**Colossians 1**

Colossians 1:1-14

7/27/25 AM

In-n-Out Burgers.

* Customer service, fresh ingredients, and a simple menu.

**Today, we begin a new sermon series in the NT book of Colossians.**

Colossians is short book.

* It contains less than a hundred verses and can be read in about fifteen minutes.

It was written by the apostle Paul (1:1; 4:18) around the year 60 AD while he was under house arrest in Rome.

* The book of Acts gives the backstory.
  + Paul had been ministering in Jerusalem when some Jewish opponents started a riot and falsely accused him of breaking Jewish law (Ac 21:27–36).
  + Paul was arrested by the Roman commander and then transferred to Caesarea where he was unlawfully imprisoned for two years because the Roman governors wanted to pacify Paul’s Jewish opponents (Ac 24:26–27).[[1]](#footnote-1)

**For two years, Paul stared down the possibility of execution.**

But rather than feeling sorry for himself, Paul spent those two years sharing the gospel and discipling other Christians.

* It was during this time behind bars that Paul composed letters to the churches in Philippi, Ephesus, Laodicea, and Colossae...
* Most of these were very personal letters.
  + Paul had planted the church in Ephesus.
  + He planted the church in Philippi.
  + He knew the people well and he knew their stories.

**But what’s interesting about the letter to the Christians at Colossae is that Paul did not plant this church. As far as we know, he never even visited this town.[[2]](#footnote-2)**

**So, naturally we wonder, if Paul didn’t plant the church in Colossae or visit the town, why did he write this letter?**

Even though Paul didn’t plant this church, he saw himself as responsible for its well-being so, he wrote the letter to the Colossians to combat a deceptive philosophy that threatened to take the church captive.[[3]](#footnote-3)

**And this deceptive philosophy argued that if the Colossians wanted to fully experience all the spiritual blessings, if they wanted the most out of life, they needed to add other things to their faith in Jesus.**

* They needed to think of Jesus as a steppingstone. A commitment to Him is a great place to begin your spiritual journey, but if you really want to go deeper, you need to add other things.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Build-a-bear.

* You go to the workshop and choose your furry friend, clothes and shoes, sounds and scents, and accessories.
* This was the temptation in Colossae!

**It wasn’t just one idea that was capturing the imagination of the Colossians, they had options to choose from.**

* Floating around in their culture were influences from non-messianic Jewish legalism, ritualism, mystical and magical experiences, and Greek philosophy.

The temptation in Colossae wasn’t to just outright denounce Jesus, the temptation was to try and mix a commitment to Jesus with ideas and practices that neither came from nor were in conformity with their commitment to be followers of Jesus Christ.[[5]](#footnote-5)

* Build-a-bear Christianity.

**So, naturally, Paul was very concerned because Paul was very convinced that what we need is not something more than what we already have, what we always need is more Jesus.**

Paul wrote this letter to draw people back to Jesus Christ.

* Because those who have Jesus have all that they need. Traditions, strict rituals, mystical and magical and homegrown experiences cannot possibly add anything to what Jesus Christ has already accomplished on the cross and the empty tomb.

**Colossians was written to people who wanted the most out of life, living in a culture that promised that all roads lead to the same destination.**

And I’d say that pretty well describes our situation today.

* We are a people who want the most out of life. We want to make a difference. We want to live meaningful lives.
  + Millennial and Gen Z
* We also live in a culture with options that encourages us to believe that all the options are equal. All ideas and beliefs are created equal, and truth is subjective.

Church, we may not be the original audience of this letter but it’s content and truth speak to our hearts today just as it did to those who first heard it read aloud in Colossae.

* **And what Paul is going to do in this letter is to unashamedly preach Jesus Christ.**
* According to the apostle, the center of “true” religion must never be shifted from our ongoing participation in the life of the Risen Lord, because it is “in Christ” that God’s grace transforms people from death to life.
* When we shift the center of faith away from Christ to philosophical speculation we end up with a Christless version of Christianity that cannot mediate God’s saving grace.[[6]](#footnote-6)

**So, to the Colossians and us, Paul is going to preach Jesus.**

* What we need is not something that can be found elsewhere, what we need is found in Christ and Christ alone!

**And as we work through this letter together, I think we’ll find that Paul’s preaching addresses two important questions for people in our situation.**

* Why and how.
* It’s not that a desire for more is a problem, it’s just where we take that desire when we point it in the wrong direction.

So, with that bit of background, let’s get to it…

***Colossians 1:1 NLT*** *This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.*

So, as is common with Paul’s letters, he identifies himself as an apostle, one who is sent as a commissioned and empowered representative.

