

Study Notes For Colossians (Chapter One)

At Colosse (**1:2**)... Not much is known about Colosse. It was a town near enough to Laodicea to share epistles (**Colossians 4:16**). That would tie in some of what we can know from **Revelation 2:1-3:22**. It would be very possible this congregation would have started in the time period of **Acts 19:1-22**.

There is some connection, seemingly even the same congregation, with Philemon and Colosse. For they are connected through Archippus and Onesimus (**Philemon 1:2; 10** and **Colossians 4:9; 17**).

I have wondered if **II Timothy 1:15** could have been concerning these brethren.

Colossians 1:1 –

- Paul was an Apostle by the will of God, literally speaking, not appointed by men (**Acts 9:1-20, I Corinthians 1:1, II Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:11-16, Ephesians 1:1, and II Timothy 1:1**).
- Timotheus joined with Paul in the penning of this letter like he was with several other epistles (**Philippians 1:1, I Thessalonians 1:1, and II Thessalonians 1:1**).
- Paul and Timotheus had an unmistakably close relationship and worked together for the cause of Christ whether together in the flesh or not (**Acts 16:1-5, Acts 17:15, Acts 20:4, Romans 16:21, I Corinthians 4:17, I Corinthians 16:8-11, II Corinthians 1:19, Philippians 2:19-24, I Thessalonians 3:1-6, I Timothy 1:2; 18, and II Timothy 1:2**).
- Consider the difference between a “true-yokefellow” (**Philippians 4:3**) and those “brethren” who would leave you alone (**II Timothy 4:9-16**).

Colossians 1:2 –

- Saints (**Psalms 16:3, Psalms 37:28, Psalms 97:10, Psalms 116:15, Psalms 149:1, I Corinthians 1:2, Ephesians 2:19-21, Colossians 1:9-14, and Hebrews 6:10**).
- Faithful brethren (**Matthew 12:46-50, Matthew 24:45-46, Luke 12:42-43, Luke 16:1-13, I Corinthians 4:17, Titus 2:2-14, and Revelation 2:10**).
- In Christ (**Romans 6:3-6, II Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 3:26-29, Ephesians 2:1-10, Philippians 4:21, I Thessalonians 4:16, II Timothy 3:12, and I Peter 3:16**).
- Grace (**Romans 3:24, Romans 5:15, I Corinthians 1:3-4, Ephesians 2:4-7, II Thessalonians 2:16, Hebrews 2:8-9, and I Peter 5:10**) and peace (**Acts 10:36, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7, and Titus 1:4**) from the Father and Son (**John 5:19**).

Colossians 1:3 –

- It is interesting to note the phrase “God and the Father” (**Ephesians 5:20**, **Colossians 3:17**, and **James 1:27**).
- There is also the phrase “God and Father” (**II Corinthians 11:31**, **Ephesians 1:3**, **Ephesians 4:6**, and **I Peter 1:3**).
 - It is good for us to take a pause and think about the relationship between ourselves and God the [our] Father and what that means for us (i.e. **Psalms 103:13**, **Luke 11:1-13** [*The context here (Luke 11:1-13) bears many qualifiers. The fact that the kingdom has come (Colossians 1:12-13) should show us all the context had a temporary nature. For one, the disciples were the ones addressed and they were given things that have no application today (i.e. John 16:13-17), authority no one else had/has (Acts 2:42 and Ephesians 2:20). There are other qualifiers regarding asking/receiving (James 4:3 and I John 5:14-15), the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:12-24; 19:1-7), etc. to consider as well. The point is, like most other Scriptures, there is a context that does not directly apply today so we have to be careful how we handle this context (II Timothy 2:14-18 and II Peter 3:15-18. I am only using the general principle of God as a Father who does not provide harmful things to His children]*), and **Hebrews 12:5-11**).
- Thanks to God the Father (**Psalms 69:30**, **Psalms 95:2**, **Acts 5:40-41**, **Ephesians 5:20**, **Philippians 4:6**, **Colossians 1:12**, **Colossians 2:7**, **Colossians 3:17**, **I Thessalonians 5:18**, **I Timothy 4:1-5**, and **Hebrews 13:15**).
- Praying for brethren always (**I Corinthians 1:4**, **I Thessalonians 1:2-3**, **I Thessalonians 3:9**, and **II Thessalonians 1:3**).

