



# Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

## Colossians 1 (Part-I)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

- **Apostolic Writings:** Who is an Apostle? What is doctrine? What are apostles doctrines What should be our responsibility towards apostles doctrine? What are some marks of a true apostle?
- **Opening Greeting (1-8):** Who is Paul? Where is Paul writing from? What is the greatest threat to Christians attending church? What is Paul's motivation in writing to Colosse church? How does he address believers? When did Paul meet them? What words does Paul use to greet believers? What is he thankful for? What do we know about Epaphras?
- **Paul's apostolic prayer (9-14):** What is the three-fold focus of Paul's prayer (10-11)? What is the three-fold joyful thanksgiving of Paul? (12-14)

Jan. 27, 2020



## Bethany Bible Study & Discussion: Colossians 1 (PART-II)

Wednesdays  
7.30-8.30PM

- **Exaltation of Lord Jesus Christ** (15-19): How does Paul highlight the supremacy of Christ? In whom does all fulness dwell?
- **Reconciling work of Christ** (20-23): What do we mean by Reconciliation? Why is reconciliation necessary? Who/what is reconciled? Who/what is not reconciled? How is reconciliation accomplished? What is the purpose and end result of reconciliation?
- **Ministry of Paul and Mystery of Indwelling Christ** (24-29): Why is Paul able to 'rejoice in suffering'? What was Paul's calling? What did he preach? What is a biblical 'mystery' and is it still a mystery? What is the goal of Paul for believers? What is the source of Paul's tireless energy?
- **Personal Reflection:** Paul labored tirelessly for the Lord ... *Are we burning for the Lord or are we burning for the world?*

Feb 3, 2020



## Bethany Bible Study & Discussion: Colossians 1 (PART-III)

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7.30-8.30PM

- **Ministry of Paul and Mystery of Indwelling Christ** (24-29): Why is Paul able to 'rejoice in suffering'? What was Paul's calling? What did he preach? What is a biblical 'mystery' and is it still a mystery? What is the goal of Paul for believers? What is the source of Paul's tireless energy?
- **Lessons learned from Chapter 1:** any new **knowledge** gained, any new **insight** revealed, any new **applications** for your personal life or church.
- **Personal Reflection:** Paul labored tirelessly for the Lord ... *Are we burning for the Lord or are we burning for the world?*

Feb 10, 2020

# Introduction to Apostles Doctrine

Who is an Apostle? What is doctrine?

What should be our responsibility towards apostles doctrine?

What are some marks of a true apostle?

# “and they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine (or teaching) ...” Acts 2:42

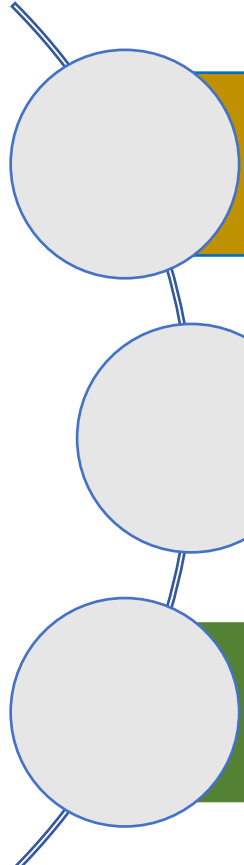
**Apostle?** ... one who is ‘sent’ or ‘appointed’ by the Lord with His authority

- ❑ **11 disciples & Matthais** (Judas replacement)
  - ❑ Disciples were with Jesus and he taught them: Luke 24:44-49, I John 1:1
- ❑ **Paul** (inspired by the Spirit, Galatians 1:15-18, John 16:12,13)
- ❑ **Jude & James** (not called apostles but contributed to the NT)
- ❑ **Seventy sent by the Lord** (Luke 10:1)

# “and they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine (or teaching) ...” Acts 2:42

- ❑ The Church was built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20)
- ❑ The foundation is now complete ... so **there is no need for new apostolic teachings or additional books to the Bible** (new teachings/revelations will be false teachings). We need to build on the foundation of Christ (I Corinthians 3:10-15)
- ❑ Apostles honored in Heaven (Revelation 21:14)

# What should be our response to apostles doctrine?



**LISTEN** “He that heareth you, heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me; and he that despiseth me, despiseth him that sent me” (Luke 10:16)

**READ** “give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (I Timothy 4:13)  
**why?** ... “save thyself, and those that hear thee” (I Timothy 4:16)

**AVOID:** Paul’s counsel on those who reject the sound doctrines of the apostles ... **avoid them!**(Romans 16:17,18)

# Marks of apostleship

<sup>11</sup> I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the “super-apostles,”<sup>[a]</sup> even though I am nothing. <sup>12</sup> I persevered in demonstrating among you the **marks of a true apostle**, including **signs, wonders and miracles**. (II Corinthians 12:11-12)

