

Colossians 1 Outline

- 1A Greeting, vv.1-2:** “1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Timothy the brother: To the saints in Colossae and faithful brothers in Christ; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2A Personal Connections and Assessment of the Church, vv.3-8:**
 - 1B Thanksgiving and prayer for the Colossians “3** We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, always praying about you,
 - 2B The circumstance for the prayer and thanksgiving, 4** after hearing about your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love which is toward all the saints,
 - 3B The Cause of the Love, 5a** because of the hope which was reserved for you in the heavens,
 - 4B The Source of the Hope, 5b,** which you heard about in the word of truth of the Gospel,
 - 5B The Presence of the Hope in the Colossian Believers, 6a** which is present in you,
 - 6B The Presence and Fruitbearing of the Hope in the Entire World, 6b,** just as also in the entire world, and is bearing fruit, and growing, just as also in you from the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;
 - 7B The Human Source, Epaphras, and His Report, vv.7-8, 7** just as also you learned from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful servant of Jesus Christ on your behalf, 8 who has also made clear to us your love in the Spirit.”
- 3A The Incessant Prayer, 9a** For this reason we also, from the day on which we heard from him, have not ceased praying in behalf of you,
- 4A The Content of the Prayer, vv.9b-12:**
 - 1B For the Spiritual Life of the Colossians, vv.9b-10c:**
 - 1C For Filling of Knowledge of His Will, 9b,** and asking that you might be filled with the full knowledge of His will
 - 2C The Nature of the Full Knowledge, 9c,** in all wisdom and spiritual insight,
 - 3C The Purpose of the Knowledge, v.10:**
 - 1D Walking Worthy, 10a** for you to walk worthy of the Lord in every pleasing way,
 - 2D Bearing Fruit, 10b,** bearing fruit in every good work
 - 3D Growing, 10c,** and growing toward the full knowledge of God;
 - 4C The Means of the Purpose, 11a** being empowered with all power according to the might of His glory,
 - 5C The Direction of the Purpose, 11b,** toward all endurance and longsuffering with joy;
 - 2B Thanksgiving, 12a** giving thanks to the Father
- 5A The Theology Behind the Prayer, 12b-14:**
 - 1B The Sufficiency-Giving Power of the Father, 12b,** who makes us sufficient
 - 2B The Reason for the Sufficiency,12c,** for the portion of the inheritance of the saints in the light,
 - 3B The Deliverance of the Father, v.13:**
 - 1C Deliverance From, 13a,** who delivered us from the authority of the darkness,
 - 2C Deliverance To, 13b,** and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son of His love,
 - 3C The Advantage of Position in the Son, 14** in whom we have the redemption, the forgiveness of sins...”

4B The image and pre-eminence of Christ, 15 “who is the image of the invisible God, firstborn of all creation,

5B The explanation of the pre-eminence, vv.16-18:

1C He is firstborn because He is the creator, 16 Because by Him all things were created, things in the heavens, and things upon the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or rulerships, or authorities. The all things were created through Him and for Him.

2C He is firstborn because He is first and sustainer, 17 And He is before all things, and all things stand together in Him.

3C He is firstborn because He is the head of the body, 18a And He is the head of the body, the church;

4C He is firstborn because He is the firstborn from the dead, 18b He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

6B The purpose for Christ as firstborn, 18c that He Himself might become first in all;

7B The reason for God’s designation of the pre-eminence of Christ, vv.19-20:

1C The indwelling of the fullness, 19 Because He was well-pleased in Him for all the fullness to dwell,

2C The reconciliation of all things, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Him, after making peace through the blood of His cross, through Him, whether things upon the earth, or things upon the heavens.”

6A Reconciliation and Its Great Purpose, vv.21-23:

1B The Former Status of the Readers, 21a And you were once estranged and mental enemies by means of evil works,

2B The Current Status of Reconciliation, 21b-22a: but now He reconciled [you] 22 in the body of His flesh through death,

3B The Purpose of the Reconciliation, 22b: to present you holy and blameless and without reproach before Him.

4B The Condition for the Presentation, 23a, If indeed you remain in the faith, having been established and steadfast, and not being disturbed from the hope of the Gospel which you heard,

5B The Identification of the Gospel, 23b: which was preached in all creation which is under heaven, of which I Paul became a servant.

7A Paul’s Sufferings and Their Great Purpose, vv.24-26:

1B Paul’s Sufferings: His Attitude and Their Purpose, 24: I now rejoice in these sufferings on your behalf, and compensate what is lacking in the tribulations of Christ in my flesh in behalf of His body, which is the church,

2B Paul’s Service to the Church according to God’s Plan and in Fulfillment of God’s Word, 25: of which I myself became a servant, according to the plan of God which He gave to me for you, to fulfill the Word of God,

3B The Purpose of the Plan of God, 26: the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations; and is now revealed to the saints,

8A The Great Revelation, v.27: “for them God willed to make known what is the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.