Colossians 1:4 –

- Their motivation in giving thanks for these brethren was what they had heard about their faith in Christ (**Ephesians 1:15-16** and **III John 1:3-4**).
- Additionally they gave thanks for these brethren because they had heard about their love toward other saints (**Philemon 1:4-5**).

Colossians 1:5 –

- The hope laid up in Heaven (**Romans 8:24-25**, **I Thessalonians 4:13-5:8**, **Titus 3:7**, and **I Peter 1:3-9**).
- The hope revealed through the Gospel (**Romans 15:4**, **Colossians 1:23**, and **Titus 1:2-3**).
- Hope is more than just in Christ, but of an eternal future (**I Corinthians 15:19-23**).
- The word, the truth, the Gospel are all one in the same (**Ephesians 1:13**).
 - The word is truth (**John 17:17**, **I Thessalonians 2:13**, and **II Timothy 2:15**).
 - The Gospel is truth (**Galatians 2:5** and **Galatians 2:14**).

Colossians 1:6 –

- The Gospel had come to them and the whole world at this point in time (**Romans 16:25-26**, **Colossians 1:23**, and **I Thessalonians 1:7-8**).

- Jesus promised, before the fall of Jerusalem, that the Gospel was going to be preached to the whole world (**Matthew 24:14**). *This is in the context of the prophesy of the fall of Jerusalem that occurred in AD 70 (**Matthew 23:34-24:34**).
- Even the faith of a congregation spread throughout the world (**Romans 1:8**).
- Remember, the Apostles of the Lord were instructed to carry the Gospel to all nations (**Matthew 28:16-20**, **Mark 16:14-20**, and **Luke 24:44-53**) with direct help from the Holy Spirit (**John 16:3-15**).
- Evangelists were/are different in how the work is done. Apostles, as stated above, were moved by the Spirit to initially reveal the Gospel. Evangelists preach what the Apostles revealed (**I Corinthians 4:17** and **II Timothy 2:2**).
- The Gospel brought/brings forth fruit IF A PERSON ALLOWS IT TO (**James 1:18-27**, **II Timothy 3:15-17**, **I Peter 1:22-25**; cf. **Psalms 19:7-8**).
- Knowing the grace of God in truth (**II Corinthians 8:9**, **Ephesians 2:1-19**, **Titus 2:11-14**, and **II Peter 3:18**).

Colossians 1:7 –

- Epaphras (**Colossians 4:12** and **Philemon 1:23**) was the one they had learned of [been taught by] in Colosse (similar structure of Greek wording in **I Corinthians 4:6** and **Philippians 4:9**).
- Considering what is a dear fellow-servant (**Colossians 4:7** and **Revelation 22:8-9**; cf. **I Corinthians 9:19**, **Titus 1:1**, **James 1:1**, and **II Peter 1:1**).
- A minister (**Ephesians 6:21**, **Colossians 1:23-25**, and **I Thessalonians 3:2**) is a statement describing what one is doing and is not always about being a teacher (**Romans 15:25-27**).
- Being a faithful minister of the Gospel of Christ is the specific of what Epaphras was doing. Think about SOME things written to those whom, aside from the Apostles, were instructed about being teachers of the word of God (**I Timothy 1:3-7**, **I Timothy 1:18-20**, **I Timothy 3:15**, **I Timothy 4:6-16**, **I Timothy 5:20-21**, **I Timothy 6:1-12**, **II Timothy 1:13**, **II Timothy 2:1-7**, **II Timothy 2:14-18**, **II Timothy 2:22-26**, **II Timothy 3:14-4:5**, **Titus 1:5-13**, **Titus 2:1**, **Titus 2:7-8**, **Titus 2:15**, **Titus 3:1-2**, and **Titus 3:8-11**). Also consider **Romans 2:1-29** and **James 3:1**.

Colossians 1:8 –

- Epaphras had reported to Paul about the love the brethren in Colosse had (**Ephesians 1:15-16**, **Colossians 1:4**, and **Philemon 1:4-5**).
- Reporting about brethren to other faithful brethren is a good work (**Philippians 3:17** and **III John 1:12**).
- Love in the Spirit (**Romans 15:30** and **Galatians 5:22-23**) here in this context is about the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit in them. “In the Spirit” for them, was not a figure of speech (**Romans 5:5** and **Galatians 3:1-5**).

Colossians 1:9 – (Consider all the notes on verses 9-11 here together).

