

Faith Alone in Christ Alone

Colossians 1:1 -8

Greeting

verse 1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, and Timothy our brother.

There are no apostles in the church today, but we are all servants of JESUS CHRIST by the will of God. Apostle is his authoritative office.

verse 1

Of JESUS CHRIST (Right from the very beginning of this epistle, Paul is oriented to whom he belongs.)

This is our first lesson in Colossians **know that you belong to JESUS CHRIST. He sent you here as a believer.**

The Greek construction means that he was sent or commissioned by JESUS CHRIST. He received his authority from JESUS CHRIST and not from man, therefore, he is responsible to God, not to man. He represents JESUS CHRIST and he belongs to JESUS CHRIST. GOD the FATHER is in full and final authority.

Lets start off with a very important principle as we begin our study of JESUS CHRIST in the book of Colossians.

verse 1

by the will of God This indicates the means by which Paul was chosen to be an apostle of JESUS CHRIST.

You cannot have God on your terms! You cannot serve God on your terms. So many people throughout the world today deceive themselves that they are in a wonderful fellowship with God and even with Jesus Christ. But it is on their terms.

This is why they must downplay the importance of the Bible...

“Oh, I believe the bible...but not all of it.”

I don't think this and that are applicable to today or they simply close their eyes... that is not what this passage is saying.

People you cannot have a relationship with God on your terms; that relationship, that fellowship must be on God's terms...

This is one of the reasons He gave us the Holy Bible!

So that we will know what His terms are.

For example, the only way He will save you, the only way He will impute to you His perfect Righteousness is by your **FAITH** in JESUS CHRIST.

Faith alone in Christ alone.

And yet denominations claim they are saved by God according to their lists. They are in denial of His Word. This is why so many churches are not teaching the Word of God, verse by verse. There are many believers, living in sin, claiming they are servants of JESUS CHRIST but in truth they are not serving Christ by the Will of God.

We are going to be studying about JESUS CHRIST so you will know who you are serving and what His terms are.

verse 1

By the will of God we do not know the will of God by our flesh nature.

This is one of the reasons why we have the completed canon of Scripture. In order that you we can know God and what His will is and what His Will is and what His Terms are.

The study of imperatives is most interesting in the book of Colossians. A word here about Paul. This man was more oriented to grace than almost everyone in Church Age.

His name Paul means 'little' which emphasizes God's Grace
1 Corinthians 15:10

verse 10

By the grace of God I am what I am (this should be our attitude) **and His grace toward me did not prove vain. But I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.**
(The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.)

As to his having the gift of Apostle, like every believer in the Church Age Paul receives this spiritual gift at the point of salvation.

verse 1

And Timothy our brother (Brothers in Christ. We are each related to One Another by our position in Christ. And the ministry or service of everyone of us requires fellow team members. No believer is an island to himself.)

verse 2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Note immediately, he is just in the second verse and he mentions both GOD the FATHER and JESUS CHRIST a second time.

verse 2

To the saints (everyone of you who have believed in JESUS CHRIST is a 'saint'.)

The Greek word **agios** means *holy* with the plural translated **saints** or holy ones, or ones set apart by God; the second that you believe in JESUS CHRIST as your Savior, GOD the FATHER has set you apart from all other people on earth and apart from angels. This is your position 'in Christ' you are set apart in Christ. This is who you are!

You are not a Republican or a Democrat or Independent, you are set apart in Christ... this is who you are, and it is my prayer that before we have finished Colossians everyone of you will find and experience the peace and joy of being satisfied that you are in Christ.

Next we have a sub group in the total group of believers.

verse 2

and faithful brethren in Christ (The Greek word faithful is a Greek descriptive adjective **pistos** describing a segment of believers in this church.)

All have believed in Christ...but right from the beginning Paul is speaking, encouraging those who are faithful. Each one of us has to decide if we are a *faithful believer* or not. you may be able to deceive others but not God.

What determines is you are a *faithful believer in Christ*?

Faithfulness is a Fruit of Holy Spirit — Galatians 5:22

verse 22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace or longsuffering, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, against such things there is no law (which means we can live under a Communistic-Socialistic form of government and still live a Spirit-Filled life.)

But here note that *Faithfulness* is a fruit of the Holy Spirit;
so again, it is imperative
that every believer knows how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit:
By Grace Through Faith, which we will see in Colossians 2:6.

verse 2

And faithful believer first this is a believer who walks by faith in the Holy Spirit and as a result receives the fruit of Holy Spirit of Faithfulness.

verse 2

And faithful believers in Christ

(the phrase) **in Christ** (refers to 'brothers'... that is everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.)

verse 2

In Christ (refers to our being positioned in Christ, that is we are positioned in the one anointed by God the Father)
...who are at Colossae.

Lets look at the important phrase **in Christ**.

The more we understand all the wonders of our being positioned in Christ, the less we will care about our status in this world.

Lets take a brief look at our position in Christ, or positional sanctification for now and all eternity.

