

AN INTRO TO COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

Part 1

Guest Speakers at Calvary Chapel
Pastor Frank G. Warburton
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Find this weeks' sermon audio and video message [HERE](#).

As you read your Bibles; I would like to challenge and encourage you to come at it and look at it a little differently. The books that you have in your laps is not a story book; or a book of fables. It is the living WORD of GOD. Please do not read it like a newspaper or a textbook; but rather, and I am sure that most of you do; study your Bibles.

When you begin to read a passage come with questions; and pray and ask GOD to reveal what HE would have you learn. There are typically six questions that we can come to the Bible with; five "W" and one "H" question.

The five "W" questions are:

1. **Who?**
2. **What?**
3. **Where?**
4. **When?**
5. **Why? and**
6. **How?**

To greater enhance your personal study of the Bible, we find even more answers when we ask—

- Who is the Author and who are they writing to?
- What is the point the author is trying to make or what are they writing about?
- Or what was happening to make the author write this?
- What's the cultural context in which the passage was written?
- Where was this passage written?
- When was this written?
- Why did the author write this?
- How did they come to these conclusions? And this list could go on.

The New Testament consists of twenty seven books. A little under half or a little over half were written by the Apostle Paul; (OUR WHO;) and depending upon if you think that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews or not.

Tonight we will be starting a study in the Book of Colossians. The book of Colossians is known as one of the prison epistles; meaning that they were written when Paul was imprisoned in Rome. (OUR WHERE) The others are the Books of Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon. It was written approximately 60-62 A.D. (OUR WHEN)

HOW do we know this?

Because the Book of Acts concludes with Paul in a Roman Prison.

Acts 28:30 (NKJV)

“Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house”.

Paul was in the Roman prison after he was brought before Festus and appealed to stand before Caesar. [Acts 25:10-12](#). Paul is still alive at the end of the book of Acts. It is believed that Paul was beheaded in Rome approximately 67-68 A.D.

Using the Book of Acts we know that a least one of the Gospels was written earlier than this.

Acts 1:1 (NKJV)

“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,”

What is the former account mentioned here? The answer is the Gospel of Luke. So we have all of the Epistles written by Paul between the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

So, we have most of the New Testament Canon of Scripture written within ten to thirty to thirty-five years after the life, death and resurrection of JESUS Christ. I will not go further into this tonight but arguments can be made for all of the New Testament except for revelation as having been written within this time period.

Why is this important?

Because this shows that we have accurate, historical, eye-witness accounts of the birth; sinless life and miracles; death by crucifixion; resurrection and ascension of JESUS Christ.

According to the Lexham Bible Dictionary:

Colossae was a city in the province of Phrygia located in the Lycus Valley within Anatolia, or Asia Minor, about 120 miles east of the major port city of Ephesus (Arnold, Colossians, 73). Today this is part of southwestern Turkey. In the first century AD, Colossae was a small agrarian town. However, in the 5th century BC, Colossae was a thriving economy, known especially for its unique textiles and wool (Moo, Colossians, 26).

The first known reference to Colossae can be found in the writings of the Greek historian Herodotus, who mentions that Xerxes stopped briefly at the great city of Colossae during the Persian wars (Herodotus, Histories, 7.30).

Yet, the eventual demise of Colossae was linked to the construction of a trade route in the third century that went west of Colossae to Laodicea (Wilson, Biblical Turkey, 194). Eventually Laodicea became a prominent city, and Colossae turned into a rural community. Thus, in the first century Colossae was a rather insignificant city in the Roman world (Arnold, Colossian Syncretism, 4).¹

Paul had many different reasons when writing his epistles. Encouragement; addressing a particular sin in the church; but the purpose of The Epistle to the Colossians is doctrine. The doctrine of the Deity of JESUS CHRIST.

Colossians 1:1-3 (NKJV)

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse one, here is a Who... Paul identifies himself as the Author and that Timothy is with him. This is the same Timothy who abandoned Paul and Silas on one of their missionary journeys.

Also in verse one we have a What... Paul's calling as an Apostle of JESUS CHRIST. The definition of an apostle is someone who was sent. We also see the difference when someone is called by the will of GOD vs Man's wisdom.

Turn to Acts Chapter 1:

Acts 1:15-26 (NKJV)

¹⁵And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, ¹⁶“Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; ¹⁷for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.”

¹⁸ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. ¹⁹And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.)

²⁰“For it is written in the Book of Psalms: ‘Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it’; and, ‘Let another take his office.’ ²¹“Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.”

²³And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen ²⁵to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Here we see what the definition of an Apostle of JESUS CHRIST IS. It was a man who was numbered with the twelve and a witness to the Resurrection of Christ.

Turn to [Acts 5](#) verse 34-39

Acts 5:34-39 (NKJV)

34 Then one in the council stood up, a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in respect by all the people, and commanded them to put the apostles outside for a little while. 35 And he said to them: “Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men. 36 For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. 37 After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed. 38 And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; 39 but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”

If a person's calling is of God; and they are obedient in HIS will; he or she will be unstoppable. But when it is of man; as we see with the two choices for a replacement for Judas ; that the disciples gave GOD, it comes to nothing. In the passage in [Acts 1](#) this is the last time we hear of Matthias. God had a choice for Judas's replacement. [Turn back to Colossians 1:2]

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

WHO did Paul write to? To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ

WHERE: in Colosse

Here is Paul's typical and famous greeting "Grace and Peace. In Greek and Hebrew: Caris / Shalom. (Explain acronym for grace. and having the peace of God.)

Colossians 1:3-8 (NKJV) - Their Faith in Christ

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Paul was always thanking God for HIS work in the lives of the saints and praying for them constantly. Prayer is our lifeline to GOD. Prayer is not a one way street, where we come to GOD with our laundry list of needs and HE is our servant, but rather it is fellowship where we can talk to GOD as our father. We can communicate and pray to HIM throughout the day. We can talk with HIM As believers we don't have to pray, we get to pray. Through JESUS we have direct access to GOD's throne room.