- In this verse we must understand that invocation of miraculous spiritual gifts is the underlying subject matter (cf. **Ephesians 1:13-17**).
- In the first century, a person obeyed the Gospel and an Apostle would at some point give that person the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:12-24**). That person would then have certain spiritual gifts granted by the Holy Spirit (**Acts 19:1-7**).
- Knowledge and wisdom were among those spiritual gifts given through the Holy Spirit (**I Corinthians 12:1-11**; cf. **Exodus 31:1-3**). All such gifts have ceased (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**).
- Thus, when reading verses such as these, we must understand that they prayed for these things because God directly granted them (i.e. **James 1:5**).
- God's word has always been a source of knowledge (**Psalms 119:97-105**). It is our only source of knowledge directly from God.
 - Knowledge is necessary for salvation (**Luke 1:77**, **John 8:32**, and **II Peter 2:20**).
 - We are to grow in knowledge (**II Peter 3:18**). *We will see this in the next verse (**Colossians 1:10**).
 - Ignorance is not bliss (**Acts 17:30** and **Ephesians 4:17-19**).
 - Ever learning is not necessarily an indicator of knowledge (**II Timothy 3:7**).
 - We have to be careful with knowledge, for such can puff a person if they allow it (**I Corinthians 8:1**).
- God's word is our source of wisdom (**I Corinthians 2:1-16**).
 - We are expected to be wise (**Ephesians 5:15-17**).
 - The definition of wisdom [ex. [Strong's # G4678](#)] can be broad and include wisdom that is of this world. So, be careful there [(i.e. **Luke 16:8**; even the context reveals the point of caution (**Luke 16:1-15**)]. The definition of a word does not mean that is the application God wants us to make with that word or His point. Worldly wisdom isn't good (**I Corinthians 1:18-31**; **3:18-20**).
 - Wisdom takes a great deal of work on our part (**Proverbs 4:5-7** and **Proverbs 16:16**).
 - A wise individual wants to learn (**Proverbs 1:5**, **Proverbs 9:9**, and **Proverbs 16:23**).
 - Experience does not always equal wisdom (**Job 32:1-9**; cf. **Matthew 11:20-30**).
 - Yet, proper observation of things does (**Psalms 107:31-43**; cf. **I Corinthians 10:1-12**).
 - Now, think on these references: **Deuteronomy 5:29**, **Deuteronomy 32:18-29**, and **Proverbs 14:6**.
- Since God's word is now fully revealed, we get an spiritual understanding [a mental putting together; Strong's #4907] through studying God's word (**Psalms 119:130** and **Ephesians 3:1-4**).
 - If we do not understand the truth, we cannot be saved (**Matthew 13:19**).
 - We are expected to understand (**Psalms 32:9**).
 - An understanding shows through proper action (**Psalms 111:10**; **119:104**; **128**).

- The right understanding is not our own understanding (**Proverbs 3:5-7**).
- Proper teaching helps people understand (**Nehemiah 8:8** and **Acts 8:26-39**).
- If a person does not properly put a lesson together, that person is “without understanding” (**Mark 7:1-23**).
- Wisdom, knowledge, and understanding are inseparable (**Proverbs 2:1-7** and **Proverbs 9:10**).
- Consider the difference in spiritual and carnal understanding when thinking through this verse as well (**I Corinthians 2:14-3:3**).

Colossians 1:10 – (Consider all the notes on verses 9-11 here together).

- Walking... (**Ephesians 4:1**, **I John 1:7**, and **I John 2:3-6**).
- From the previous verse, we tie in that knowledge, wisdom, and understanding cause well-pleasing behavior toward God (**Proverbs 2:10-20**). Without such, people err (**Jeremiah 4:22**; **5:21**).
- Pleasing God in all things (**Colossians 3:16-25**, **I Thessalonians 4:1-2**, **I Thessalonians 5:21**, and **Hebrews 11:6**).
- Fruitful (**Matthew 13:23**, **John 15:1-5**, **Galatians 5:22-23**, **Ephesians 5:9**, and **Philippians 1:9-11**) in **EVERY GOOD WORK** (**II Timothy 3:14-17**, **Titus 2:1-14**, **Titus 3:8**, **Titus 3:14**, **Hebrews 10:24**, and **I Peter 2:12**).
- Without proper knowledge people often zealously do so-called “religious works” that really are sinful things (**John 16:1-3** and **Romans 10:1-3**; cf. **Matthew 7:21-23**).
- Increasing in proper knowledge (**Proverbs 23:12**, **Ecclesiastes 7:12**, **II Peter 1:1-10**, and **II Peter 3:15-18**), which will be reflected by what we do (**James 3:13-18**).
- Again; some can work at it, learn, but never have proper knowledge (**II Timothy 3:6-7**).

