

Colossians 1:1-14

Paul was writing to help and protect the believers from infection by false teaching. He approaches this by focusing our attention on what God has done and what we have obtained through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

He tells us what is on his prayer list for them.

How can it help us in our praying?

*Prayer
Works*



Colossians 1:1-14

Greeting

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 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, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

And so, from the day we heard, we 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, 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; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

Paul is his Roman version name.

Apostle -His call/mission – and so his authority to write to them.

Christ -he gives Jesus' title first quite often.

Will -God's plan for his life discovered - revealed



and Timothy our brother,

Paul calls him his son in the faith (1 Timothy 1:2)
But here he describes him as a fellow worker brother –
fellowship in the work/family
Timothy was writing for Paul here.



To the saints and faithful **brothers** in Christ at Colossae:

Saints - alive and called to a holy life (seen in God's eyes)

Faithful - Believing and practising part of "the family"

In Christ – an IMPORTANT phrase (union – organic whole)

Colossae – the local assembly (church) is also part of whole



Does this describe our fellowship ?

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

This is Paul's usual letter greeting.

We are to bless others - Grace is needed.

Peace is to be received and shared

The source is God Himself.

Our – wonderful that we can say this

Father – source of our real life, relationship

'and our Lord Jesus Christ' in KJV– not included in early manuscripts



We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Continual gratitude!

To **God** (this is the usual term for the Father)

Father of our **Lord** (divine name)

My father and your father (John 20:17)

His Full title - **Lord Jesus Christ**

Part of the Trinitarian relationship.



We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
when we pray for you,

We – united prayer

Give thanks for God's working as we pray for more

You – specific requests.

THANK YOU

*Prayer
Works*



since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus
and of the love that you have for all the saints,
because of the hope laid up for you in heaven

Since - Cause for thanks - response of **faith**

The focus of saving faith = **Christ Jesus**

Response of **love** to fellow believers seen as saints

Including those not met yet.

Thanks for future prospects - heavenly treasure=**hope** ;
Jesus' return in glory (Titus 2:13)

cf. Faith, hope and love go together.

1 John 3:23 And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth,
the gospel,

How it happened - through 'hearing' (believing and receiving) the truth found in the gospel message

*Romans 10:17 So faith comes from hearing,
and hearing through the word of Christ.*

GOOD NEWS



the gospel, which has come to you,
as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing

The travelling gospel..

Local and extended effects (known **world** – Roman empire)
cf. the new creation with ‘old’ command ‘be fruitful and
multiply’ (Genesis 1:28)

Fruit in terms of numbers and changed lives.



—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,

At work among you too.

Growth comes through God's grace and our understanding of it = true, real



Spiritual ignorance is dangerous

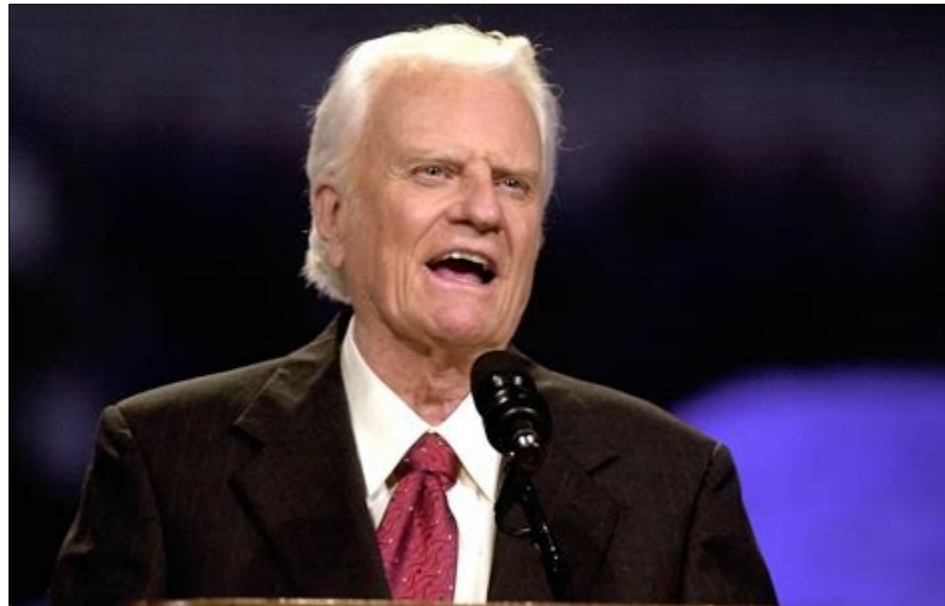
just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

The human messenger was **Epaphras**

These are affectionate terms (fellow slave)

Recommendation from experience

Serving = minister being/bringing 'Jesus' to them



and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Epaphras had a conversation with Paul about the church
Love in the Spirit – Can we sense His presence and activity?

*by Whom “the love of God hath been
poured out in our hearts” (Romans 5:5),*



And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you,

Therefore ... our response to this good news
Ongoing prayer; It's not over when someone is saved...

