

COLOSSIANS

*“in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead
bodily; and you are complete in Him”*



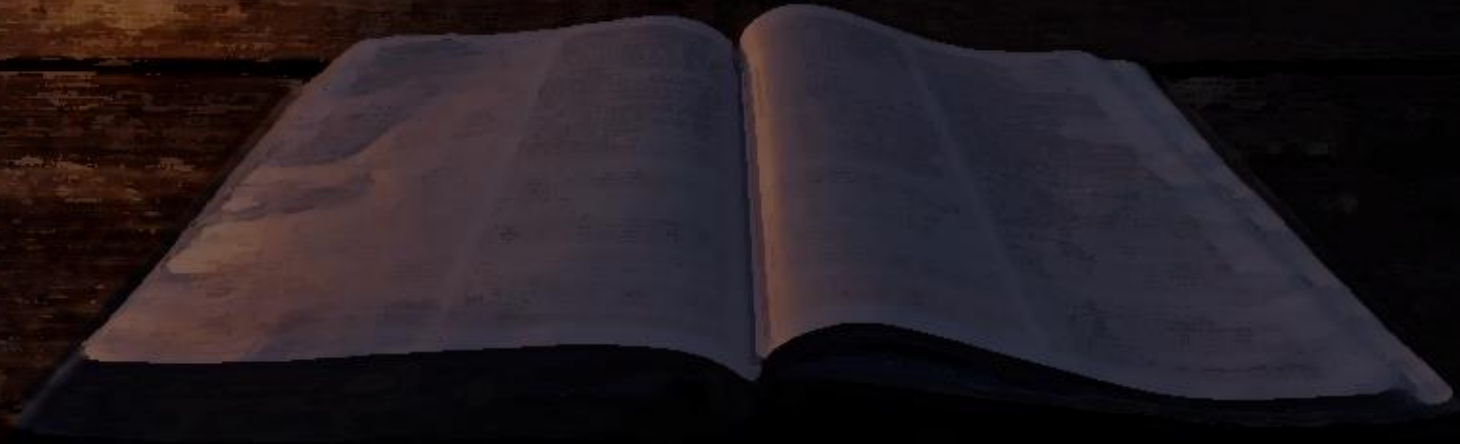
Colossians 1

I. Introduction (vv. 1-2)

A. Authorship: Paul, apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy. (v. 1)

B. Recipients: To the saints and faithful brethren in Colosse: (v. 2a)

C. Greeting: Grace, and peace from God and Jesus Christ. (v. 2b)



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I. Introduction (vv. 1-2)

II. Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Colossians (vv. 3-14)

A. Thanksgiving for Their Faith and Love (vv. 3-8)

a. Paul gives thanks to God in constant prayer for them, for their faith in Christ, and love for the saints because of their hope laid up in heaven. (vv. 3-5a)

b. They heard of this hope in the gospel which came to them. (vv. 5b-6a)

i. The gospel has come to all the world bringing fruit as among them when they heard and knew the grace of God in truth. (v. 6b)

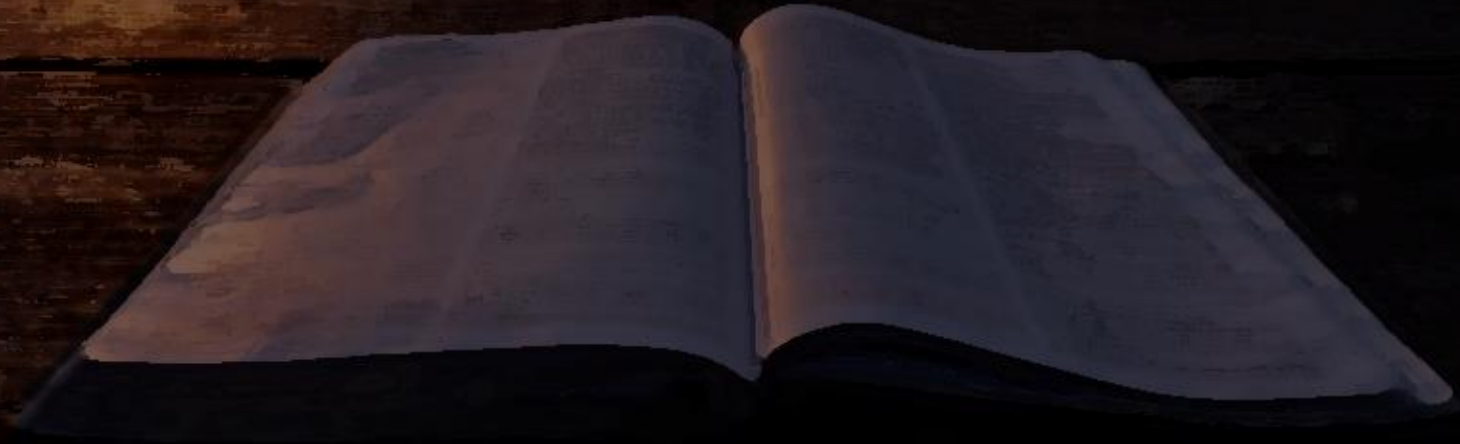
ii. They learned the gospel from Epaphras, who declared to Paul their love in the Spirit. (vv. 7-8)

