

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLLOSSIANS

# Understanding Jesus



# WEEK 1 STUDY GUIDE

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# Monday, January 9, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-8

**Scripture Verse:** *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ that are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father” Colossians 1:1-2*

## Today's Thought:

Our lesson today is based on the book of Colossians. Before going into the study, let us introduce you in part to the book of Colossians in order to fully understand the study. The Apostle Paul wrote the letters to the Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon during his imprisonment. The epistle to the Colossians was probably written between 58 and 62 AD. It was sent by the apostle Paul to the Church of Colossae threatened with heresy (Doctrine, opinion which differs from established beliefs, condemned by the Church as contrary to dogma).

He wrote to the Christians at Colossae because heresy was being taught among them and needed to be corrected. Christians thought they should keep old practices, such as circumcision, food laws, and feasts. They were confused about angels. They did not understand the concept of the divinity of Jesus Christ. They did not understand how everything they needed could be found in Jesus Christ. Paul, informed of this situation by Epaphras, his beloved companion, took the opportunity to put Christians back on the right path.

The apostle Paul was not the founder of this church. He was told of their growth, firmness of faith, and affection for him, but the church was in great danger of returning to the immorality of paganism and being seduced into heresy (Col. 4 :13). such as: asceticism (doctrine which took away from Jesus Christ his unique place of unique intermediary between God and men, and of unique Savior.) and Gnosticism (doctrine of knowledge, appeared in the 2nd century, founding the salvation of man on a superior knowledge of divine things, communicated by revelation only to initiates, as well as on a rejection of matter, subject to the forces of evil.) Epaphras also told him of his struggle for the churches in prayer (Col4:12). The apostle joins in this prayer (Col. 2:1-3) and adds to it the writing of this letter for the purpose of warning Christians and helping them to refute heretics.

Paul wanted to consolidate their faith, teaching that Christ is not only the Savior, but he is also the master and the ruler of the cosmos by whom the entire universe is kept in existence (Col 1:17). Paul encourages the Christians of Colossae, those of Laodicea and the unknown Christians of Asia in this sense: that their hearts be filled with consolation, that they be united in love, and enriched with full understanding to know the mystery of God (Col 2: 2). Thus, the apostle Paul addresses the issue while exposing fundamental truths about Christ and the practical life of the Christian. Therefore, this letter is a document that is also valid for us Christians today. Every day we face the same problems; we need words of love, encouragement and consolation to better live the Christian life.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your eternal word. In your love, preserve me from all kinds of heresies on the path of my faith. Help me to trust your word and put into practice the teaching I have received. Fill my heart with your word and console me. Help me to be a source of encouragement and consolation in the faith for others. May my words heal and not hurt others.

- Where was Paul when he wrote this letter?
- What were the purposes of the letter?
- What were the confusions of the Christians of Colossae?
- What was the apostle's sincere desire for them?
- What troubles you about the word of God?
- How do you plan to solve this problem?

**Further Reading:** Romans 1:18-21

## Tuesday, January 10, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-8

**Scripture Verse:** *"Which is come unto you; even as it is also in all the world bearing fruit and increasing, as it doth in you also, since the day ye heard and knew the grace of God in truth." Colossians 1:6a*

### Today's Thought:

In the introduction to Colossians, we introduced you to the book and its author, and to the reason Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Colossae. We will now proceed to study the text of verses 3 through 6, beginning with verse 6 and returning to previous verses. In verse 6, the apostle Paul speaks of the power of the gospel of grace and its efficacy. It is a saving power. In Romans 1:16, the apostle Paul says, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: it is the power of God to save everyone who believes, first the Jew, then the Greek."* Power for those who believe in Jesus regardless of social status and nationality.

God has no favoritism. For the apostle Peter said in his speech in Acts 10:34, "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism." The gospel is not only a saving power, but also a power that can produce good fruit in us. When we understand the word and abide in the word, it will produce good fruit in our life. Bearing fruit is the result of our obedience to the word of God. The apostle Paul warns the Christians of Colossae against false teachers who taught things contrary to sound doctrine. Jesus himself tells us how we are going to recognize them, and we must distance ourselves from them. *"Beware of false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inside they are fierce wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits."* Matthew 7:15-16. Apparently, these false teachers from Colossae were teaching interesting things but they were leading a life contrary to the word of God and were teaching things that had nothing to do with the word of God. They were not obeying the good news of Jesus Christ which is transforming and has the power to produce good fruit in the life of the Christian.

Indeed, when we obey the word of God and do his will, we produce good fruit, fruit worthy of the gospel. The fruit we bear as a slave of Jesus Christ is holiness. Indeed, bearing fruit is our way of life which testifies that we are children of God. To bear fruit is no longer to walk according to the works of the flesh but according to the Spirit of God. Therefore,

the good news produces in us love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, faith, meekness, and self-control that we find in Galatians 5:22. Ultimately, if we are to bear good fruit, we must abide in Christ and his word. Jesus said, *"If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; without me you can do nothing."* John 15:5. It is our duty to abide in the word and in Jesus Christ in order to bear good fruit and grow spiritually which we will see shortly.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your gospel of grace. May it be a lamp at my feet and a light on my path. Help me to walk in a way worthy of the vocation addressed to me, in all humility and gentleness, and with patience. Let whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever merits approval, whatever is virtuous and worthy of praise, be the object of my thought.

