

Colossians 1:3-8, **3** We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, **4** since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; **5** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, **6** which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth [b]fruit, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; **7** as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, **8** who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

**I. Paul heard of their \_\_\_\_\_ .**

*Colosse was not a particularly important city. The believers there had corrupted the Gospel with a combination of mystical and legalistic Judaism. Paul focused his attention on giving the people a better understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for us.*

**II. Reason for their faith: \_\_\_\_\_ .**

Philippians 3:20-21, But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Aren't you glad that this life isn't all there is?

Hope is a double-edged sword.

1. Hope is great because it is the optimism that something great is coming.
2. Hope is tough because that something great is not now.

The object of our hope is so worth waiting for just because of the magnitude of Heaven. The anticipation of a glorified body and the presence of God for eternity makes the troubles of this life not as bad.

Colossians 1:9-14, **9** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; **10** that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in

every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and [c]conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** in whom we have redemption [d]through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

**Vs 9-14**

**III. Epaphras confirms the Colossian church's \_\_\_\_\_.**

Paul commits to praying for the people to be filled with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

- Knowledge (Hosea 4:6)
- Wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-18)
- Spiritual understanding (John 5:39-40) - filling our head with knowledge is not the goal, understanding that Scripture points us to Christ is the point.

**IV. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ help us to:**

1. Walk worthy of the Lord
2. Please the Lord
3. Be fruitful in every good work

These things help us to be patient and long-suffering. They give us joy.

**V. After we've \_\_\_\_\_ and been patient, we can give thanks to the Father.**

1. He has given us an inheritance.
2. He has delivered us from the power of darkness
3. He has given us a place in His Kingdom
4. Redeemed us by the blood of Christ

Colossians 1:15-18, **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or [e]principalities or [f]powers. All things were created

through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

## **Vs 15-18**

### **VI. Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God. Paul explains the doctrine of Christ.**

1. He is the Creator (John 1:1)

*A. Jesus was in the beginning*

*B. Jesus is distinct from the Father - with God*

*C. Jesus is the same as God - was God*

2. He is eternal (Revelation 1:8)

*Alpha and Omega. These titles are for Jesus. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, symbolizing the fact that Jesus was there before the beginning and He'll be there after the end and everything in between. He rules and reigns over all for all time.*

3. He is the life-giver (John 8:12)

*In darkness, we wander aimlessly. Christ shines a light, giving us life.*

4. He is the head of the body / preeminent (Eph 1:22)

*The church is the hands of feet of Christ. We follow Christ's lead in all things - namely in the fruit of the Spirit. We love, pursue peace, endure, treat others with kindness, are good, have faith, are gentle, control ourselves as Christ does.*

### **Application**

The theme of the book of Colossians is the preeminence of Christ. From the beginning of the letter, Paul emphasizes their love for Jesus. Their acceptance of the place of Christ in their life led them to an emotional response. This unbridled passion drove Paul to pray that these believers

would deepen the well. They needed to build up their understanding of the things of God. This would strengthen them to stand in the day of turmoil.

A believer who relies on passion and emotional love for Christ is liable to fall in the face of temptation or hardship.

Christ has the authority/ability to strengthen us for that day. We need to cultivate our faith so that we are prepared to be patient in trials.

James 1:2-4, **2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces [a]patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be [b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.