- Paul’s **preaching** - of Christ & Kingdom of God
- Paul’s **teachings and writings** (Paul was not with Jesus as the disciples, but was inspired by the Holy Spirit)
- Paul’s **fruitful ministry** – souls saved, saints strengthened



# Epistles in the New Testament

- Epistle means letter or message
- **Authors of 21 Epistles in the New Testament**
  - Apostle Paul – 13 (see next slide)
  - Apostle Peter (one of 12 disciples) – I and II Peter
  - Apostle John (one of 12 disciples) – I, II, III John
  - James (half-brother of Jesus) – James
  - Jude (half-brother of Jesus) – Jude
  - Hebrews – author unknown
- Other 6 Books in NT: Mathew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Revelation

# Paul's 13 epistles

In Chronological Order	Prison Epistles
<p>I and II Thessalonians</p> <p>I and II Corinthians</p> <p>Galatians</p> <p>Romans</p> <p>Philemon</p> <p>Colossians</p> <p>Ephesians</p> <p>Philippians</p> <p>I Timothy</p> <p>Titus</p> <p>II Timothy</p>	<p>✓ Philemon (1)</p> <p>Colossians (4)</p> <p>Ephesians (6)</p> <p>Philippians (4)</p>

The MAN of God

Born in Tarsus

Tribe of Benjamin

Pharisee, a faithful Jew

Taught by Rabbi Gamaliel

Persecutor of believers

**Saved by Christ**

Suffered & Died for Christ

MESSAGE

JESUS CHRIST, the Messiah  
(born/died/rose again/returning)

KINGDOM of GOD

REPENTANCE

PAUL

MISSION

Take Gospel to Jews and Gentiles

Strengthen Churches

AUDIENCE

Synagogues

Home Churches

Jewish Council

Marketplace, Prison, Ship

3 Missionary Journeys

# Paul's titles in his Epistles: Servant, Apostle, Prisoner

- **Romans** – Servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle
- **I & II Corinthians** – Apostle of Jesus Christ, through the will of God
- **Galatians** – Apostle
- **Ephesians** – an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God
- **Philippians** – Servant of Jesus Christ
- **Colossians** – Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God
- **I & II Thessalonians** – not given
- **I Timothy** – Apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God
- **II Timothy** - Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God
- **Titus** – Servant of God and Apostle of Jesus Christ
- **Philemon** – Prisoner of Jesus Christ

# Introduction to Colossians

# Context

- **Written** by Paul from Prison around 60 AD
  - Paul wrote to believers that he had never met
  - Epaphras is credited with bringing the gospel to Colosse (1:7); Believers maybe converts from worshippers of Greek and Roman gods
- **Colosse** – a City in the province of Phrygia (Asia Minor). Paul was in Phrygia (Acts 16:16, 18:23) but not Colosse.
- **What is the greatest threat to Christians attending church?**

# Greatest threat to Christians in church... false teachings

**Acts 20:28-31** Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. I know that after I leave, **savage wolves** will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard!

**Paul's main motivation for writing the epistle:** To address false teachings that was creeping into Colossian church and causing confusion

- knowledge/mystery revealed to only a few ... danger: leads to cults
  - Christ not equal with God (or one of the gods) ... danger: leads to idol worship
  - Need to follow traditions of Judaism ... danger: leads to grace + works for salvation
- Paul highlights the '**Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ**' inspiring us to give him the **Preeminence** in our lives

# Colossians outline

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reference</b>
I	<b>Introduction</b>	1: 1-8
II	<b>Paul's Apostolic Prayer</b>	1: 9-14
III	<b>Lord Jesus Christ: Supremacy, Reconciler, Indweller</b>	1: 15-29
IV	<b>Believer is Complete in Christ</b>	2: 1-23
V	<b>Believer's Union with Christ</b>	3: 1-4
VI	<b>Believer's Fruitful life because of union with Christ</b>	3:5 – 4:6
VII	<b>Christian Fellowship</b>	4: 7-18



# Important Theme in chapter 1

**Supremacy of Lord Jesus Christ**  
(1:15-19, 20-23)

# Introductory Greeting (1: 1-8)

Who was Paul? Where was he writing from? How does he address believers? When did Paul meet them? What words does Paul use to greet believers? What is he thankful for? Who is Epaphras?