- What is the gospel of grace?
- What will happen to us when we understand and abide in the gospel of grace?
- How do we recognize false teachers?
- What does the good news of Jesus Christ produce in us?

**Further Reading:** John 15:1-5

## Wednesday, January 11, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-8

**Scripture Verse:** *"Which is come unto you; even as it is also in all the world bearing fruit and increasing, as it doth in you also, since the day ye heard and knew the grace of God in truth." Colossians 1:6b*

### Today's Thought:

The good news of Jesus Christ also produces growth. The Christian life is like the life of a newborn. The newborn constantly needs nutrients to make him grow at all levels: like affection, good quality food, stimulants that will allow him to develop well physically and mentally.

The Christian who wants to grow spiritually constantly needs the word of God to develop well and to protect himself against false doctrines, the attacks of the devil and his traps. To grow well spiritually, the Christian must devote himself to the study of the word of God, meditation and prayers, which we will study later in verse three. A good knowledge of the word is the mainstay of the Christian. It is part of God's plan for us. *"It is good, and it pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."* 1 Timothy 2:3-4. Since Christ redeemed us with his blood shed on the cross, we have a new identity.

Therefore, we must keep this new identity that we have in Jesus Christ while remaining in the word of God. As the apostle Paul said to the Christians of Colossae in his letter, since you have a new identity in Christ, you must bear fruit and grow in the word. In the last part of the verse he says, "From the day that you heard and knew the grace of God according to the truth." Paul wanted to tell the Christians in Colossae not to be fascinated by false teachers who teach things contrary to sound doctrine. He meant that they are on the right track, that they are in sound doctrine. That they are now children of God, justified by faith, sanctified by the precious blood of Jesus, and citizens of the house of God. Paul invites them to hold fast their new identity card because they have become another people in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, they are no longer the same person, they have another nationality. They are heavenly citizens. We read in 1 Peter 2:9 *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the special possession of God, that you proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."*

This truth is also for us Christians today. We must grow in the knowledge of the word of God. The good news of Jesus Christ should be food for our souls. If we want to grow spiritually and morally, we must abide in the word of God. The longer we remain in the word, the more we grow spiritually and morally and our relationship with God becomes deepest. When bad weather and bad seasons come, we will stand firm and stand tall. We will have the courage and the assurance to say like Simon Peter: *"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."* John 6:68.

Lord thank you for your word of life. Train me and lead me into an extraordinary relationship with you through meditation and Bible study. Help me to completely surrender my will to your will; and grow in the knowledge of your word. Bring a spiritual awakening in my heart to a new life.

- What will enable Christians to develop well spiritually?
- What is the importance of the study and the meditation of the word of God?
- What was Paul asking Christians to do with their new identity?
- According to 1 Peter 2:9, what becomes of the born-again Christian?

**Further Reading:** 2 Peter 3:17-18



## Thursday, January 12, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-8

**Scripture Verse:** *"Because of the hope which is laid up for you in the heavens, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel." Colossians 1:5*

### Today's Thought:

We saw in verse 6 that the apostle Paul encouraged the Christians in Colossae to continue to abide in the word of God because the word can produce good fruit in them and help them grow in faith. In verse 5, the apostle Paul speaks of the hope that awaits us in heaven.

What is hope? At the secular level, hope is the feeling that makes the realization of what one desires probable. But within a biblical framework, the hope of the Christian is much deeper. For us Christians, hope is the confident expectation and desire to receive the blessings promised by God. The Bible often speaks to us of hope as the expectation of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. The hope of the Christian is opposed to the hope of the people of this world. The hope of this world is temporary, but the Christian's hope is living and eternal. Hope is the fundamental element of the life of the Christian, the one who is born again must hope all the time in the promises of God. We read in Romans, 8:24-25 *"For it is by hope that we are saved. Now the hope that we see is no longer hope: what we see, can we still hope for? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with perseverance."* We can say that to live without hope is an empty and meaningless life. The Christian must constantly hope for the help of God; and he who hopes in God will not be disappointed either in this age or in the ages to come.

The Christian who places his trust and hope in God enjoys his full protection and lives free from all fear and anxiety. Christ, by his resurrection from the dead, has regenerated us to a living hope. (1 Peter 1:3). As Christians, we must hope in the promises of God, in the return of our Lord Jesus, in the transformation of our mortal body into a glorious body. *"For the Lord himself, at a given signal, at the voice of an archangel, and at the sound of the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will be raised first. Then we the living, who shall remain, we will all together be caught up with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we will always be with the Lord."* 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

We patiently wait for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will transform our body of humiliation by making it like the body of his glory. Those who, on the contrary, do not put their trust in God do not have this hope. My brothers and sisters, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith, that you may abound in hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit!"* Romans 15:13.

