

NCC Roots Colossians Bible Study 9/2/26-Session #1

Led by Terry Cooper

- From: The Apostle Paul (called by God) and Timothy
- To: The newly formed first-century church (believers) in Colosse (western Turkey, not far from Laodicea).
- When: Probably written from Rome between 60 and 64 AD.

Colossians 1:1-2 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. ² We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. **May God our Father give you grace and peace.**

- Notice the two things that Paul desires for this new church...**grace and peace from God our Father.**
- We will never know true grace and peace until God becomes our Father.
- Everyone is God's creation, but not everyone is a child of God.
- We can only become a child of God by becoming a brother of Jesus...this puts us in the family as legitimate children of God (children of Abraham and the covenant promises).
- For everyone else...their father is the devil...and by the way, we only have 2 Father choices.
- Two fathers and two spirit forces working on the earth today...Holy Spirit and spirit of antichrist.

John 8:43-44 (NLT)

⁴³ Why can't you understand what I am saying? It's because you can't even hear me!

⁴⁴ For you are the children of your father the devil, and you love to do the evil things he does. He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies.

- That deals with the "Father" part, but what about this grace and peace?
- Grace and Peace are a common theme as Paul writes to the churches.

Romans 1:7 (NLT)

⁷ I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace.**

1 Corinthians 1:3 (NLT)

³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace.**

Galatians 1:3 (NLT)

³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace.**

Ephesians 1:2 (NLT)

² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace.**

Philippians 1:2 (NLT)

² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace**.

1 Thessalonians 1:1 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, Silas, and Timothy. We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give you **grace and peace**.

Titus 1:4 (NLT)

⁴ I am writing to Titus, my true son in the faith that we share. May God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior give you **grace and peace**.

Philemon 1:3 (NLT)

³ May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you **grace and peace**.

- Just in case you were wondering if this was only a Paul thing.

1 Peter 1:2 (NLT)

² God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more **grace and peace**.

Revelation 1:4 (NLT)

⁴ This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. **Grace and peace** to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;

- Two things become clear as we begin this study tonight.
- We all need a Father who can fill us with grace and peace.
- Grace and peace only come from Jesus and the faith that comes to believers in Jesus.
- **Grace**...the undeserved favor of God.
- **Peace**...knowing that all is well with my soul...forever peace with God.
- Notice that Paul refers to the church at Colosse as “faith...FULL”.
- Only “faith...FULL” people will experience the reality of grace and peace.
- ***We are writing to God’s holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.***

Colossians 1:3-5 (NLT)

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people,

⁵ which come from your **confident hope** of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this **expectation** ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

- Paul is praying for the church. Intercessory prayer is so important.
- Paul is giving thanks (in prayer) for the church.
- The faith of the Colosse church has been evident through love, giving the church a good reputation.

- But, notice what this faithful, loving life is based on...CONFIDENT HOPE and EXPECTATION.
- Hope is expectancy, but expectancy in what...the future that God has promised and reserved for us in heaven...filled with grace and peace.
- This hope leaves the followers of Jesus with a constant sense of “expectation”.

Romans 8:22-25 (NLT)

²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. **We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.** ²⁴ **We were given this hope when we were saved.** (If we already have something, we don’t need to hope for it.

²⁵ But if we look forward to something we don’t yet have, **we must wait patiently and confidently.**)

- Hope based on myth or optimism...NO...Hope based on truth.
- ***You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.***
- After all...why do you think they call it good news?
- Doesn’t good news always bring expectancy?
- What am I to do with this good news (the gospel)?
- First, I must make it my “confident hope”...this fills me with the reality of grace and peace.
- Then, I must pass that good news on to others.

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

- Grace and Peace all over the world...what a wonderful idea.
- Grace and peace bearing the fruit of forever changed lives.
- Grace and peace based on truth... not misled optimism (psycho babel)
- How is the Good News going out all over the world?

Colossians 1:4 (NLT)

⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people,

- I wonder how many people have heard of our faith individually?
- I wonder how many people have heard of the faith of the Church at Ninevah?
- What about you personally?

Hebrews 11:1-2 (NLT)

¹ Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. ² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned **a good reputation.**

- I want each of us to apply these two verses to our lives right now.
- Do you have confidence in your hope...that is faith?

- Confidence and hope based on what...Is the Bible the Word of God, or not?
- Do you have the audacity to believe that which seems impossible to the world?
- Do you have **grace and peace**, based upon that hope/faith...knowing that God is your Father and He will never abandon His children?
- Christianity is contagious when it is real.
- Everyone wants grace and peace, but people are looking for it from the wrong father, the wrong spirit.
- Let's stop for a moment and reflect...who told you the good news?
- Who opened your eyes to the Father who offers grace and peace through Jesus?

Colossians 1:7-8 (NLT)

⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.

⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

- We don't think Paul ever visited the Church at Colosse, but he could write to them as brothers and sisters because of Epaphras.
- *⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people,*
- *² Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. (Hebrews 11)*

Colossians 1:9-10 (NLT)

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you **complete knowledge of his will** and to give you **spiritual wisdom and understanding**.

¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

- We need Holy Spirit knowledge and Holy Spirit Wisdom to overcome the deception of this world.
- This brings up the issue of spiritual growth...going from milk to meat.

1 Corinthians 3:1-4 (NLT)

¹ Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in the Christian life.

² I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, ³ for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? ⁴ When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

- *All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better*
- Knowing is never enough; we must live out our knowledge of God with wisdom, obedience, and faithfulness.
- Paul is praying that the church will grow spiritually strong and become contagious to others.

Colossians 1:11-12 (NLT)

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,

¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

- Glorious power that offers endurance, patience, joy, thanksgiving, and light...leading to an inheritance that our minds cannot even begin to comprehend (the whole world).

Romans 4:13 (NLT)

¹³ Clearly, God's promise to give **the whole earth** to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a right relationship with God that comes by faith.

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

- Let's spend the rest of our time on these last 2 verses.
- Jesus came and rescued us from eternal darkness.

Matthew 8:12 (NLT)

¹² But many Israelites—those for whom the Kingdom was prepared—will be thrown into **outer darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 22:13-14 (NLT)

¹³ Then the king said to his aides, ‘Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the **outer darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Matthew 25:28-30 (NLT)

²⁸ “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.

³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into **outer darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

- Jesus has rescued us from the outer darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom.

Luke 12:31-32 (NLT)

³¹ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

³² “So don't be afraid, little flock. For **it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.**

- Jesus purchased our freedom when His blood was shed on the cross.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

²¹ For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

- That spiritual transaction...blood for blood...life for life...has bought us forgiveness from sins.

John 8:34-36 (NLT)

³⁴ Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin.

³⁵ A slave is not a permanent member of the family, but a son is part of the family forever.

³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.