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To The Faithful Brothers At Colossae  
Col 1:2  
Pastor C.E. Bowden

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**Text: Col. 1:2** “To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”

**Intro:** Paul gives thanks to God in **v. 3** for the Colossian believers; they have **heard** the Gospel and **believed** what they heard. Paul writes “**we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus**” (**Col. 1:4**). The fact that Paul had “**heard**” about their faith is important because he has never been to Colossae personally. He refers to his never having been there in **2:1** “**for all who have not met me personally.**” The person who preached Jesus to them is “Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf,” (**Col. 1:7**). We know very little about him, except what we learn from the book of Colossians and **Philem. 23** “Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings.”

—**Opening Truths**

—As Paul does in Ephesians, he prays for the Colossians—**Col. 1:9** “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and **asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**”

—The “**knowledge of His will**” is the full purpose of Christ in our lives; which means the full understanding of what God seeks to accomplish in every believer’s life.

—Paul powerfully states this “**will**” in—**2Cor. 3:18** “And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord’s glory, are **being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory,** which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

—It is the will of God—His standards, His desires, His motives, His values, His practices—which gradually pull the believer out of the world’s cocoon into which he or she has been squeezed.

—It is a knowledge and practice of the will of God that leads to spiritual growth and maturity in the Christian’s life.

—In **v. 10** his prayer continues, that this knowledge would have a practical outworking—“And we pray this in order **that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way:** bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”

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—The phrase “***live a life***” is from one Greek word περιπατέω peripateō which is the same word Paul used in ***Eph. 4:1*** “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to ***walk*** worthy of the calling with which you were called...”

—This word means daily life, as you “***walk about***” in normal living with one big difference, you “***live a life worthy of the Lord***” (***1:10***)

—Showing to all around you, that you are a child of God—***Matt. 5:16*** “In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

—Finally, Paul prays of us to be strengthened with power—***Col. 1:11*** “being strengthened with all ***power*** (δύναμις dunamis) according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully.”

—Power is the whole reason the Holy Spirit was given to us—“But you will receive ***power*** (δύναμις dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” (***Acts 1:8***).

—Paul prayed the same blessing for the Church at Ephesus—***Eph. 3:18*** “I pray may have ***power*** (δύναμις dunamis), together with all the saints...”

—This ***power*** gives us “***great endurance and patience, and joyfully***” (***Col. 1:11***)

—Clearly we need Holy Spirit power to live out the Christian life.

—***Col. 1:12*** “giving thanks to the Father, ***who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints*** in the kingdom of light.”

—The word “***qualified***” is from the Greek ικανόω hikanoō which means to be made sufficient.

—If we feel like we do not measure up take heart, God is the One who qualifies you to “share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” (***Col. 1:12***)

—***Who is Jesus?***

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—If the Gospel is true and powerful who is Jesus the Person the New Testament tells us is at the core of this truth.

—**Col. 1:15** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

—This is a consistent message through the New Testament—**Heb. 1:3** “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”

—Jesus is the εἰκὼν eikōn “**image**”, but how can there be an image of that which is “**invisible**”?

—**John 1:18** “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”

—The point is Jesus is God even though He took on human form; in the incarnation, the invisible God became visible in Christ; deity was clothed with humanity.

—“**the firstborn over all creation**” addresses His eternity; He was before creation, He is the creative agent by which it all exist—**Col. 1:16** “For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.”

—**John 1:3** “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

—**Col. 1:17** “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

—Jesus is eternally existent, an attribute that can only be true of God, because He is before all things.

—**Gen. 1:1** “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”—which has to refer to the whole of the Trinity present when creation began.

—We see the Holy Spirit of Power in **Gen 1:2** “...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”

—**Col. 1:18** “And he is the head of the body, the church...”

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—Paul builds an important theological point, Jesus is over the new creation, the Church—**2Cor. 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

—The final fulfillment will come—**Rev. 21:1** “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”

—“***he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,***”—Jesus was the first to rise from the dead never to die again; He conquered death and all other resurrections are because He rose from the dead.

—**1Cor. 15:20** “But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the ***firstfruits*** of those who have fallen asleep.”

—The key word is “***firstfruits***” which is both praise and prophecy.

—Praise for the harvest to come, prophecy for the harvest to be gathered.

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