Heavenly Father, I know that faith, hope and love come from you and lead me to you by helping me to live in a good relationship with you. Help me to hope in your promises, in the return of your Son Jesus Christ, in the transformation of my mortal body into a glorious body. Father, I patiently await the coming of my Lord Jesus Christ who will transform my body of humiliation making it like the body of his glory.

- What is hope at the secular level?
- What is hope in a biblical framework?
- What does hope bring?
- When will our hope end?
- As Christians, in whom should we hope?
- What is your ultimate hope?

**Further Reading:** 1 Timothy 4:10, Ephesians 2:11-13

## Friday, January 13, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-8

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

### Today's Thought:

In verse 5 we saw the hope of eternal life in Jesus Christ which is reserved for Christians. In verses 3 and 4, the apostle emphasizes the importance of the faith of the Colossians in Jesus Christ and their love for one another. Christian faith in Jesus Christ is fundamental to salvation. Brotherly love is a mainstay for the numerical and spiritual growth of the church. Knowing the importance of faith and love, the apostle never ceases to pray for their growth.

Let's talk a bit about prayer. Prayer is the lifeblood of the Christian life; and without prayer the Christian life has no meaning. The apostles placed great importance on prayer (Acts 6:4). There are four important facets to prayer: worship (Psalms 139:14, Romans 15:11), confession (Psalms 32:5), thanksgiving (Philippians 4:6), and intercession (1 Timothy 2:1). To pray is to communicate with God and to hear the voice of God. It is to seek the strength of God. Praying is the privilege God gives us to intercede for others. Prayer is therapy for soul and body. Prayer eliminates fear and anxiety. James in his epistle said, the fervent prayer of the righteous has great effect (James 5:16). In Psalms 34:18, the psalmist said, when the righteous cries, the Lord hears.

Many times, when I feel troubled, upset, depressed, I spend time in prayer, I have come back unloaded. It is not without reason that the author of 1 Peter said, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, and cast all your cares upon him, because he himself takes care of you."* 1 Peter 5:6-7. The righteous is not he who never sins, who never falls, but the righteous is he who is aware of his state, who repents of his fault and who constantly seeks to please God. If you are like this, you are righteous and your prayers are very effective, and your prayers can produce good results. Knowing the effectiveness of prayer, the apostle Paul said that we must pray for one another (Ephesians 6:18). We must support each other in prayer. If two or three like-minded people unite in prayer, God will open the windows of heaven. *"I repeat to you that if two of you agree on earth to ask for*

*something, it will be granted to them by my Father who is in heaven."*  
Matthew 18:19.

The Bible says that nothing is too big for the Lord. No mountain is too high for him. When we are fervent in prayer, nothing can resist us. I am reminded of my daughter Dayou when she was 3 years old. She had an acute respiratory problem, she couldn't sleep. I went to the hospital with her, they gave her medicine, nothing worked for her. I spent time in prayer with her. God heard my cries, and since then everything has changed; God completely healed her. If you do not experience God in this sense, I encourage you to approach God in prayer with faith and perseverance. God is patiently waiting for you; you can join him in prayer. If you are tempted, weak, sick, tormented, upset, you can join Him in prayer. He is there for you; he never tires of listening to you. You can cast all your cares on him in prayer. Not just your worries, other people's worries too. Ask God to fill you with strength. Pray for the repentance of others so they can come to God. Pray for those who feel condemned, abandoned, hopeless, unworthy. Pray according to the word of God, in the name of Jesus and not with magic words. Learn the word of God. The more you know the word, the more specific you pray. Do not wait to come to church to pray. Pray now! Make prayer a way of life. Don't forget to thank God for his goodness. Start using the power of prayer in your life now and you will see what will happen. Let's pray!

Heavenly Father, I praise your name and I worship you for who you are and what you have done in my life. Father, forgive me for anything I do that is against your will. Lord, thank you for your forgiveness through the blood of your Son Jesus Christ shed for me on the cross. Thank you for giving me the prayer to help me repel the forces of darkness. Lord, in your love, fill me with your Holy Spirit, continue to care for me and transform me into your image. Keep turning my negatives into positives. Make me a source of blessings to others. I pray for the salvation of lost souls. Give them repentance. I pray for those who feel condemned, abandoned, hopeless, unworthy. Please, pick them up. In Jesus' name. Amen!

- What is prayer?
- What are the four facets of prayer?
- What should we do when we feel troubled, upset, depressed, abandoned?
- When should we pray?

**Further Reading:** Acts 4:31-32

*HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

*MAY JESUS CHRIST: The Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Light of the world, the Good  
Shepherd, the Risen one be with you.*

*Hey! Today is Friday! Saturday and Sunday are coming! Don't  
forget your appointment with your Lord in his house!*

## NOTES





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