

**“your faith in Christ
Jesus”**

Colossians 1:1-14

“Grace and peace...”

Colossians 1:1-2

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

“Grace and peace...”

“Paul was an apostle “by the will of God.” Paul often would establish his credentials as chosen and sent by god because he had not been one of the original 12 disciples.”

NIV 1984 Life Application Study Bible

“your faith in Christ Jesus”

Colossians 1:3-8

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 stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard 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 it's truth. **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.

“your faith in Christ Jesus”

“Because of their love for one another, Christians can have an impact far that goes far beyond their neighborhoods and communities. Christian love comes from the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of it as an action and attitude, not just an emotion. Love is a by-product of out new life in Christ. Christians have no excuse for not loving, because Christian love is a decision to act in the best interest of others.”

“your faith in Christ Jesus”

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

“your faith in Christ Jesus”

“The church at Colossae was healthy in many respects. It had a living faith, an indiscriminate love for all Christians, and a solid hope of life eternal through the gospel. These virtues are solid ground for genuine thanksgiving.”

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

Colossians 1:9-14

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,

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

“In his prayer, Paul clarified the environment in which Christian knowledge is gained. Obviously, such knowledge must come from God since he alone clearly reveals his own mind. In this context, Paul stated that God takes the initiative to reveal himself (and his will). The human response is to trust him to do it.”

Richard Melick

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

“Knowledge of God’s mind comes from spiritual resources. Getting to know God is qualitatively different from other quests. The human responsibility is to place oneself in an environment conducive to spiritual growth where God can reveal his mind.”

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

“Biblical knowledge is not merely the possession of facts. Rather, knowledge and wisdom in the Bible are practical, having to do with Godly living. This is borne out in vs.10-12, where knowledge, wisdom, and understanding result in a life worthy of the Lord.”

NIV 2011 Study Bible

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, **12** and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you 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, the forgiveness
of sins.

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

God gives “benefits” through Christ:

- **Qualified to share in His inheritance**
- **Rescued us from Satan’s dominion**
- **Brought us into his eternal Kingdom**
- **He redeemed us**
- **He forgave all our sins**

“live a life worthy of the Lord...”

Ephesians 2:1-5

1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, **5** made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved.

Applications

- **We must know the Truth**
- **We must offer social support to one another**
- **We must live out the Christian life**
- **We must live life with thanksgiving and joy**
- **We must exercise Christian grace in proclaiming the Truth**
- **We must be a praying people**

Final Thoughts

“In summary, a personal knowledge of God’s will is accompanied by three characteristics. First, continued growth in the knowledge of God comes in the arena of service. Second, power is given to endure both difficult circumstances and people who seem to counter the work of God. Finally, joyful thanksgiving is offered to God the Father for what he has done in planning and effecting salvation.”

Final Thoughts

Ephesians 3:16-19

16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,

18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, **19** and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.