

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1:1-5

18 OCTOBER, 2013

KEY WORD: CHRIST (occurring 26 times in 4 chapters containing 95 verses).

- 1:27 “**Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” If Christ is in you, you have a sure hope of glory. There is no hope without Christ.
- 3:11 “**Christ is all.**”

THEMES: **THANKSGIVING** (1:3, 1:12, 2:7, 3:15, 3:17, 4:2)
THE BODY (1:18, 1:22, 1:24, 2:9, 11, 17, 19, 3:15.).

IN CHRIST

- 1:2 I am a _____ in Christ. I don't become a _____ because of what I did for the Lord, but because I am in Him.
- 1:4 I have _____ in Christ Jesus. That is the only saving _____. Some people trust other things that cannot save them.
- 1:14 I have _____ in Christ through His blood.
- 1:21 I am _____ in Christ.
- 1:28 I shall be presented _____ in Christ. (Meaning complete).
- 2:6 Because I have received Christ, I ought to _____ in Him. I allow Him to influence my actions, show me the right ways, and to lead me.
- 2:10 I am _____ in Him (in Christ). This verse compliments 1:28.

WITH CHRIST

- 2:20 I am _____ with Christ.
- 2:12 I am _____ with Christ.
- 2:13 I am _____ together with Him (Christ).
- 3:1 I am _____ with Christ. God reckons these 4 events, which happened to Jesus Christ as having happened to me also.
- 3:3 My life is _____ with Christ. The Devil cannot have me.
- 3:4 I shall _____ with Christ in glory.

OF CHRIST

- 1:7 I am a faithful _____ of Christ; not on my own, but by His means.
- 1:24 I suffer the _____ of Christ in my flesh. I suffer what Jesus would suffer if He were here.

2:11 I am reckoned sinless by the _____ of Christ.

2:17 I am able to function as a member of the _____ because the _____ is of Christ.

3:16 I must let the _____ of Christ dwell in me.

4:3 The _____ of Christ is now revealed, but it belongs to, because it is about Jesus Christ.

4:12 I am a _____ of Christ. “Of,” through the power of; by means of; through the help of.

CHRIST IS THE HEAD: of the church (1:18), of all principality and power (2:10). “The Head” is His name (2:19)

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1:

Verse 1: “**Paul...**” Paul writes down the words that he receives from God. This is Scripture, inspired by God (1 Tim. 3:16, 2 Pet. 3:15-16). Paul was not an “inspired writer.” The Scriptures that God gave him are inspired.

“**An apostle of Jesus Christ...**” Apostleship is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a foundational ministry.

“**By the will of God...**” It is best to let God choose your ministry for you.

Verse 2: “**To the saints and faithful brethren.**” The saints ARE the faithful brethren.

“**Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**” Though we are saved by grace (Eph. 2:8) and we receive the peace of God that passeth all understanding (Phil. 4:7), there will continue to be difficult times in our Christian lives in which we’ll need a continuous supply of God’s grace and peace. Christians are not exempt from troubles and trials.

EXAMPLES:

- Matthew 3:13-4:1. Jesus is fulfilling all righteousness, God is pleased with Him, He’s following the leading of the Spirit, but He ends up in the wilderness with the Devil.
- Mark 4:35-37. The people obey Jesus’ words and follow Him into the boat. They are doing what God told them to do, right where God told them to be, but they end up in a life threatening storm. Note: they looked to Jesus and He said, “**Peace, be still.**” We need His grace and peace in all the storms of life.

Verse 3 “**...praying always for you.**” Paul never prays against anyone, but always FOR someone.

Verses 4-5 “**...your faith in Christ Jesus...the love which ye have ...For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven.**” This matches 1 Corinthians 13:13, “**And now abideth faith, hope, charity.**” First Thess. 1:3 also matches “**Work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope.**”

Faith: everybody has faith in something (Rom 12:3). God wants us to place our faith in Christ Jesus.

Love: to put others before yourself. (John 3:16, Mark 12:30, Mt. 22:39). Love ALL the saints; not just the ones who love you (Luke 6:32) or the ones who agree with you (vs. 2).

Hope: Our hope is not heaven. Our hope is IN heaven. It’s Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). It’s a new body (Romans 8:23-25).