

Give Life a Chance

Answers To The Conflicts of Life: A Look At Colossians

Colossians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God and Timothy our brother to the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae.”

Colossians 1:2 “To the holy and faithful brothers [and look at these two things that are side by side] in Christ at [IN] Colossae.”

The believers were both **IN CHRIST** AND **IN THE WORLD**

Why did Paul write this letter?

The “Colossian Heresy” involved...

- 1) Gnosticism: false thinking – Col. 2:8
- 2) Jewish Ceremonialism: false works – Col. 2:16-17
- 3) Angel Worship: false worship – Col. 2:18
- 4) Asceticism: false sacrifice – Col. 2:20-23

Colossians 1:3-5A

Paul talks in Colossians 1 about some of the things we all must understand to live a life that is both **WORTHY** and **PLEASING**

1. THE PROCESS OF **FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE**

The process begins with **FAITH**

FAITH draws us to **HOPE**

HOPE leads us to **LOVE**

Two questions about this hope:

When does it happen?

Where does it come from?

Colossian 1:5B “...the faith and the love that spring from the hope and are stored up for you in heaven and what you’ve already heard about in the word of truth [that’s where you’ve heard about the hope] the gospel.”

II. THE POWER OF **THE GOOD NEWS**

- It is **TRUE**
- It is **UNIVERSAL**
- It is **GROWING**
- It is **IT IS DELIVERED BY PEOPLE**

Verse 6, “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing just as it’s been doing among you since the day that you heard it and you understood God’s grace and all its truths. You learned it from Epaphras our dear fellow servant who was a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf. And he told us about your love in the Spirit.”

Who is Epaphras?

A synonym for gospel in verse 6 is the phrase **GOD’S GRACE**

Colossians 1:9 “For this reason since the day we heard about you we never stopped praying for you.”

III. THE PURPOSE OF **GOD’S WILL IN OUR LIVES**

What is God’s will? **True knowledge**

The highest kind of knowledge is the knowledge of **what God wants!**

Three key words

- **Knowledge**
- **Wisdom**
- **Understanding**

Colossians 1:10-12 We pray that you will lead a life that is worthy of the Lord. We pray that you will please him in every way. So we want you to bear fruit in every good thing you do. We want you to grow to know God better. We want you to be very strong, in keeping with his glorious power. We want you to be patient. Never give up. Be joyful as you give thanks to the Father. He has made you fit to share with all his people. You will all receive a share in the kingdom of light.

What is a worthy and pleasing life?

1. Bearing **fruit in every good work**
2. Growing **in the knowledge of God**
3. Being **strengthened in God's power**

What is the sign of someone who is supercharged with the awesome power of God?

- Patience applies to **problems**
- Endurance applies to **people**

4. Giving **thanks**