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 - A. Thanksgiving for Their Faith and Love (vv. 3-8)
 - B. Prayer for Their Spiritual Growth (vv. 9-14)
 - a. Since hearing of their faith and love Paul incessantly prays for them. (v. 9a)
 - i. To be filled with knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. (v. 9b)
 - ii. To walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful and increasing in knowledge. (v. 10)
 - iii. To be strengthened with all might, according to God's power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy. (v. 11)
 - iv. Thanks to God who qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance in the light. (v. 12)

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 - b. God delivered them from darkness and conveyed them into the kingdom of His Son, in whom is redemption and forgiveness. (vv. 13-14)



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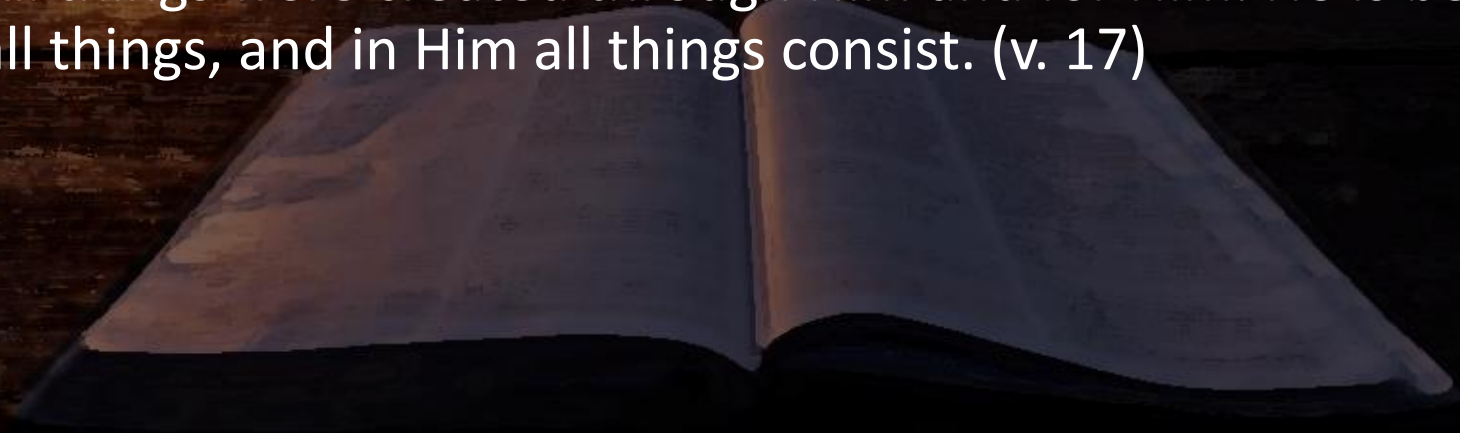
III. Christ's Preeminence (vv. 15-29)

A. In Creation (vv. 15-17)

a. Christ is the image of God, the firstborn over all creation. (v. 15)

b. All things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, were created by Him. (v. 16a)

c. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (v. 17)



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A. In Creation (vv. 15-17)

B. In Reconciliation (vv. 18-23)

a. Christ is the head of the body, the church, being the beginning and firstborn from the dead, that He may have the preeminence in all things. (v. 18)

i. It pleased the Father that all the fullness dwelled in Him. (v. 19)

ii. By Christ all things are reconciled to God, earthly and heavenly, peace being made through the blood of His cross. (v. 20)

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B. In Reconciliation (vv. 18-23)

b. Once alienated and enemies in mind by wicked works, they were reconciled in the fleshly body of Christ through death, to be presented holy, blameless, and above reproach. (vv. 21-22)

i. This is contingent upon continuance in the faith, not being moved from the hope of the gospel they heard. (v. 23a)

ii. Paul became a minister of the gospel which was preached to every creature. (v. 23b)

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 - A. In Creation (vv. 15-17)
 - B. In Reconciliation (vv. 18-23)
 - C. In Paul's Ministry (vv. 24-29)
 - a. Paul rejoices in sufferings for them and fills up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ. (v. 24a)
 - i. His suffering is for the church, of which Paul became a minister. (vv. 24b-25a)
 - ii. His ministry is according to the stewardship given him to fulfill the word, the mystery that had been hidden but is now revealed to the saints. (v. 25b)

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 - C. In Paul's Ministry (vv. 24-29)
 - b. God willed to make known to the saints the riches of the mystery among the Gentiles. (v. 26a)
 - i. The mystery: Christ in you, the hope of glory. (v. 26b)
 - ii. Paul preaches Christ, warning, and teaching men to present them mature in Christ. (v. 28)
 - iii. To this Paul labors and strives according to God's mighty work in him. (v. 29)