

**PRESS ON  
IN CONFIDENCE****A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS**

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**LESSON 17 COLOSSIANS 1:1-8**

1. How did last week's study of **Philippians 4:14-23** change how you reacted or interacted in some way?
  
  2. Pray and ask God to increase your heart's capacity for thankfulness prior to beginning this new letter from Paul. Then read **Colossians 1:1-8**.
  
  3. Compare the greetings in **Philippians 1:1-2** and **Colossians 1:1-2**. What are some of the differences in Paul's introduction of himself and Timothy and of the recipients of the two letters?
  
  4. a) Look up the word "apostle" in the dictionary. What do you think it means to be "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God"?
  
  - b) In a letter that will confront and correct some wrong beliefs circulating in this early church, why do you think Paul's credentials are critical?
  
  5. a) From **V3-4**, what was it about the church at Colossae that caused Paul and Timothy to be thankful?
  
  - b) What are some of the things you thank God for when you pray for others?
  
  6. It's possible that Paul had not personally met the Colossians. Does your prayer list include people you have never met personally? What motivates your prayers, and how is your attitude toward others influenced as you pray for them?
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7. Try to describe the “hope that is stored up in heaven” for those who have responded to the true message of the gospel referred to in **V5-6a** (use Scripture, if possible).
8. a) What had been the impact of the gospel according to **V6**? Where do you see the impact of the gospel today?
- b) Discover truths that are linked to Paul’s statement that “the gospel is bearing fruit and growing”:
- **John 12:23-24**
  
  - **John 15:7-8**
  
  - **1 Corinthians 3:5-7**
  
  - **1 Peter 1:23**
- c) The prophet Isaiah predicted all this about Jesus 700 years before His birth in **Isaiah 11:1** and **61:11**. What astounds you about that?
9. How would you explain what it means to “truly understand God’s grace” to an unbeliever (**V6b**)?
10. a) What was the role of Epaphras in the Colossian church? How was Paul’s affection for him reflected in **V7-8**?
- b) Share about the person from whom you first heard the gospel and their walk of faith as you witnessed it.

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11. What has been remarkable about your experience of giving or receiving “love in the Spirit”?
12. Paul opened his letter with words that would have helped the Colossians to press on in confidence.
- a) Recall a time when you received a text, email, card or phone call that helped you to press on in confidence. Give the details.
- b) Identify a person or ministry that is bearing fruit for the kingdom or showing love in the Spirit. If you were writing a letter to encourage them, how would you finish this sentence: “I always thank God for you when I pray for you, because...” (perhaps make this the start of an actual letter you will send to help them press on in confidence).
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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. A Christian's life should be marked by thanksgiving as was demonstrated by Paul in his letters.
- a) In what situations or for whom do you find thanksgiving in these verses:
- **2 Chronicles 20:20-22**
  - **1 Thessalonians 5:18**
  - **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
- b) What circumstances can trigger your grumbling rather than your gratitude? Write a truth from these verses that you can tell yourself when you are tempted to grumble.
2. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verses: **Colossians 1:3-4**
- b) Offer up a prayer of thanksgiving.

**NAME**

**PRAYER REQUEST**