Hebrews 4:14-16 (NKJV)

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

James 5:16 (NKJV)

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

What are the things that we can pray for according to HIS will?

1. For our unsaved family members, friends and co-workers to have there eyes opened.
2. Forgiveness of our sins
3. That we would be more like HIM
4. For the leaders of the church
5. For HIM to fulfill HIS word
6. For HIS Return.

An easy way to remember how we should pray to HIM.

- A. Adoration
- C. Confession
- T. Thanksgiving
- S. Supplication

Psalm 100:4 (NKJV)

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

The more time we can spend alone with HIM; in prayer; the easier it is to hear and discern HIS voice.

Who was Paul praying to in Colossian 1:3? *“to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

In this part of the verse we see a tie between GOD the Father and JESUS CHRIST.

The word for GOD in this verse in the Greek is THEOS. Which refers to the GODHEAD; the Trinity. It is only used and spoken of the only true God. It refers to the things of GOD. It refers to whatever can in any respect be likened unto GOD, or resemble HIM in any way.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)

Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

Matthew 3:16 (NKJV)

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Matthew 4:3-4 (NKJV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” 4 But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

John 9:31 (NKJV)

31 Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him.

John 10:33 (NKJV)

33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)

“to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

The LORD JESUS CHRIST is not a name. Where is first name is LORD; HIS middle name is JESUS; and HIS last name is Christ.

The Greek word for LORD in this verse is kyrios.

Kyrios means: He to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord. The owner, one who has control of the person, the master. Is a title of honor expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master. This title is given to GOD; the Messiah.

JESUS is HIS Greek name; which means “Jehovah or Yehova is salvation. “ In Hebrew; Ya’shua.

Christ in Greek is Christos which means anointed and Messiah or savior.

Other references where kyrios is translated as LORD.

Matthew 4:10 (NKJV)

10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

Matthew 5:33 (NKJV)

"Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.'

Matthew 7:21–22 (NKJV)

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

Matthew 16:22 (NKJV)

Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"

Matthew 17:15 (NKJV)

"Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.

Mark 2:28 (NKJV)

Therefore the Son of Man is also Lord of the Sabbath."

Mark 5:19 (NKJV)

However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you."

John 11:39 (NKJV)

Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days."

Romans 10:9 (NKJV)

"that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

Revelation 1:8 (NKJV) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 11:8 (NKJV)

And their dead bodies *will lie* in the street of the great city which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

In this verse of [Colossians 1:3](#) we have two distinct Greek words; Theos and Kyrios; both meaning or referring to GOD used to connect GOD the Father and JESUS the Son as both being co-equal.

In the above verses that we looked at referencing Kyrios, we have people calling JESUS LORD (KYRIOS); JESUS REFERRING TO HIMSELF AS LORD (KYRIOS). JESUS NEVER forbid anyone from acknowledging HIM as LORD (KYRIOS). No one denied that JESUS was LORD (KYRIOS).

This is important because the devil tries to blind and deceive people into not believing in the Deity of CHRIST. Cults like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons; Islam and others; deny the Deity Of JESUS Christ; one of two ways; the virgin birth; JESUS's death on the Cross and HIS Physical resurrection. If people believe false things about who JESUS is; that HE is LORD (GOD KYRIOS) then they will be lost.

Let's turn back to [Colossians 1](#) starting in verse three again.

Colossians 1:3-8 (NKJV)

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

In Verse 4, "Your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all the saints."

The word faith in this verse in the Greek is Pistis which means a conviction of the truth. Our faith in who JESUS is and what HE did for us should be a conviction. A firm believe.

(Share story of missionary trying to translate word faith using a chair)

Our faith in JESUS should be just as firm and strong as when we trust in the chair to support our weight.

Our faith in JESUS should cause us to have love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We should be looking as to how we can meet the needs of others. AGAPE - selfless love.

Colossians 1:5-6 (NKJV)

because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

Our hope is laid up in heaven, because we have JESUS' promise to not lose one who has put their faith/ trust in HIM. He has reserved a place for us, because he has paid our debt. We as believers are to bring forth fruit as in the parable of the sower. The seed that fell on good soil produced fruit some 30/60 or a hundredfold. Our desire should be to share the Gospel with the lost and hurting world around us.

Colossians 1:7-8 (NKJV)

as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

This is the same Epaphras mentioned in another prison Epistle. The Epistle to Philemon.

Share the Gospel to conclude

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us [here](#).

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

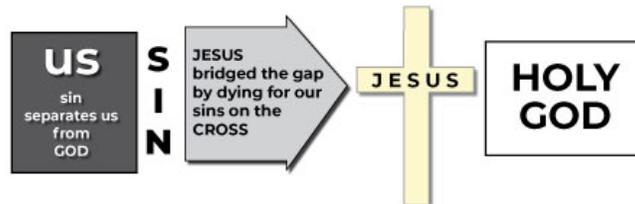
Here is a visual tool to show how we can be separated from God, and how Jesus bridged the gap for us to have, know and walk with God. It's The Holy Spirit Who enables us to do this. Feel free to share!

THE WRONG WAY TO GOD



"I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to The Father except through Me." John 14:6

THE ONLY WAY TO GOD



"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

¹Lexham Bible Dictionary

Scripture references imported from [Logos Software](#).

²Dunne, J. A. (2016). Colossae. In J. D. Barry, D. Bomar, D. R. Brown, R. Klippenstein, D. Mangum, C. Sinclair Wolcott, ... W. Widder (Eds.), *The Lexham Bible Dictionary*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.