

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question: What's been the most impactful letter you've ever received?

Pray: For our knowledge of God to flow from our heads into our hearts and increasingly transform our lives.

Read: Colossians 1:1-8

Questions about the passage:

- How did Paul address the Colossian Christians in 1:2?
- In v. 6, Paul describes the gospel as something the Colossians 'truly understood'. What is the gospel & what does Paul mean by truly understand here?
- Paul expresses gratitude for three things he's heard about the Colossians. What are they? What does this say about their Church health?

Questions for us:

- What can we learn about praying for others from Paul's prayers for the Colossians?
- Consider the categories of faith, love, and hope in your own life. Are you growing in these things? Where feels lacking?
- Consider a time you've seen genuine fruit in church community. What was it, and what do you think produced it?

Pray: that Village would continue to grow into full Christian maturity

Homework: Send someone an encouraging message this week

Remind: *Life Series starting soon - who could you invite?*

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Paul's letter to the Christians of Colosse in Asia Minor is one of his shortest letters. Paul is writing to a young church that's just starting to figure out what it means to believe in Jesus and follow him. He urges them to dig into the riches of the gospel and let it shape the way they live.

This week, we look at Paul's opening greeting and his prayer for the Colossians.

Questions about the passage:

How did Paul address the Colossian Christians in 1:2?

'Holy', 'faithful', 'saints' - He doesn't mean spiritual elites, but ordinary believers set apart for God through faith and baptism. Paul isn't suggesting some Christians are holier than others but rather viewing the church, imperfections and all, from God's point of view.

In v. 6, Paul describes the gospel as something the Colossians 'truly understood'. What is the gospel & what does Paul mean by truly understand here?

Truly understanding the gospel isn't just intellectual assent or emotional response, it's a penetrating grasp of the truth that reshapes how you live. Head and heart aren't separate. A clear understanding that God loved the world enough to give his Son for it naturally flows into wholehearted love in return.

Paul expresses gratitude for three things he's heard about the Colossians. What are they? What does this say about their Church health?

Their faith in Christ, their love for each other, and their hope in heaven. A healthy church isn't just individually devoted, it's vertically aligned with God and horizontally connected to one another, and the two can't be separated. Faith and hope aren't private matters as they naturally overflow into love for others, and that love is what makes the church's witness visible to the world. What Paul celebrates in the Colossians is a community where belief and behaviour belong together.

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Questions for us:

What can we learn about praying for others from Paul's prayers for the Colossians?

We often pray for others when something isn't going right. What is Paul modelling here? How can we consider prayer for others when things are going well.

Consider the categories of faith, love, and hope in your own life. Are you growing in these things? Where feels lacking?

Let this be an exercise in opportunistic reflection, not of guilt or shame.

Consider a time you've seen genuine fruit in church community. What was it, and what do you think produced it?

Reflect on the gifts of the Holy Spirit within church communities, and how using our gifts for the body of Christ bears fruit.

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Asia Minor in the time of Paul

Source: N. T. Wright, *Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 12, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986), 18.

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God