

The Book of Colossians, Part 1

by Bishop Keith A. Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, May 11, 2022

Opening Summary

Wisdom is available to all Christians. In the beginning of this study, you will see just as Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ, there are still apostles today who go around the world establishing Christian works. Paul wrote to the church at Colosse, a church he established, encouraging them. As you study along with us, you will discover the massive benefits of walking in faith and love.

- I. Col. 1:1: Paul was an apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - A. 1 Cor. 12:28: God set apostles in the church (Eph. 4:11-12).
 - B. An apostle is a sent one who plants churches, works, Bible schools, etc.
 - C. This call was God's will for Paul, not his own will (Acts 26:16-18).
- II. Col. 1:2: Paul is writing to Christians. *"To the saints"* means *to Christians*.
 - A. Grace is the Holy Spirit's name in the New Testament.
 - B. Grace is power, manifestation, gift, benefit, favor, joy, liberality, etc.
 - C. Peace comes from God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- III. Col. 1:3: When Jesus prayed, He prayed to God, the Father.
 - A. Eph. 6:10 tells us to pray for all saints. God moves when Christians pray.
 - B. Col. 1:4: Paul heard of their faith: trust, confidence, assurance, belief in God.
 - C. Faith and love are always together in Scripture (1 Cor. 13:4-8).
 - D. Colosse is a faith church and a love church.
 - E. Love makes faith work. In your prayer time, pray for others first.
- IV. Col. 1:5-6: When the Word is put forth, it will always produce deliverance.
 - A. The Word sets people free in their minds, bodies, etc.
 - B. The Word is God's power (Rom. 1:16).
- V. Col. 1:7-8: Epaphras assisted Paul. Paul could not do his job without an assistant.
 - A. A wise master builder is an architect.
 - B. Paul, trained ministers and they helped Paul plant a church in Colosse.
 - C. Epaphras told Paul about their love.
 - D. Loving in the Spirit means speaking in tongues (1 Cor. 14:2).
- VI. Col. 1:9: Because of their love, prayer and faith, Paul continued to pray for them.
 - A. *Filled* (Gk.: pleroo) means *to cram your net full*.
 - B. *Knowledge* (Gk.: epignosis) means *full discernment*.
 - C. *Will* (Gk.: thelema) means *choice*.
- VII. What is wisdom?
 - A. Wisdom is taking knowledge and using it successfully.
 - B. Wisdom also means knowing the truth and how to win with it.
 - C. Understanding is spiritual intelligence (James 1:1-5).

- D. A person who prays in tongues a lot has wisdom manifest to produce a result that works (James 1:5).
 - E. 1 Cor. 1:30: When you receive Jesus, you receive access to God's wisdom.
 - 1. God gives you wisdom. Thank God for it because you believe He gives it to you.
 - 2. You are not stuck with the world's answers.
- VIII. Col. 1:10: This is Paul's prayer for you.
- A. *Worthy* means *appropriate*. Lord (Gk.: kurios) means supreme in authority.
 - B. Experience matters. The more you follow God this way, the better you get at it.
 - C. You will increase in being able to discern what's happening in your life.
- IX. Col. 1:11: *Strengthened* (Gk.: dunamoo) means *enable*.
- A. *Might* (Gk.: dunamis) means greater power than all the armies of the world, combined.
 - B. *Power* (Gk.: kratos) refers to God's strength (Eph. 1:19-20).
 - C. *Patience* means *cheerful endurance* (James 1:2).
 - D. *Longsuffering* is fortitude, "I'm going to keep doing the Word no matter what."
 - E. *Joyfulness* (Gk. Chara) is *calm delight*. "I enjoy the fight because I know I win."
 - F. Stay calm in a trial.
- X. Col 1:12: *Meet* (Gk.: hikanoo) means *qualified*. God qualified you.
- A. *Light* (Gk.: phos) means *fire*.
 - B. Eph. 1:16-18: The inheritance is inside the saints.
 - C. That means someone died and left you their wealth.
 - 1. Eph. 1:19: *Exceeding* (Gk.: hyperballo) means *far past what is normal*.
 - a. Power (kratos) means strength.
 - b. Paul is saying it is *according to the efficiency of His strength*.
 - c. Our inheritance becomes more efficient to operate in God's strength when our eyes have been opened and we see how things work.
 - d. You are able to use God's strength. Note: You must use it.
 - 2. Eph. 1:20-21: God raised Christ from the dead with this strength. There is another world beyond this one.
 - 3. Eph. 1:22: Jesus is over everything.
 - 4. Eph. 1:23: Paul says the church is three things.
 - a. The church is Christ's body.
 - b. The church is a building (temple or house) inhabited by the Holy Ghost.
 - c. The church is a vineyard. The apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher are to nourish the church.
 - d. Jesus had the Spirit of God without measure. Individual Christians have the Spirit with measure. Collectively, when every member does their assignment, the church has the Spirit without measure. We need each other to be effective (1 Cor. 12:14).

Closing Summary

In the letter Paul wrote to the church at Colosse, we found out Paul's prayer was for the body of Christ to walk in the wisdom of God. That happens when you walk in love and faith, because faith gets its energy from love. When the church walks in love the Holy Spirit can flow freely and cause miraculous deliverance to all who hear and receive the Word of God.