

# COLOSSIANS

CHRIST IS ALL WE NEED

WEEK OF 08/31/25

HOW CITIZENS OF HEAVEN PRAY

COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

## Silence (1-2 minutes)

Sit silently for a minute as a way to center your heart and invite the Holy Spirit to help you listen to and receive God's Word.

## Opening Prayer (2-3 minutes)

**Read:** Colossians 1:1-14

## Devotional (30- 45 minutes)

*Colossians 1:1-8* | This fall, our church will be studying the book of Colossians – a letter written to a first century house church in the ancient city of Colossae. Paul, the author of this letter, did not start the church at Colossae. Instead, Epaphras, a Colossian man who had likely heard Paul preach in Ephesus (100 miles away!) turned to the Lord and began planting churches in Colossae. Years later, while Paul was imprisoned in Rome, Epaphras reported to Paul how the “religious desert” in Colossae had become a “blooming garden” of faith, hope and love. This is why Paul gushes with gratitude in these opening verses. He essentially says, “When I see Christ in you, I thank Christ for you!”

1. Read verses 1-8. How would you describe the tone of Paul's opening lines to the church at Colossae?
2. Can you recall a time when you saw Jesus at work in someone's life and it caused you to rejoice? Please share.

*Colossians 1:9* | At Colossae, there was a great deal of false teaching, especially in the form of Gnosticism. False teachers would promote the idea that you needed secret knowledge to become righteous. Moreover, they taught the idea that the material world was ruled by evil powers. For this reason, you needed to receive hidden spiritual knowledge from a few elite teachers who could help you get out of this fallen material state. As we continue to read, this background helps us understand the content and substance of Paul's prayer for the Colossians.

3. Looking at verse 9, how would you summarize the core of Paul's prayer for the church in Colossae? (See Isaiah 11:1-3 for a related passage!)
4. In verse 9, Paul essentially says, "You will never leave my prayer list." Has there been a person who prayed for you with this level of perseverance? Who might God be calling you to add to your prayer list?

*Colossians 1:10-14* | In this final section, Paul addresses the 'why' behind His prayers. The Big Idea for our passage is this: **God wants us to know His will so that we walk His way.** Our knowledge ought to inform our walking – a walk that is worthy of Christ. Or, in the words of Randy, a faith with protein! On that note, verses 11 and 12 provide us with four descriptions of a weighty walk that pleases God: a.) bearing fruit; b.) growing in knowledge; c.) being empowered, d.) giving thanks. These are all areas for which we need God's grace to walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord.

5. There's a difference between being immersed in God's will and simply wanting advice for a difficult decision. How have you navigated this line in your walk with Christ?
6. At this current season of your life, what might it look like for you to "bear fruit in every good work" (v. 10)? Do you sense an invitation from God to live out your faith in a certain way? What are some obstacles or barriers that make this difficult for you?

### Pray Together

Heavenly Father, thank you for Paul's joy-filled prayer for the Colossians, which teaches us, also, to pray. We ask to be filled with the knowledge of Your will. We pray for spiritual wisdom and understanding. At the same time, we also ask you to help us to bear fruit in every good work. We long to live lives that are worthy of You. Strengthen us to do so, as those who have been delivered and share in your glorious inheritance. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Share Prayer Requests (10-15 minutes)