# Greetings to believers

- **Paul – introduced himself as ...** an apostle of Jesus Christ (1) (Paul's first allegiance to Jesus Christ) (Galatians 1:1)
- **How does he address believers? (2)**
  - God's holy people
  - faithful brothers & sisters
- **When did Paul meet them?**
  - Never
  - He heard of them through Epaphras, fellow prisoner in Rome (7)
  - ✓ **Do we have the same burden and love for believers we have never met? Is it easy to pray for strangers?**

# Christian Greetings: Grace → Triple Peace

- “Grace” and “Peace” (2)
  - Grace and Peace came from God through Christ
  - **Grace** – God’s undeserved free favor in our life (not dependent on our character or works or background)
- ✓ God’s grace in our life leads to **Triple Peace**:
- + Peace with Heavenly father
  - + inner peace
  - + peace with others
- (Triple peace cannot be bought or earned, and is not available in the world!)

# What is Paul thankful for?

- **We always thank God for** (3-6)... faith, hope, love
  - Faith in Christ Jesus
  - Love for all God's people
  - Hope of Heaven
    - **Root of Faith, Hope & Love**: Message of the gospel and God's grace
    - **Fruit**: Faith accompanied by works (spreading of gospel & other works)
    - **Foundation**: The foundation for our love, ministry, and works should be the gospel truth
- Epaphras – fellow servant, faithful minister, teacher (7,8)

# Paul's Apostolic Prayer (1:9-14)

What is the Focus of Paul's prayer? (9-11)

What is Paul thankful for? (12-14)

# Paul's 3-fold prayer for believers (9-11)

## 1. **Filled with knowledge of God's will**, in wisdom and understanding

(need wisdom to apply the knowledge, and spiritual understanding of the truths)

### Result

- walk as children of God (Purpose of heavenly knowledge is heavenly walk)
- fruitful (Ephesians 2:10 we are created for good works, Titus 3:8 we must maintain good works)

# Paul's prayer for believers (9-11)

## 2. Increase in knowledge

(grow in knowledge ... we never stop learning)

(Jesus grew in wisdom-Luke 2:52; still babes, I Corinthians 3:1-2, grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord, II Peter 3:18)

## 3. Strengthened with all might To build our strength and endurance to suffer in patience and longsuffering with joy

- Patience – silent endurance; Longsuffering – no retaliation
- Strengthened in inner man (Ephesians 3:16)



# Paul's joyful Thanks to the Father (12-14)

Father who has (made possible by the Father, not our works):

- 1. Qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of saints ... initiated by the father, not by our works
- 2. Delivered us** from the power of darkness (1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 5:8)
- 3. Brought us** into the Kingdom of Son ...
  - Made possible by Redemption through the blood of Christ (price paid for our release and forgiveness of sins)



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Feb 3, 2020

# Exaltation of Lord Jesus Christ (1:15-20)

How does Paul highlight the supremacy of Christ?  
In whom does all fulness dwell?

# Supremacy of Christ, the Son of God (15-19)

Image of the  
Invisible God

Firstborn

Creator

BEFORE all  
creation

Reconciler,  
20-21

Sustainer of  
creation

Head of the  
Church

Firstborn  
From Dead

God's fullness  
dwells in Him

# Who is Jesus?

## #1 Jesus is the image of the Invisible God (15)

- **God is Invisible** (John 4:24 – God is a spirit; I Timothy 1:17 – invisible; John 1: 18 – no one has seen God)
- **Jesus represents the invisible God** (man was also made in the image of God, **Genesis 1:27** but not the true representative as image of man is marred and no longer reflects the attributes of God) (**Hebrews 1:3** Jesus ... exact **representation** of His being, NIV)
- **John 14:8, 9** – Philip “show us the Father” ... Jesus “He who has seen me has seen the Father”

# Who is Jesus?

## #2 Jesus is the Firstborn (15)

Does not refer to the first child born (Jesus was not created) Jesus existed before the beginning (**Proverbs 8:23**) but refers to the **superiority of position** that Jesus enjoys

(**Genesis 25:23** Jacob considered first-born even though born second,

**Exodus 4:22** Israel considered first born;

**Psalms 89:27** Messiah called the first born, supreme King;

**Hebrews 1:2** Son is appointed heir of all things)

# Who is Jesus?

## #3 Jesus is the Creator(16)

by Him were all things created (in heaven, in earth, visible and invisible) (thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers – they are subject to Him, [1 Peter 3:22](#))

created **by Him & for Him** ([John 1:3](#)– all things were made by Him)

# Who is Jesus?

## #4 Jesus Sustains Creation (17)

- He is **BEFORE** all things, existed before the beginning (John 1:1, John 8:58, Proverbs 8:23, Revelation 22:13)

“I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,  
or before the earth was” **Proverbs 8:23**

Jesus was with the Father before the world was”  
(Jesus prayer, **John 17:5**)

- He **SUSTAINS** all things in the created universe (Hebrews 1:3, upholds all things by His power)



# Who is Jesus?

## **#5 Jesus is head of the body, the Church (18)**

- \* As head, He should have the preeminence and full control

## **#6 Jesus is the firstborn from the dead (18)**

- \* Others rose again from dead before Jesus
- \* but Jesus is first one to rise from the dead, and never die again!
- \* first fruit of them that slept (I Corinthians 15:20)

## **#7 In Jesus, all the fullness of God dwells (19)**

# The Reconciling work of Lord Jesus Christ (1:20-23)

What do we mean by Reconciliation? Why is reconciliation necessary?  
Who/what is reconciled? Who/what is not reconciled? How is  
reconciliation accomplished? What is the purpose and end result of  
reconciliation?

