we heard about it, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

† Paul's prayer is for knowledge, wisdom, and fruitful living.

† True knowledge of God always leads to holy conduct.

† Philo (On the Posterity of Cain 48) contrasted empty knowledge with true wisdom that bears fruit, echoing Paul's emphasis.

Colossians 1:11-12

Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all perseverance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

† God Himself empowers perseverance and patience in His people.

† Believers share in the inheritance of the saints, a privilege once limited to Israel but now fulfilled in Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

† Salvation is described as a transfer from darkness into Christ's kingdom.

† Redemption and forgiveness are fully accomplished in the Son.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (Community Rule 1QS 3.20-25)

contrasted light and darkness, but in Christ this contrast is fulfilled in reality.

Colossians 1:15-17

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulers, or authorities, all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

† Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

† Firstborn means preeminent, not created, affirming His supremacy.

† All creation, visible and invisible, finds its origin and purpose in Him.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 2.30.9) defended Christ as eternal Creator, not a created being.

Colossians 1:18-20

He is also the head of the body, the church, and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

† Christ is both Creator and Redeemer, supreme in resurrection and reconciliation.

† The fullness of God dwells in Him, and through Him peace is made by the cross.

Colossians 1:21-23

And although you were previously alienated and hostile in attitude, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His body of flesh through death, in order to present you

before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach, if indeed you continue in the faith, firmly grounded and steadfast, and not shifting 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.

† Once alienated, they are now reconciled through Christ's death.

† Perseverance in the gospel is the mark of those presented holy and blameless.

† The universality of the gospel is emphasized, proclaimed under heaven in their generation.

Colossians 1:24-26

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am supplementing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions in behalf of His body, which is the church. I was made a minister of this church according to the commission from God granted to me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, that is, the mystery which had been hidden from the past ages and generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

† Paul rejoices in his suffering, seeing it as service to the church.

† The mystery once hidden is now revealed in Christ to the saints.

† Clement of Alexandria (Stromata 5.10) taught that Christ revealed the hidden mysteries of God in the gospel.

Colossians 1:27-29

To whom God willed to make known what the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles is, the mystery that is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim Him, admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Christ.

† The mystery revealed is Christ in the Gentiles, the hope of glory.

† The gospel's goal is to present every person complete in Christ.

† Paul's labor and striving were empowered by Christ working mightily within him.

How it applies to us today

† Colossians 1 teaches the supremacy of Christ in creation, redemption, and the church.

† Our reconciliation and hope are secured in Him, and our lives must reflect His preeminence.

† Today, in the fulfilled kingdom, we live as those transferred into His light, proclaiming Christ in us, the hope of glory.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians 1 - unity in Christ in greetings

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 49 - love as the bond of the church

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.3 - gospel spreading rapidly

† Philo, On the Posterity of Cain 48 - true wisdom contrasted with empty knowledge

† Dead Sea Scrolls, Community Rule 1QS 3.20-25 - contrast of light and darkness

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 2.30.9 - Christ as eternal Creator

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 5.10 - Christ revealing the hidden mystery

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