**Colossians Chapter 1**

**Introduction:**

Colossians is a timely book for the church just prior to the rapture. It warns of the prevalent spirit of Laodicea in the body of Christ (an attitude of civil rights, personal satisfaction, and worldliness). Colossians points out common problems in the church. Believers today think it is more important not to offend people than to offend God. The words Laodicea and Laodiceans occur seven times in the scriptures and five occurrences are in the book of Colossians. Colossians means punishments. All believers will stand at the judgement seat of Christ and receive the things done in our bodies. One of the final instructions given in chapter 4:16 says this book is to be read to the church of Laodicea – That’s us!

**Colossians 1:1 Paul,** an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, and Timotheus *our* brother,

As in all of Paul’s epistles, Colossians begins with the name of Paul. Paul is our apostle **by the will of God**. (1 Tim. 2:7)

**Colossians 1:2** To **the saints** and **faithful brethren** (*you can be a saint but not faithful*) in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 1:3-4** We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**, **Vs.4** Since we heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus**, and of the **love *which ye have* to all the saints**,

Paul admonishes that we are to pray for one another (vs.9). The faith that we have should produce love for the saints.

**Colossians 1:5** For the **hope which is laid up for you in heaven**, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; *see also vs.12*

This is a sure hope, **Hebrews 6:19** Which *hope* we have as an **anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast**, and which entereth into that within the veil;

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

**Colossians 1:6** Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; **and bringeth forth fruit** (IE. love for the saints), as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Kinds of Fruit

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| * Fruit of Holiness – Romans 6:20-22 * Fruit of The Spirit– Gal. 5:22 love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance | * Fruit of Giving – Philippians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 9:7 * Fruit Righteousness – Hebrews 12:11, James 3:18 * Fruit of Our Lips Giving Thanks- Hebrews 13:15 |

**Colossians 1:7-10** As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; **Vs.8** Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. **Vs.9** For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to **pray for you**, and to desire **that ye might be filled with** **the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **Vs.10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord** unto all pleasing (Rev. 4:11), **being fruitful in every good work**, and **increasing in the knowledge of God**;

The prayer that Paul has for the brethren is that they might be increasingly filled with the knowledge of God’s will and be strengthened to walk worthy of the Lord. **Eph. 4:1** “…walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called”, **1 Thess. 2:12** “That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”

We don’t seek to walk worthy to get saved or stay saved, we seek to walk worthy because **we are saved**.

**Colossians 1:11** Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, **unto all patience** and **longsuffering** with joyfulness;

The Christian life is a patient one. Expect to wait on the Lord. His plan is always best. (Heb. 12:1, 1 Thess. 1:3)

**Colossians 1:12-13** Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (*Fit; suitable; proper; qualified*) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who **hath delivered us** (*present tense*) from the power of darkness, and **hath translated *us*** into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Even though our bodies remain on this earth, we are already seated together in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6).