

# *Colossians*

## *Blessed Assurance*

### *"Christians Need the Local Church"*

**INTRO:** *Christians need other Christians. Paul illustrated this truth when he concluded his letter to the church at Colossae.*

- I. **Christians are members of Jesus' spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ expressed physically in local \_\_\_\_\_.** *The Universal Church is expressed locally in smaller "bodies."*
  
- II. **Christians may be tempted to live in \_\_\_\_\_ from the local \_\_\_\_\_.** *This may be due to hurt feelings or bad teaching or other reasons.*
  
- III. **Grow in your appreciation of the local expression of Jesus' spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ known as \_\_\_\_\_.** *Paul alludes to three reasons in his conclusion.*
  - A. **Psychologically:** We \_\_\_\_\_ one another. *This is based on a mutual understanding of God's sovereignty.*
  
  - B. **Theologically:** We \_\_\_\_\_ the "mystery" form of God's \_\_\_\_\_. *Jesus prophesied the new 'mystery' form of God's Kingdom in Matthew 13 and 16.*
  
  - C. **Practically:** We \_\_\_\_\_ in God's ordained environment. *The right environment produces growth, whether physical or spiritual.*