Colossians 1:11 – (Consider all the notes on verses 9-11 here together).

- When Paul wrote that they were “Strengthened with all might”, for them and the sensible conclusion from the context, such was through the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 3:16**; cf. **Micah 3:8**, **Acts 4:1-14**, and **Acts 7:51-58**).
- Likewise, for them, “according to His glorious power” is in connection with the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:19**, **I Corinthians 2:4-5**, and **II Timothy 1:7**).
- Unto all patience [endurance; Strong’s # 5281] (**Luke 8:15**, **I Thessalonians 1:3**, and **I Timothy 6:11-12**).
- Unto all longsuffering (**Ephesians 4:1-2** and **Colossians 3:12**).
- Unto all joyfulness (**Acts 20:22-24**, **Hebrews 12:1-2**, **James 1:2-3**, **I Peter 1:3-9**, and **I John 1:4**).
- For the sake of clarity, things such as joy for them in the first century tied to the Spirit as much as other things did (**I Thessalonians 1:6**).
- Now that we have the completed word, the work of the Spirit is accomplished (**John 14:25-26**, **John 16:12-13**, and **I Corinthians 2:9-14**). Thus, through the written word, we receive the lessons they received (**John 6:63** and **Ephesians 6:17**).

Colossians 1:13 –

- God delivered us, through Christ (**Romans 11:26**), from the power [authority/ domain] of darkness (**Acts 26:18-20**, **II Corinthians 1:7-10**, **Ephesians 5:1-8**, and **I Thessalonians 1:9-10**).
- In considering the phrase “power of darkness”, think about what darkness brings and who was the authority over such (**Hebrews 2:9-18**).
- God translated us into the kingdom (**I Thessalonians 2:12**). Meaning, He has removed us from citizenship in the world of sin and has made us citizens of Heaven (**Philippians 3:20-21**, **Hebrews 12:22-23**, and **Hebrews 12:28**).
 - For the sake of discussion, consider how being a citizen of Heaven should help you not be so set on this world (**Matthew 6:19-21**, **Romans 12:1-2**, and **I John 2:15-17**).
- The kingdom of Christ (**Acts 8:12** and **Revelation 1:9**).

Colossians 1:14 –

- We have redemption [the act of a ransom paid in full] through the blood of Christ (**Matthew 20:28**, **Romans 3:24-25**, **I Corinthians 1:30**, **I Corinthians 6:20**, **Ephesians 1:5-7**, **I Timothy 2:5-6**, **Titus 2:11-14**, **Hebrews 9:11-10:18**, and **I Peter 1:18-20**).
- The forgiveness [remission] of sins (**Matthew 26:28**, **Luke 24:44-47**, **Acts 2:35-41**, **Acts 5:31**, and **Acts 13:26-39**).

Colossians 1:15 –

- Christ is [third person, singular, present, indicative], NOW that He is back in Heaven, the image [a likeness, i.e. (literally) statue, profile, or (figuratively) representation, resemblance: — image; Strong’s #1504] (**II Corinthians 4:3-4**) of the invisible God (**John 4:23-24**). The point is that Jesus is NOT the fleshly man some of them may have known while He was on earth. Consider; **I John 5:7**
 - “Image” is terminology that is broad (**Mark 12:15-16**, **Romans 1:23** [cf. **Deuteronomy 4:15-24**], and **I Corinthians 15:42-49**).
 - As not to read too much into the language of this verse, consider that such [image of God] is said of Christians too (**I Corinthians 11:7** and **Colossians 3:1-10**).
 - Man was created in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26-27** and **James 3:9**).
 - Being in the image of God can even be about proper behavior (**Colossians 3:1-10**).
- Not to downplay who Jesus was in the flesh, He was deity in the flesh (**Romans 9:1-5** and **I Timothy 3:16**).
- The firstborn of every creature is about Jesus being the first resurrected as the faithful will be in the end (**I Corinthians 15:20-24**, **Colossians 1:18**, and **Revelation 1:5**).

