



In Him in You (Colossians 1:1-8)

PART I (Bringing Forth Fruit)

Introduction to Colossians

Paul was in Rome awaiting his upcoming trial before Caesar. As a Roman citizen, he had appealed to Caesar, to have his case heard in Rome, because of the onslaught of false accusations and the increasing demand he be executed because of them (Acts 25:11-12).

Paul had not personally visited Colossae in his capacity as a minister of the Gospel, but they knew his position (as an Apostle). Paul did know Epaphras from Ephesus who we see mentioned here in the first Chapter. Epaphras was originally from Colossae, which was about 100 miles east of Ephesus. Paul commissioned him to bring the good news to Colossae, as well as Laodicea and Hierapolis. As always, Paul writes to teach, correct, direct, and commission, once again to a city mostly consisting of Gentile converts.

It was not uncommon for bad doctrine to creep in to affect those who came out of paganism into Christianity, because it is men's propensity to seek followers for themselves, and much like in Galatia there was some legalism present. The letter to the Colossians, in part, serves to correct those wrong doctrines, although not in the way most traditional scholars present it—mostly because legalism is poorly understood. Legalism is not correctly defined by belief in the great importance of God's laws as found in the Torah, for Christians. It should be more accurately understood as the granting of the same weight of authority to traditions of men as to the Laws of God (the Torah), and then demanding those traditions be adhered to in order to be in right standing with God. Requiring anything other than grace through faith as a means of redemption is legalism (Ephesians 2:4-10).

As expected, Paul, the Torah scholar who spent 14 years (Galatians 2:1) sorting out how the Spirit and the Law work together and compliment each another, does a masterful job setting the record straight.

Faith Love Hope Truth Fruit Grace

“Paul, **an apostle** of Jesus Christ **by the will of God**, and Timothy our brother, **To the saints** and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your **faith in Christ** Jesus and of your **love for all the saints; 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**, which has come to you, **as it has also in all the world**, and is **bringing forth fruit**, as it is also among you since the day you heard and **knew the grace of God in truth**; as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.” Colossians 1:1-8 NKJV

Colossians 1:1-8

☑ *“Paul, an **apostle** of Jesus Christ by **the will of God**, and Timothy our brother, To **the saints** and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Colossians 1:1-2 NKJV*

☑ An Apostle

☑ What is an Apostle?

☑ There are two offices, along with Christ, that make up the foundation of the church: the apostle and prophet.

☑ *“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built*

*on **the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.***"

Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

- ☑ The household of God has prophets and apostles as stones in the foundation with Christ as the chief cornerstone.
- ☑ The Building that is built on that foundation is the church, the Temple of God.
- ☑ As you can see there are three offices and that should clue you in to something—as each human, an individual temple of the Holy Spirit is built on “three offices” (the Spirit, Soul and Body)—as is proper governance (King, Priest, Prophet & Executive, Legislative, Judicial).
- ☑ *“Do you not know that **you are the temple of God and that the Spirit** of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, **which temple you are.**”* 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 NKJV

☑ *“Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* 1
Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV




☑ Offices

☑ **The Prophet:** corrects and directs based on the pure truth of Yahweh. He moves God’s people, en masse, in the direction of God’s plan for mankind—so they are all going in the same direction. The corrections come when some want to split off and go their own way. The inactivity of this office in the Church today has given rise to over 40,000 Christian denominations (all going their own way). This not to be confused with the gift of prophecy which is a pastoral gift. The pastoral ministries are those that minister to personal everyday needs. Giving someone a personal prophecy (if you are gifted to do such) is wonderful, but such does not make one a prophet.

☑ **The Apostle:** acts as a type of super-pastor, or overseer of all pastoral ministries. *“And He Himself gave some to be **apostles**, some **prophets**, some **evangelists**, and*

*some **pastors** and **teachers**, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,”* (Ephesians 4:11-12) All but the prophet here are concerned with ministry of everyday life. The apostle is unique in that he has a pastoral gifting as a leader who also plants others in pastoral ministries—many times laying down tracks where none previously existed. And what is most unique is that the apostle can appreciate and fully integrate the prophetic (the message of the prophet and prophetic patterns) into pastoral ministry. In other words, he is neither threatened, offended by, nor dismissive of the prophetic ministry.

