

Colossians

In Christ Alone

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing
- Thanksgiving
- Prayer for the reader

Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and who has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Group Discussion:

- What is Paul thankful for?

Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and who has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and who has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Group Discussion:

- What is Paul thankful for?
 - Faith
 - Love
- Where do faith and love come from, according to Paul?

Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and who has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word of the truth, the **gospel**, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and who has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Group Discussion:

- What is Paul thankful for?
 - Faith
 - Love
- Where do faith and love come from, according to Paul?
- Why does Paul start the letter with this “explosion” of thanksgiving?

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing
- Thanksgiving
- Prayer for the reader

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you...

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you...

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you...

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner

- worthy of the Lord,
- fully pleasing to him,
- bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God,
- ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience,
- with joy ¹² giving thanks to the Father...

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks to the Father...

Prayer?

Colossians 1:12b-18b

^{12b} ...who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, ¹³ who has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:12b-18b

^{12b} ...who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, ¹³ who has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, ¹⁵ who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:12b-18b

^{12b} ...who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, ¹³ who has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, ¹⁵ who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him, ¹⁷ and he is before all things, and in him all things hold together, ¹⁸ and he is the head of the body, the church...

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross, ²¹ and you,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross, ²¹ and you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross, ²¹ and you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² **he has** now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, **in order** to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross, ²¹ and you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Group Discussion:

- Are verses 12b-23 part of the Prayer (and therefore part of the Opening of Paul's letter)?
- Or are they part of the Instruction in Doctrine (and therefore part of the Body of Paul's letter)?
- Does our answer to this question matter?

Prayer

Colossians 1:9-12a

⁹ Because of this, we also—from the day we heard—have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks to the Father...

Prayer?

Colossians 1:12b-18b

^{12b} ...who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light, ¹³ who has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, ¹⁵ who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, all things were created through him and for him, ¹⁷ and he is before all things, and in him all things hold together, ¹⁸ and he is the head of the body, the church...

Prayer?

Colossians 1:18b-23

...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent, ¹⁹ for in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross, ²¹ and you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Table Discussion:

- What is the focus of this section?
- Note: 12b-23 may be only one sentence, but it covers way more than just one idea!
 - What the Father has done
 - Who Jesus is
 - What Jesus has done for us
 - What this means for us
 - The importance of clinging to this hope/good news/teaching.
- Why do you think Paul interrupts this prayer with these items?