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Colossians 1:16 –

- By Him all things created (**Psalms 33:6-9, Psalms 148:1-14, John 1:1-5; 10, I Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 3:9**, and **Hebrews 1:1-3**).
 - o Things created in Heaven (**Nehemiah 9:6**; cf. **Genesis 32:1-2**).
 - o Seen (**Psalms 8:3-9**) and unseen (**Genesis 2:7**).
 - o Thrones (**Luke 1:32**).
 - o Dominions [government; **II Peter 2:10**] (**Romans 13:1-7**).
 - o Principalities [very broad; that by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause; cornerstones] (**Mark 10:6, John 2:11, John 8:44, Philippians 4:15, Titus 3:1**, etc.).
 - o Powers [authorities] (**Colossians 2:10**).
- For Him, that is to serve and submit to Him, all things exist (**Matthew 28:18, Romans 11:33-36, Ephesians 1:19-21, I Peter 3:21-22**, and **Revelation 4:11**).

Colossians 1:17 –

- He is before all things (**Isaiah 9:6-7, Micah 5:2** [cf. **Matthew 2:1-6**], **John 8:53-58, John 17:5**, and **Revelation 1:10-18**).
- Again, by Him all things exist (see notes: **Colossians 1:16**).

Colossians 1:18 –

- The body is the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23** and **Colossians 1:24**).
- He is the head of the body/church (**Ephesians 4:15-16, Ephesians 5:23**, and **Hebrews 3:1-6**). He is our head (**I Corinthians 12:27**) as we are the body/ church/assembly/congregation, etc. of Christ.
- Jesus is the beginning (**John 1:1-3** and **Revelation 1:8-18**). When you dive into that word (Strong’s #746) it is marvelous to consider how Christ is literally the cornerstone of all things. The context bears this out as well.
- Again (vs. 15), we read of Him being the firstborn from the dead (**Acts 26:23, Romans 8:29, I Corinthians 15:20-21**, and **Revelation 1:5**).

- In all things Jesus is to have the preeminence [to be first; Strong's # 4409] (**Matthew 28:18, John 3:35, and Hebrews 1:1-9**).

Colossians 1:19 –

- Relative to Christ, what He was/is pleases the Father (**Matthew 17:1-5 and John 15:9-10**) and such was the desire of Christ (**John 4:34, John 5:30, John 6:38, and John 8:28-29**).
- All fullness [completion; fulfillment] dwells in Christ (**John 1:14-16, John 14:15-20, John 17:21-23, Ephesians 1:3-12, and Colossians 2:8-10**).

Colossians 1:20 –

- Jesus made peace through the shedding of His blood (**Isaiah 9:6-7, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:13-14, and Colossians 3:11-15**).
- Of His cross is, as we know, evidence that Jesus did not take OUR PLACE on the cross as Calvinists often falsely state. The cross was where Jesus belonged, not you, I, or any other being (**Luke 24:44-46, Acts 2:22-24, Romans 5:17, Hebrews 2:8-9, I Peter 1:18-20, and I John 4:9-10**).
- Reconciling all things unto Himself (**Romans 5:6-10, II Corinthians 5:18, Ephesians 2:16, and Hebrews 2:14-18**).
- Things in Heaven and in earth (**Ephesians 1:10, Ephesians 3:15, and Hebrews 12:22-23**).

Colossians 1:21 –

- They were before alienated and enemies of the Lord (**Proverbs 15:29, Matthew 12:30, Luke 11:23, Ephesians 2:1-5, Titus 3:3, and I John 3:8-10**).
- In their minds (**Isaiah 58:1-2, Isaiah 59:7, and Matthew 15:1-20**) by wicked works (**Proverbs 10:2; 11:18 and John 7:7**).
- Now reconciled (**Romans 5:8-10 and I Corinthians 6:9-11**).

Colossians 1:22 –

- It took the sacrifice of Christ in the flesh for sinners to be reconciled to Christ (**Galatians 1:3-4, Ephesians 2:13-16, Ephesians 5:2, and Hebrews 10:1-20**).
- He did so that we might be presented holy (**Ephesians 4:24, I Thessalonians 4:7, Hebrews 12:14, I Peter 1:13-16, and I Peter 2:9-11**).
- He did so that we might be presented unblameable [without blemish] (**Ephesians 5:27 and Jude 1:24**). Think of Jesus here (**I Peter 1:18-19 and I Peter 2:21-23**).
- He did so that we might be presented unproveable [without blame] (**Ephesians 1:4, Philippians 2:14-16, I Thessalonians 3:13, and II Peter 3:10-14**).
- These things are to not according to our sight (**I Samuel 16:7 and Proverbs 21:2**), but in His sight (**Hebrews 13:21**).

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