The will of God

-  There are two things that generally define the will of God: Knowing the Word of God and hearing the voice of God. You can know His will with either on their own, or both working together.
-  **One stipulation:** His voice will NEVER contradict His Word. If it does, then reconsider that you are NOT hearing His voice.
-  **Another stipulation:** when you know both His Word and His voice, it can be said that you know **the heart of God**.

It is possible for His Word to contradict itself at any given moment. Now, before you leap to offense by such a bold statement, hear this:

- ☑ Life is complex and circumstances can arise in which one law of God comes into conflict with another in a given moment.
- ☑ For instance, if you were hiding Jews from the Nazis and you lied to keep them concealed, you would NOT be guilty of lying because LIFE in that moment takes precedence over LYING.
- ☑ Biblical Example: Rahab lied to preserve life!
- ☑ *“Then the woman took the two men and **hid them**. So she said, “Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, **that the men went out [Lie!]. Where the men went I do not know [Lie!];** pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them.” (But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof.) **[Confirmation she lied!]**” Joshua 2:4-6 NKJV*
- ☑ **Saints**
- ☑ Let’s not take this lightly. You are either a sinner or a saint, but not both. When you became a child of God,

and were filled by the Holy Spirit, your identity shifted.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” (II Corinthians 5:17)*

☑ To only two churches, Thessalonica and Galatia, did he NOT address them as saints.

☑ You are no longer sinners but saints. We will not do it here, but if you search you will find that the Bible never refers to Christians as sinners. They are called many things in the Scriptures, but sinner is not one of them!

☑ *“We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we **heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and of **your love** for all the saints;” Colossians 1:3-4 NKJV*

☑ **Faith**

☑ “For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” Ephesians 2:8 NKJV

☑ This is how EVERYONE receives forgiveness and redemption. God’s power (grace) touches you and gives you the faith to believe!

- ☑ “Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ,
To those who have **obtained like precious faith** with us
by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge
of God and of Jesus our Lord,” II Peter 1:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ Every Christian accessed the same free gift of faith to
become a Christian. And access to the grace that gave
you the faith continues AFTER your born-again moment.
- ☑ “Therefore, having been **justified by faith**, we have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom
**also we have access by faith into this grace in which we
stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans
5:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ We have complete confidence and surety of our eternal
position with God because of the gift of Christ, AND
ALSO we have ongoing access to the grace that gave us
faith so we can use the power of God to live Godly
lives. “as ***His divine power*** has given to us ***all things
that pertain to life and godliness***, through the
knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,”
(II Peter 1:3)
- ☑ Faith allows us to see what does not yet exist!
“Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to

*grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, ...in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead **and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;***” Romans 4:16-17 NKJV

☑ “Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1 NKJV

☑ “But **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6 NKJV

☑ Love

☑ God is love:

☑ “Beloved, let us love one another, for **love is of God;** and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, **for God is love.**” 1 John 4:7-8 NKJV

☑ God is love AND... **he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him!**

☑ “And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness

in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment.** But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. **We love Him because He first loved us.** If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; **for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?** And this commandment we have from Him: **that he who loves God must love his brother** also.” I John 4:16-21 NKJV

- ☑ Love is perfected like this:
 - ☑ No fear: perfect love casts out fear
 - ☑ Recognize: We love Him because He first loved us.
 - ☑ You don't love God if you don't love people!
 - ☑ If you love God you must love People!
- ☑ Love is: God is...
 - ☑ “Love **suffers long** and is **kind**; love **does not envy**; love **does not parade itself**, is **not puffed up**; does **not behave rudely**, does **not seek its own**, is **not provoked**, **thinks no evil**; **does not rejoice in iniquity**, but **rejoices in the truth**; **bears all things**, **believes all things**, **hopes all things**, **endures all things**. Love **never fails**... {13}

And now abide **faith, hope, love**, these three; but **the greatest of these is love.**" I Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 NKJV

☑ *"Love is the standard by which every thought and action is measured. It is manifested altogether and simultaneously as patience, kindness, admiration, trust, modesty, humility, and meekness. It is gracious, polite, altruistic, peaceful, soothing, virtuous, joyful, righteous, and truthful. It displays fierce loyalty; believes, hopes, and endures all things; and always succeeds and thrives, no matter what. It will never fail you!" DJH*

☑ If you love God...

