

# *Love Letters*

## Week 12: Colossians 1

### **Fast facts ~**

- Paul writes from a prison cell around the year AD 60.
- The theme of the letter is the supremacy & preeminence of Christ.
- The city was located approximately 100 miles east of Ephesus in Asia Minor. At one time it was a city thriving with commerce, but by the time of Paul's writing its importance was on the decline.
- Paul's purpose in writing was to encourage believers who were growing spiritually being confronted with teaching that undermined the supremacy of Christ.
- He wanted everyone to know that the answer to all false teaching is the mystery of "Christ in you, the hope of glory". (1:27)

### **The Supremacy of Christ ~**

#### **Read Colossians 1**

1. What close companion of Paul's is acknowledged? How does Paul identify his audience & with what form of familiar greeting?(vs 1–2)?

2. Notice in vs 4–8, Paul forms his prayer for these believers based on their need as a body. What does he acknowledge about them?

a. Vs 3:

b. Vs 4:

c. Vs 5:

d. What does Paul recognize as the source of the fruit evident in the believers' lives? (vs 5–6)

3. What does Paul note in particular about Epaphras in vs 7?

### **What Christ Has Made Possible for Me ~**

#### **Reread Colossians 1:9–14**

1. For what does Paul pray in the following?

a. Vs 9:

b. Vs 10:

c. Vs 11:

2. What has the Lord done for us that merits our thanks & praise?

a. Vs 12:

b. Vs 13:

c. Vs 14 :

### **The Truth About Jesus ~**

#### **Reread Colossians 1:15–23**

##### **Who is Jesus?**

1. He is the visible expression of the invisible God (vs 15). Did you know that all you desire or need to know of God you see in the Son who is His exact reflection? John 14:9; Hebrews 1:3

2. He is the firstborn over all creation (vs 15). Think about why it would be necessary for you to focus on the deity of Christ so as not to fall prey to false teaching. Psalm 89:24–27; Revelation 1:17b
  
3. He is the Creator of all things (vs 16). Recognize that He created you for His own pleasure. Think about some of the ways you delight His heart. John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2
  
4. He holds all things together (vs 17). Whatever you need mended—brought back into place—He can provide cohesion to His creation where chaos now exists. Acts 17:28a
  
5. He is the head of the church (vs 18). Think about the place you occupy in the body of Christ. Where has He put you to use your gifts? Ephesians 2:21–22
  
6. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (vs 18). Have you made Him first in every area of your life: marriage, family, profession, friends, free time? Romans 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:20–23
  
7. He is the fullness of God (vs 19). His nature is your nature; His character is your character; His power is your power. What does this say about your potential? Colossians 2:9–10
  
8. He is the reconciler (vs 20). His death provided the way for you to be put into a right relationship with God. What kind of difference has this made in your life? Romans 5:10–11; 2 Corinthians 5:18–19

## **Service for Christ ~**

### **Reread Colossians 1:24–29**

1. Jesus wasn't around anymore to persecute, but His followers were & that meant enduring the same suffering & rejection. What did Jesus promise about this in John 15:18–21?
  
2. How does Paul speak about the message he was given to share (vs 26)? To whom has it now been revealed? Do you realize this includes you?
  - a. What is this message (vs 27)? (Look back at Ephesians 3:1–6.)
  
3. Bottom line: Who is this message about? Look at vs 28–29 in different translations. In your own words, describe the kind of effort it takes to do the work of the ministry.
  - a. What is the end goal of ministry's labor & object of suffering for the Lord?
  
  - b. Who is at work in us that makes it possible?

## **In Touch with Jesus ~**

1. **LISTEN:** In what way did the Lord Jesus meet you in His Word this week? Be specific.
  
2. **LEARN:** How can you apply this understanding to your daily Christian walk?
  
3. **LIVE:** What step of obedience will you purpose to take in your walk of faith this week?