

Thanksgiving and Prayer - Colossians 1:1-14

Topics

Church, Faith, Forgiveness, Fruit, God, Gospel, Grace, Heaven, Holy Spirit, Hope, Jesus Christ, Kingdom of God/Heaven, Knowledge, Love, Partnerships, Peace, Praise, Prayer, Sin, Strength, Thankfulness

Open It Questions

A. How many cards and letters do you usually receive at Christmas?

B. When was the last time you received a letter from a stranger?

C. When was the last time you received a letter that really cheered you up?

Explore It Questions

1. Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter? (1:1)

2. How did Paul refer to the church members in Colossae? (1:2)

3. Why did Paul offer prayers of thanksgiving for the Colossians? (1:3-4)

4. From what source did the believers' faith and love spring? (1:5)

5. What did Paul stress about the gospel? (1:5-6)

6. Who taught the gospel to the Colossians? (1:7)

7. How did Paul describe Epaphras? (1:7)

8. What did Epaphras tell Paul and Timothy about the Colossians?
(1:7-8)

9. What was Paul's primary prayer for these Christians? (1:9)

10. What results did Paul want for the Colossians? (1:10)

11. How could the church at Colosse have spiritual strength? (1:11-12)

12. How does God enable believers to share in His inheritance?
(1:12-14)

Get It Questions

18. What do you find appealing about the way Paul started his letter to the Colossians?

19. Why did Paul praise a group of Christians he had never met?

20. How are the results of faith, love, and hope evident in your life?

21. How is the gospel bearing fruit in your church?

22. What can we learn about praying for others from Paul's prayers for the Colossians?

23. If Paul were to write you a personal letter, what might he say to you?

Apply It Questions

24. What is one way you can improve your prayer this week?

25. What missionaries can you pray for on a regular basis over the next month?

26. To whom can you write an encouraging letter sometime during the next week?

Adult Questions for LESSONMaker.

**NEW HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN**

WELCOME TO BIBLE STUDY

Facilitators:

**Rev. Rodney Kemp
Rev. Valerie Crump
Rev. Jacqueline Albert
Minister-in-Training, Alicia Martin
Dean Donna Wilson**



PRAYER



SICK BEREAVED



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

TOPICS



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

TOPICS

Church

Faith

Forgiveness

Fruit

God

Gospel

Grace

Holy Spirit

Hope

Jesus Christ

Kingdom of

God/Heaven

Knowledge

Love

Partnerships

Peace

Praise

Prayer

Sin

Strength

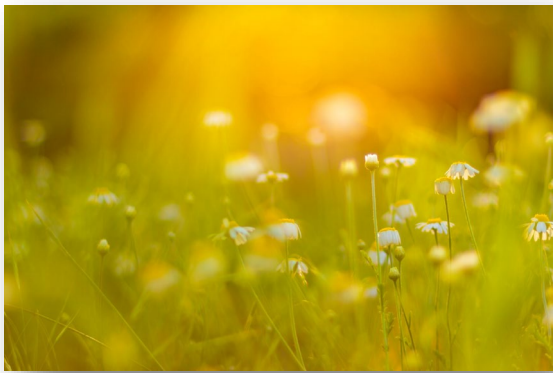
Thankfulness



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

OPEN IT QUESTIONS³



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

**OPEN IT
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Colossians 1:1-14

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INTRODUCTION



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

INTRODUCTION

Colossae had early been a stopover along the main road from the east on the way to Ephesus. However, under the Roman Empire, the preferred route was through Laodicea, so Colossae declined in importance although it was still a large and busy city. As a trading center it was a crossroads for ideas and religions.

New Testament Churches





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INTRODUCTION

Colossae had become the home of many Jews who had fled there when they were forced out of Jerusalem under the persecutions of Antiochus III and IV, almost two hundred years before Christ.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

INTRODUCTION

The church in Colossae had been founded by Epaphras (1:7), one of Paul's converts. Although Paul had not yet visited this church, he wanted to write this letter to refute heretical teachings about Christ that were confusing many of the Christians there.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

SCRIPTURE



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

SCRIPTURE

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
²To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

SCRIPTURE

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 God's people—

⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel

⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

SCRIPTURE

⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our 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. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

SCRIPTURE

¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people 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, the forgiveness of sins.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

**EXPLORE IT QUESTIONS
AND DISCUSSION**



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

1. Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter? (1:1)

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¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,...



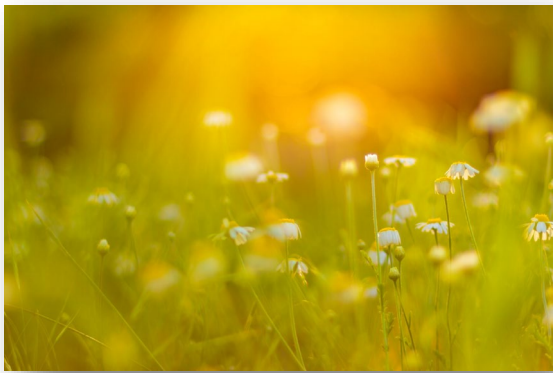
Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

2. How did Paul refer to the church members in Colossae?
(1:2)

**EXPLORE IT
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² To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.



Colossians 1:1-14

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3. Why did Paul offer prayers of thanksgiving for the Colossians? (1:3-4)

EXPLORE IT
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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 God's people—*



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4. From what source did the believers' faith and love spring? (1:5)

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⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ... (NIV)



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5. What did Paul stress about the gospel? (1:5-6)

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⁵ ...the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. (NIV)



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Thanksgiving and Prayer

6. Who taught the gospel to the Colossians? (1:7)

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⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ... (NIV)



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7. How did Paul describe Epaphras? (1:7)

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8. What did Epaphras tell Paul and Timothy about the Colossians? (1:7-8)

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9. What was Paul's primary prayer for these Christians? (1:9)

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*⁹ For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ...
(NIV)*



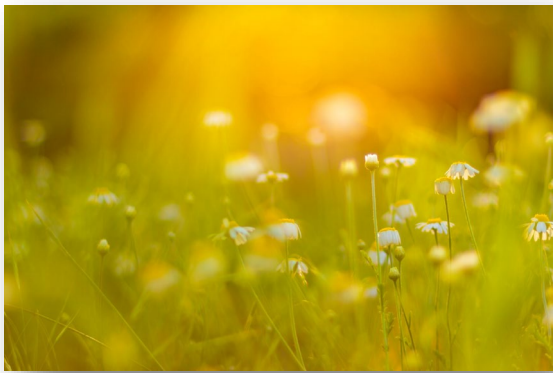
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10. What results did Paul want for the Colossians? (1:10)

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10 ...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ... (NIV)



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11. How could the church at Colossae have spiritual strength? (1:11-12)

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*¹¹ ...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father; who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. (NIV)*



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12. How does God enable believers to share in His inheritance? (1:12-14)

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¹² ...and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

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APPLY IT QUESTIONS



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