A. *How does our being in JESUS CHRIST happen?*
The Answer is found in 1 Corinthians 12:13.

Verse 13

For by one Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) **we** (everyone who believes in JESUS CHRIST) **were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks** (Gentiles) **whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.** (Holy Spirit)

B. *What does it mean?*

In Christ describes every believer as in union with Christ and incorporated in His body. Here is a good place to note the heresy of transubstantiation – being in Christ does not refer to His literal physical body, but to the body formed by all believers in the Church Age.

People, here is your true identity. And the more we live according to our Union with Christ...the more your daily life is lived in Grace and Peace and Joy.

C. *Lets note a few **characteristics** of our being positioned in JESUS CHRIST.*

1. It is not experienced nor is it an emotion.
2. It is not progressive-our position in Christ cannot be improved.
3. It is not related to human merit.
4. It is known only in God's Word.
5. It is obtained in total at salvation.

6.	It results in being accepted in the beloved. Ephesians 1:3-6
Verse 3	Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
Verse 4	as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love
Verse 5	he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will,
Verse 6	for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

7.	It means 'newness' new creation in Christ 2 Corinthians 5:17
Verse 17	So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

8.	It cannot be lost or changed. Romans 8:38-39
Verse 38	For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers,
Verse 39	nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

9.	Our position in Christ clearly stated: 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 30
Verse 2	to the church of God that is in Corinth, to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be holy, with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours.
Verse 30	It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption,

Colossians 1:2b

verse 2b **grace to you and peace from God our father**

Have you ever cried out just for Inner Peace?
 Not Joy, not even Happiness, "I just need Inner Peace"?

If you are going through SAD (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*), here is the solution; found in your position in Christ by the Power of the Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

verse 2b **grace to you and peace from God, even our father**

Grace always precedes Peace and here is something you do not want to forget: **God our Father** and **JESUS CHRIST our Savior-Friend** are the ultimate source of Grace and Peace poured into our souls by the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

grace refers to the Plan of God, laid out in how we are saved and how we are Filled with the Holy Sprit. *But oh, people, please remember that **not everyone means the same thing when they speak of God's grace.** Many people believe that you do some works and God blesses you for your works and that is Grace. **That is not Grace!***

Grace is
where God does all the work
and
we receive what God does by simple Faith!

Faith alone in Christ alone
for Eternal Life Salvation
and
Faith alone in the Holy Spirit alone for Spirituality.

Peace

There are basically two stages of Peace:

Peace with God

first **Peace with God** (Romans 5:1)
which is by **Faith in JESUS CHRIST.**

JESUS CHRIST broke down the barrier
between God and man and on the cross,
JESUS CHRIST provided **Peace with God**
by Faith in JESUS CHRIST as Savior.

Then there is the **Peace of God** (Philippians 4:7) as a fruit of the Holy Spirit when a believer walks by **Faith in the Holy Spirit**, he receives the Fruit of Holy Spirit which includes Peace.

Peace of God

This is **peace** as a Fruit of Holy Spirit ...every believer is in a state of Peace **with God by faith in JESUS CHRIST;** But in our lives the believer may not experience Inner Peace!

This **Peace** is a Fruit of the Holy Spirit. This **Peace** is not based on circumstances of life but on the POWER OF and FILLING BY the Holy Spirit.

Peace with God Faith in **JESUS CHRIST.**
Salvation 1 Peace Romans 5:1 and Isaiah 53:5

Peace of God Faith in the Holy Spirit;
This is a **Peace** that comes to the believer during his life when he is in Faith in the Holy Spirit.
Romans 8:6; 14:17; 15:13; Galatians 5:22;

Again, this **Peace** is not dependent on the circumstances of your life. This **Peace** is dependent on your Faith in the third member of Godhead.

In case you might question... **why isn't the Holy Spirit mentioned here with GOD the FATHER and JESUS CHRIST?**

Good question!

The Holy Spirit is not mentioned because His purpose is to glorify JESUS CHRIST (John 7:39 and 16:14) —plus— He is the author of Scripture and reveals the Grace plan of God.

Now in verses 3-12 we come to the all importance of prayer in our lives.

verse 3

We give thanks to God, the Father (the KJ says) **God and the Father** (where the Greek conjunction should be translated) **“even the Father;”**

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord JESUS CHRIST, The Holy Spirit is our Lord who takes us to our Lord JESUS CHRIST who takes us to our Lord, GOD the FATHER ...our Lord Jesus Christ.

This not only indicates that JESUS CHRIST is our ruler but also teaches that JESUS CHRIST is more than human—He is God and this word includes His Divine Authority.

verse 3

praying always for you. (The Greek preposition plus the genitive object introduces for whom this prayer is made) **for or concerning you**

There is so much in this small verse.

verse 3

We give thanks (the plural here certainly includes Timothy, but probably others.)

Give thanks (To emphasize the relationship of)

'always' (and) **'for you'** (and *giving thanks*)

"we always thank God whenever we pray for you"

The Present Active Indicative reveals this is constant in Paul's life.