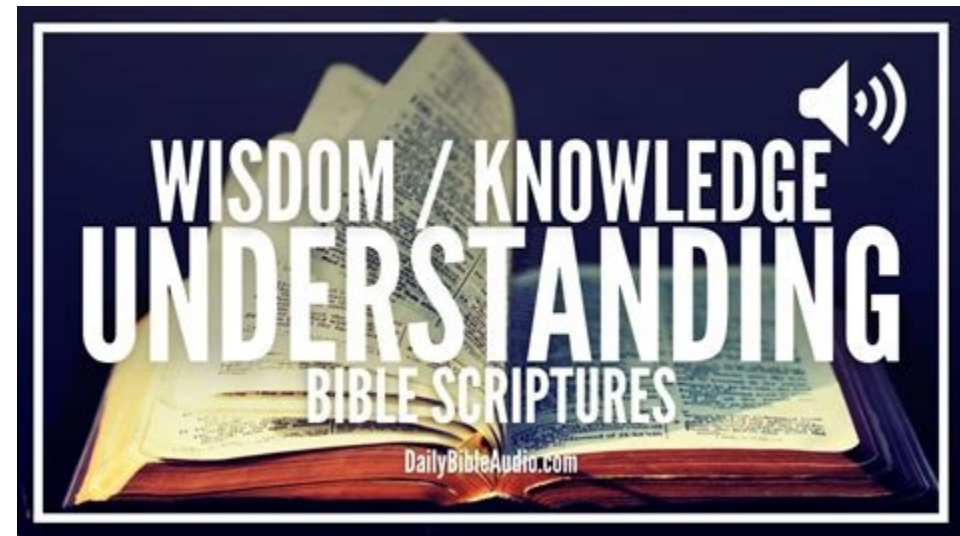
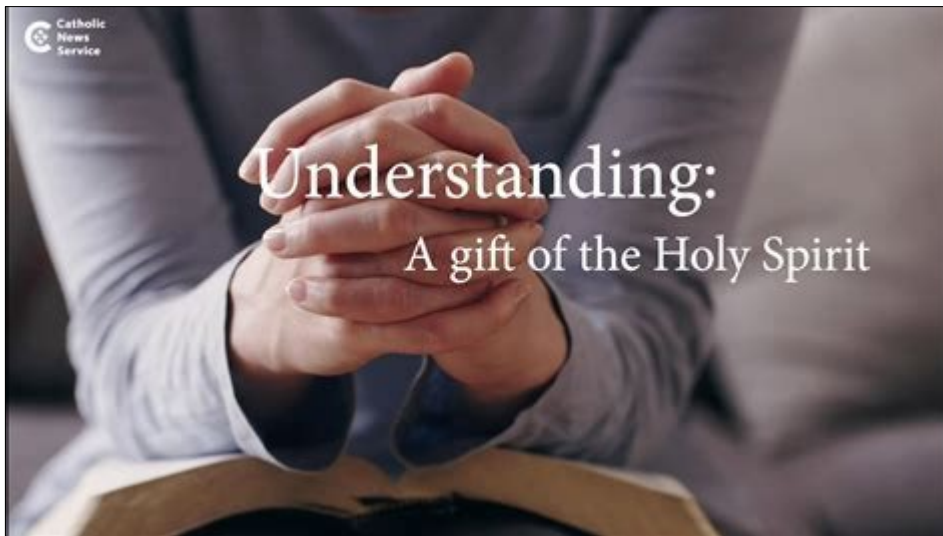


asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Prayer requests:

To really know God's will (revealed will – knowledge is vital)

Properly understood – spiritual wisdom and insight



so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
fully pleasing to him:

The Objective – **walk** = live, progress

Worthy of the Lord –this is a high standard

Micah 6:8 Act justly, love (hesed) walk humbly with God

We can please him!

By **Faith** cf. Jesus's response to faith in people.

By **Loving service** by the Spirit's enabling



bearing fruit in every good work and increasing
in the knowledge of God;



Pleasing to God

Good works are important every = all sorts

Getting to know God and His ways word and experience

Cf John 15:7-8

being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might,

Power is available in answer to prayer.

The amount of power available – his glorious might

My grace is sufficient! (2 Corinthians 12:9)



for all endurance and patience with joy;

Here is the result of God's power applied in our lives
Endurance and patience (we have not arrived yet)
With joy – a sense of God's blessing
The joy of the Lord (Nehemiah 8:10)....



giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you/(us) to share
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Returned in thankful praises to the Father
Made us qualified (the gift of all we have in Jesus)
Shared **inheritance** – the promised land
Blessings now and to come
Saints - God's holy people
In light – pure, joyful

QUALIFIED

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness

Contrast of where we were.

Rescued, brought out of harm's way and evil's control

Once not only IN the dark but we were PART of it

No longer there!!! he HAS delivered US one by one into family

and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Brought into a new place
Under the kingship of Jesus,
God's favoured Son



in whom we have redemption *, the forgiveness of sins.

**“through His blood,”* cf. Ephesians 1:7

In whom - By our union with Jesus

We **HAVE**

Redemption – the price is paid to free us from sin’s power;

Forgiven – guilt removed – liberty to love and serve him.



“Lord, Teach Us to Pray”

Matthew 6:9-13

