

Colossians 1:1-14

Saints Should be Marked by Faith and Love

Section 1: 1:1-2 - Introduction

*Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus by **God's will**, and Timothy our brother: ²To the **saints in Christ** at Colossae, who are faithful **brothers and sisters**. **Grace to you and peace** from **God our Father**. (CSB)*

Apostle – sent one – where we get our word missionary. *Mark 3:13-19.*

God's will – God gives us our calling; we don't choose it. *Romans 12:1-2.*

Saints in Christ – saint means "holy ones" – we are the holy ones of God in Christ. *Romans 1:7. 1 Corinthians 1:2. Ephesians 1:1; 3:8. Philippians 1:1. Ephesians 2:19. Jude 1:3. Romans 8:27.*

Brothers and Sisters – we are family. Adopted sons and daughters. *Ephesians 1:5. Galatians 4:5-7. John 1:12. Romans 8:14-23.*

Grace and peace – We need the grace of God and the peace of God to live for Him daily. *Romans 1:7. 1 Corinthians 1:3. 2 Corinthians 1:2. Galatians 1:3. Ephesians 1:2. Philippians 1:2. 1 Thessalonians 1:1. 2 Thessalonians 1:2. Titus 1:4. Philemon 1:3. 1 Peter 1:2. 2 Peter 1:2. Revelation 1:4.*

God our Father – Through Christ we have a relationship with our heavenly Father as His dearly loved children. *Matthew 6:9. Romans 8:15.*

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Paul understood his calling came directly from God. Why is that truth important?
- ❖ We are saints in Christ. What role does our identity in Christ play in our day-to-day life?
- ❖ How are you growing a healthy relationship with your heavenly Father?

Section 2: 1:3-8 – Marked by Faith and Love

*³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we **pray for you**, ⁴for we have heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus** and of the **love you have for all the saints** ⁵because of the **hope** reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this **hope** in the word of truth, **the gospel** ⁶that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. ⁷You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved **fellow servant**. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has told us about your **love in the Spirit**. (CSB)*

Pray for you – Praying for others is expected. *1 Thessalonians 5:17. James 5:16.*

Faith in Christ Jesus – faith alone isn't of value...we must have faith rooted in Christ. *Romans 1:17; 5:1-2; 10:8-11. 1 Peter 1:6-9. Hebrews 11:1-6. Ephesians 2:8-9.*

Love you have for all the saints – Love for the saints characterizes a disciple. *John 13:35.*

Hope – we have a hope in the future. *1 Peter 1:13. 1 Thessalonians 1:3. Ephesians 1:18. Hebrews 10:23.*

The Gospel – explains our hope. *1 Corinthians 15:3-8. Mark 10:45. Romans 5:8. Romans 6:23. 2 Corinthians 5:21. 1 Timothy 1:15. 1 John 4:10.*

Fellow Servant – we are servants of Christ. *John 3:30. Ephesians 2:10. 1 Corinthians 4:1. 2 Timothy 2:24. 1 Peter 2:16.*

Love in the Spirit – true love is only found in God. Therefore, you must have the Spirit to love. *1 John 4:7-21.*

Discussion Questions

- ❖ What are ways you can prioritize your prayer life?
- ❖ Why should believers be marked by their love for one another?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that we are servants of Christ?
- ❖ How does the biblical definition of love contrast with the world's definition of love?
- ❖ Why is a biblical definition of love vital?

Section 3: 1:9-13 – Walk Worthy of the Lord

⁹For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will

in all **wisdom** and **spiritual** understanding,

¹⁰so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:

bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

¹¹being strengthened with all power,

according to his glorious might,

so that you may have great endurance and patience,
joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father,

who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

¹³He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. ¹⁴In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (CSB)

Discussion Question

- ❖ Why is knowing God's will important? Where should we turn to gain the knowledge to understand God's will?
- ❖ Why is it important to have strength? Who is the source of our strength and why does it matter?
- ❖ In Christ we have redemption and forgiveness of sins...why is this good news worth sharing?