They keep on giving thanks the verb ***eucharisteeo*** to be thankful, grateful; to show oneself as being thankful—to give thanks.

The more you are oriented to the cross work of JESUS CHRIST, say from Isaiah 53, and the more you are aware of all the Grace Blessings God has given every believer, (Lewis Sperry Chafer: 34 things), the more time you will spend in giving thanks to God the Father.

1. Paul has never seen these believers, yet he prays for them, gives thanks for them.

Do you spend time giving thanks for other believers, whom you do not yet know?

Like in Tucson Bible Church, or Jody Brown's church in Indiana?

Paul gives thanks for all the good things he has heard concerning this group of believers.

2. People we should always pray; and part of our prayers should be Thanksgiving.

God desires to hear your voice!

It does not matter if you are angry at Him, or joyful,

He desires to hear your voice.

Have you ever received nothing but silence from someone you love?

Silence hurts! A child that will not talk with his/her parents? A

husband/wife who will not talk, communicate, but is just silent.

We all know that David was a man after God's own heart.

Have you ever wondered why?

David was a womanizer, a murderer, an adulterer...but David always came right back to God... just read some of his prayers in the Psalms; he cries out to God, he prays for help, for deliverance, he praises God, complains to God... but oh, David always talked with God in prayer. **God desires to hear your voice in constant prayer.**

3. For what do you constantly give thanks to God?

A very important principle about giving thanks to God the Father:
The more you give thanks for someone or something, the more you will appreciate that for which you constantly give thanks. *For example, if married, we should give thanks everyday throughout the day for the person God has brought into your life. Give thanks for your children, your parents, give thanks for your local church where you learn about JESUS CHRIST and fellowship with others who are like-minded. Remember, the more you give thanks, the more you will value and appreciate.*

4. Different emphasis of prayer:

Thanksgiving as we saw in 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Verse 18 **In everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

or Ephesians 5:20

Verse 20 **always giving thanks for all things in the name (authority) of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father.**

But wait a minute, both of these passages say to give **THANKS FOR ALL THINGS....** but what about the bad things that happen?

Oh, people, please learn about your God and your Savior. They are able to have all things work together for good!

Do you believe that or not?

Oh, I know it sounds nice but do you believe it?

Do you believe it to the point where you will start giving thanks to God for everything?

Another ingredient of prayer is **intercession**; praying for others—close to you, and those you do not even know. Ephesians 6:18

Verse 18

...and petition for all the saints

5. Order of prayer:

As you can see from these few examples all prayer is addressed to God the Father. I have heard various pastors and believers complain about this “**...I want to pray to Jesus**” —while this *sounds* nice— it is not Scriptural and the same is true with **praying to God the Holy Spirit**.

And finally petition to GOD the FATHER for your own needs as per your union with Jesus Christ.

ALL PRAYER IS ADDRESSED TO GOD THE FATHER:

First GOD the FATHER is the author of the entire Divine Plan.

Second Please remember that Jesus came to bring us to the Father.

Third Therefore, we pray to the Father under the authority of because of our position in Christ; and we pray in the power and guidance of God the Holy Spirit.

Fourth All facets of prayer demand our Faith, our Trust that GOD the FATHER will answer our prayers, and our trust in the Holy Spirit that He will guide us to pray in accordance to the will and plan of God the Father.

6. And remember that we can call Him Father, because of our relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ.

Not until Jesus did anyone pray to Him as **Father**. We have this privilege because we are in Christ, the Son of God.

7. When we are so confused, so broken, God the Holy Spirit prays for us. Romans 8:26-27

And here is something so beautiful, Jesus is also said to pray for us, not only in His prayer in John 17, but also Hebrews 7:25.

—I feel sorry for those who want to say that Hebrews is not for the Church Age but for The Tribulation. —

They are in denial that Jesus prays for them when they know not how to pray.

8. Prayer is dependent upon Relationships:
First the relationship of JESUS CHRIST and GOD the FATHER and the Holy Spirit and God the Father---because of their relationship with each other, we can pray. Then there is our relationship designated by **Father** why anyone would not want to pray to GOD the FATHER is beyond me.

Then there is our relationship with JESUS CHRIST under which we can come to the **Father** in prayer. We can pray to the **Father** because He is the **Heavenly Father** of JESUS CHRIST and we are in JESUS CHRIST. And then there is our relationship with the Holy Spirit —who guides and empowers us to pray.

Unfortunately so many people, Christians, are so sloppy and abusive in their prayer life. God hears only the prayers of believers who are praying in the Holy Spirit and prayers that are based on our relationship with His Son.

Colossians 1:3

verse 3

We give thanks to God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
(He is called God the Father because He is the Father of His Son, JESUS CHRIST, and since we are in Christ, by Faith alone in Christ, He is our father also.)

praying always for you (Paul is in prison, you would think he has enough problems of his own, but no, Paul always, constantly prays for believers he has never seen and the following verses tell us what Paul prayed.)

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the Word of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

