



A Study of Colossians

Chapter 1

The Apostle Paul was a great encourager, and this epistle is a good example of the grace of thanksgiving. In this section (which is one long sentence in the original Greek), he gives thanks for what Christ has done in the lives of the Colossian Christians. But he also mentions thanksgiving in five other places in this letter: Colossians 1:12; 2:7; 3:15, 17; and 4:2. When you recall that Paul wrote this letter *in prison*, his attitude of thanksgiving is even more wonderful.

Like Paul, we should be grateful for what God is doing in the lives of others. As Christians, we are all members of one body (1 Cor. 12:12–13). If one member of the body is strengthened, this helps to strengthen the entire body. If one church experiences a revival touch from God, it will help all the churches. In this expression of thanksgiving, Paul traced the stages in the spiritual experience of the Colossian believers.

Their Journey To and In Jesus (1:3-8)

1. They _____ the Gospel (1:5-7)
2. They put their _____ in Jesus (1:4)
3. They _____ from their teacher, Epaphras (1:7)
4. They became _____ Christians as they should (1:6, 8)

Paul's Prayer Request (1:9-14)

1. He prayed for _____ intelligence. (1:9)
2. He prayed for _____ obedience. (1:10)
3. He prayed that God would grant them _____, _____ and _____. (1:11-12)

The Power of Jesus (1:15-27)

1. He _____ us from the _____ of _____ 1:13-14
2. He is the _____ of things in _____ and _____ 1:15-17
3. He is the _____ of the _____ 1:18
4. He has the _____ of _____ dwelling in him. (1:19-20)
5. He _____ us and presented us _____ in his sight (1:21-22)
6. He presented through Paul the _____ of God and made the mystery known (1:24-27)