# Reconciliation

- Meaning: Restoration to former self or healing of broken relationships
- Sin brought curse and God's wrath on all of creation:
  - Man (Genesis 3:14-19)
  - Ground (Genesis 3:17)
  - Angels (Job 4:18)
  - Animals (Romans 8:19-22)
  - Stars (Job 25:5)
  - Heaven (Hebrews 9:23)
- We need deliverance from sin
- **Who is reconciled?**

# Reconciliation

## Who is reconciled?

- All things in earth and in heaven (1:20)
- All who who believed (1:21)

## How are we Reconciled?

Through the death and blood of Christ (20-22)

Without shedding of blood there is no remission ([Hebrews 9:22](#))

There is no other path for redemption of sinner

# Reconciliation

## Not reconciled

Satan, fallen angels (Jude 6),  
unbelievers ... will be eternally damned (Revelation)

✓ **Philippians 2:10** ... all brought to subjection, but not all reconciled

# Reconciliation leads to Transformation

- Holy
- Without blemish
- Free of accusation ([Revelation 12:10](#), fate of accuser)

## Must continue in faith & hope (23)

... **Continuing** is sign of true reconciliation or salvation experience (**faith** in the finished work of Christ on the cross)

... **stand firm**, let nothing move you ([1 Corinthians 15:58](#))



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Feb 10, 2021

# Ministry of Paul and Mystery of the Indwelling Christ (1:24-29)

Why is Paul able to 'rejoice in suffering'? What was Paul's calling? What did he preach? What is the mystery and is it still a mystery? What is the expectation of Paul for believers? What is the source of Paul's tireless energy?



# Paul's suffering and Paul's calling

- Why is Paul able to 'rejoice in suffering'?
- Paul suffered for the gospel & church ... a joyful prisoner of Christ, considered it a privilege to suffer for Christ
- What is our suffering?
  - Are we Suffering for Christ or are we suffering for self?
  - Are we Suffering for righteousness sake or Suffering because of sin?

# Paul's calling

- **What is Paul's calling?**
  - To **proclaim** the gospel (23) (as seen in Acts)
  - To **unlock the mystery** of the Church (25-27) (as seen in Paul's epistles)
  - To **strengthen saints**, through admonishing and teaching (28) (as seen in Acts and Paul's epistles)
- **Paul's expectation of believers (28)**
  - To bring believers to maturity (not just save and leave)

# The mystery ... is no longer a mystery!

- Mystery (does not mean hidden and unknown ... it is revealed through divine revelation) (26) (eye hath not seen ... but God has revealed, I Corinthians 2:9-10)
- **One of the greatest mystery ... Mystery of church** – of reconciling Jews and gentiles – hidden in Old Testament, but now revealed. (Ephesians 3:1-12)
- Mystery of Church foretold by the Lord in Mathew 16:18 (I will build my church) Church started the day of the Pentecost .... deeper truths about church revealed through apostolic teachings.

# Mystery #1 revealed

Glorious riches of this Mystery

... Christ in you, the hope of glory!(27)

**Christ-in-us changes everything!**

Have you received Christ?

# Mystery of ...

1. Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 13)
2. Israel's blindness (Romans 11:25)
3. Translation of living saints (I Corinthians 15:51-52)
4. Church as one body, with Jews and Gentiles (Ephesians 3:1-11, Colossians 4:3)
5. Church as bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:28-32)
6. Indwelling Christ (Colossians 1:26-27)
7. Christ as fulness of Godhead (Colossians 2:2,9)
8. Godliness (I Timothy 3:16)
9. Iniquity (II Thessalonians 2:7)
10. Seven stars (Revelation 1:20)

# Source of Paul's tireless energy

“ I strenuously contend with all the energy  
**Christ** so powerfully works in me” (29)

“My grace is sufficient for you” (**II Corinthians 12:9**)

“Those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength” (**Isaiah 40:31**)

“not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit” (**Zechariah 4:6**)

What is the source of our energy?

# Personal Reflection

**Paul worked tirelessly ...**

***Are we also burning for the Lord or are we burning for the World?***