

The General Electric Power Company Series

Galatians | Ephesians | Philipians | **Colossians**

Lesson #17 – Colossians 1

Main Idea

Colossians is an epistle (letter) written to the church at Colossae, Paul encouraged his readers to avoid teaching contrary to Scripture and also warned against creating unnecessary regulations that conflict *Salvation by Grace*. In the last two chapters of this book, he petitions for prayer and exhorts the Colossians to pursue Christ-like living. Two of the major concepts contained within Colossians 1 are: (1) Christ's role in Creation, and (2) God's specific and unique revelation to the Church. All other religions, including Judaism, have a limited perspective on world origin, man's purpose, and God's plans for the future. As Believers, we have so much power through the blood of Christ and revealed Word of God, but it's easy to grow weary and are not running the race to which we have been called. As Paul stated in verse 29 of Colossians 1, *To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me. **May you and I not grow weary of doing God's work and continue to pursue Him though faith compelled by prayer, Bible study, fellowship, evangelism, and sacrificial living.***



Overview of Chapter 1

1:1 - 2	Salutations
1:3 – 14	Thanksgiving for work done at Colossae
1:15 - 20	Christ's Incarnation and His role in Creation
1:21 - 23	A new status for the Believer
1:24 - 28	God's revealed mysteries to the Church

Questions for Consideration

1. What Spiritual Gift does Paul exhibit toward the Colossians in verses 3 through 8? How important is the execution of this gift in the church?
2. Can you think of a time when you were either encouraged or discouraged by another Believer? Describe your feelings and the impact the experience had on you.
3. Paul makes a statement in verse 9 about God filling the Colossians the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. What is meant by this statement and what impact does it have on your life as a Christian?
4. How serious is it when we fail to live a life worthy of the Lord (verse 10) and why should we place a high value on our status as Believers? Make a list of the things that we do that place a low value of worth on our Christian life.
5. Colossians 1:11-23 holds some of the deepest teachings on Christ anywhere in the Bible. What major concepts do you find specifically in verses 15-20?
6. What do you think Paul is discussing in Colossians 1:24-29 when he speaks of God's revelation of the hidden mystery? (hint: consider God's changing relationship with Adam, Abraham, Moses, the prophets, the Apostles, and Believers today).

Homework: Read Colossians 2. How does our being a Believer allow us to experience freedoms that are not available to those having no relationship with God through Jesus Christ?



Colossians 1 (New International Version, 1984)

Imitating Christ's Humility

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the holy and faithful^[a] brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.^[b]

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our^[c] behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[d] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption,^[e] the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[f] your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Labor for the Church

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸ We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Footnotes:

- a. [Colossians 1:2](#) Or *believing*
- b. [Colossians 1:2](#) Some manuscripts *Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*
- c. [Colossians 1:7](#) Some manuscripts *your*
- d. [Colossians 1:12](#) Some manuscripts *us*
- e. [Colossians 1:14](#) A few late manuscripts *redemption through his blood*
- f. [Colossians 1:21](#) Or *minds, as shown by*