☑ If you love Me, **keep My commandments.**" John 14:15
NKJV

☑ Love equals obedience!

☑ ***"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**, which has come to you, **as it has also in all the world**, and is **bringing forth fruit**, as it is also among you since the day you heard and **knew the grace of God in truth;**" Colossians 1:5-6
NKJV*

☑ **Hope**

- ☑ Grace—Faith—Grace—HOPE
- ☑ “Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace** in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and **character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint**, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:1-5 NKJV

- ☑ We have already seen that it is by grace we have faith to be justified, and then that we have continued access to that grace so we can live an overcoming life.
- ☑ Why? Because life brings guarantee trials. *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. **In the world you will have tribulation**; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) Your transformation literally require it! *“**We must** through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”* (Acts 14:22)
- ☑ Those tribulations serve an invaluable purpose... tribulation produces perseverance; perseverance,

character; and character, hope. And hope will never disappoint you!

- ☑ And you should at all times be able to explain why you have such hope! *“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason **for the hope that is in you**, with meekness and fear;”* I Peter 3:15 NKJV

☑ Truth

- ☑ **“What is truth?” Truth equals reality!**

- ☑ “Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You **say rightly that I am a king**. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear **witness to the truth**. Everyone **who is of the truth** hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, **“What is truth?”** And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, “I find no fault in Him at all.” John 18:37-38 NKJV

- ☑ During His trial Pilate was receiving Y’shua’s testimony: I am a king; I came into this world to bring the truth; people who want the truth will hear My message; What is truth?

- ☑ His word is truth: *“Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”* John 17:17 NKJV

- ☑ He is truth: *“Jesus said to him, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* John 14:6 NKJV
- ☑ **Fruit**
- ☑ The Word in You!
 - ☑ “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, **that you bear much fruit;** so you will be My disciples.” John 15:7-8 NKJV
 - ☑ It is impossible to not bear fruit if Word lives in you!
- ☑ Christ in you!
 - ☑ “To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**” Colossians 1:27 NKJV
 - ☑ It is impossible to not bear fruit if Christ live in you!
- ☑ It will be unmistakeable!
 - ☑ **“You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?” Matthew 7:16 NKJV
 - ☑ Fruits are obvious. Trees either have fruit of they don’t!
- ☑ Judged and rewarded based on fruit!

- ☑ “I, the Lord, **search the heart**, I test the mind, even to **give every man according to his ways**, according to **the fruit of his doings**.” Jeremiah 17:10 NKJV
- ☑ Every man will get’s what is coming!
- ☑ **Grace**
- ☑ Grace is God’s Power!
- ☑ “as His **divine power** has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...” II Peter 1:3
- ☑ The exceeding greatness of His power toward us! The power that raised the dead!
- ☑ “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is **the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ **when He raised Him from the dead** and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV
- ☑ Grace empowered your initial faith!

- ☑ “For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,” Eph. 2:8
- ☑ You have continued access to this grace to live the life that God ordains for you!
- ☑ “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have **access by faith into this grace in which we stand**, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
- ☑ You have the authority to share His grace!
- ☑ “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, **that it may impart grace to the hearers.**” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

- ☑ *“as you also learned from **Epaphras** [see introduction], our dear fellow servant, who is **a faithful minister** of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.”*
Colossians 1:7-8 NKJV
- ☑ **A faithful Minister**
- ☑ What is that ministry?
- ☑ “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the **ministry of reconciliation**, that is, that God was in

Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has **committed to us the word of reconciliation**. Now then, we **are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us:** we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." II Corinthians 5:18-20 NKJV

- ☑ **The ministry of reconciliation:** Inserting the message of redemption into hearts ripened by God's grace!
- ☑ **The word of reconciliation:** you must be committed to knowing the word of God!
- ☑ **Ambassadors for Christ:** you are stand in for Christ as if you are Him in the same way a political ambassador represents the leader of his nation.
- ☑ Paul tells us a bit later that he too is this minister!
- ☑ "if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, **of which I, Paul, became a minister.**" Colossians 1:23 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

In Him in You—PART II (Colossians 1:9-18)

(The Image of the Invisible God)