**Paul is not an apostle because of personal ambition: his title came to him by the will of God.[[7]](#footnote-7)**

So right out of the gate, Paul wants to make sure that we understand what we’re about to read isn’t just his opinion or slant about Jesus Christ.

* Paul is speaking with the authority of the One he represents and as a witness to the resurrected Christ, his words carry weight.
* Church, it is this God-given authority which undergirds the continuing use of his writings as authoritative Scripture in the church.[[8]](#footnote-8)

Paul then mentions Timothy, his loyal companion before identifying his audience…

***Colossians 1:2 NLT*** *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.*

**Paul’s letter is written to a group of believers living in Colossae.**

* He uses some specific terms to identify them, which we’ll tease out in moment.
* But Paul says that his readers are brothers and sisters in Christ.
  + They’re a spiritual family despite differences in background or race.[[9]](#footnote-9)
* And Paul closes his salutation with a typical greeting of grace and peace.
  + This was the standard way of saying “hello” to other believers in the first century.[[10]](#footnote-10) The same greeting was used by Peter and John in their writings.[[11]](#footnote-11)

Paul then follows his usual custom by expressing his thanks to God for his readers.[[12]](#footnote-12)

***Colossians 1:3-14 NLT*** *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.* ***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.* ***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.* ***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.* ***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.****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.*

We might expect Paul to just immediately take on the false teachers and their teachings. But instead, he begins by inviting the Colossians for a stroll down memory lane.

PAUSE

**The reality is, we are forgetful people.**

Most of us regularly lose things: keys, wallets, remotes, glasses, and phones.

* According to an article in the WSJ, the average person misplaces nine things a day and spends about fifteen minutes looking for lost items.
* We misplace things all the time.

But Paul isn’t concerned about keys, wallets, and remotes! Paul is concerned about the gospel. He’s concerned about Christians being deceived by fine sounding arguments and philosophies and ultimately drifting away from Jesus.

So, here at the beginning, Paul invites the Colossians and us to remember. And there are two truths I think Paul invites us to remember. For starters, Paul invites them and us to remember…

1. **The power of the gospel.**

**The gospel is power, the gospel works, the gospel bears fruit.**

Charles Spurgeon, *“The Gospel is like a caged lion. It does not need to be defended; it just needs to be let out of its cage.”*

* The gospel of Jesus Christ, like a seed, is a dynamic force that shatters the hard, stony soil of sin and takes root as new life.[[13]](#footnote-13)

In verse 6…

***Colossians 1:6 NLT*** *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.*

In vv. 13-14...

***Colossians 1:13-14 NLT*** *For [God] 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.*

The gospel is power!

**One of the truths that I hope we’re recalled to as we work through Colossians is the seriousness of our rebellion against the Lord. The seriousness of our predicament as fallen, sinful human beings.**

Church, if we are ever going to grasp what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, we must be reminded that He is infinitely holy and perfect and just and that we have all fallen far short of His glorious standard.

* You and I have fallen short of who God asks us to be.

**Surely, no one in this room wants to say, *“Preacher, not me. I haven’t fallen short.”***

* We’ve all fallen short of God’s glorious standard.
  + We’ve all used our words to destroy instead of giving life.
  + We have looked on poverty and injustice and abuse and done nothing when we could have.
  + We’ve compromised in order to gratify our own desires and urges.
  + We’ve bore grudges, resentment, unforgiveness, and impatience.
  + And all of us here, we’ve worshipped objects of wood, metal, stone, and flesh instead of our glorious God.
  + We are guilty. We may not be as bad as some other people we know, but in the scales of God we are guilty.

**And the Bible speaks of our rebellion against God with the most urgent tones.**

* The stakes could not be any higher. The wages of sin is death!

**So, the gospel of Jesus Christ isn’t just about giving us a list of externally moral actions to follow, it’s about restoring our wretched and sinful hearts.**

* Rescuing us from the kingdom of darkness, purchasing our freedom and forgiveness.

**And in rescuing us, Jesus did 2 things for us that we could never do on our own.**

1. **He gives us the righteousness we need in order to be brought back into right relationship with God.**

**To enjoy fellowship with our holy and perfect God we must have a righteousness that is acceptable to Him.**

* And this righteousness is only found in Jesus Christ.
* Jesus came and lived out the law perfectly, fulfilling it at every point, and for those who trust in Him, He imputes His perfection to us.

**So, if we are in Christ, when God looks upon us, He no longer sees our sins and failures, he sees the perfection of the Son in us.**

But not only does Jesus provide the perfect righteousness we need…

1. **On the cross, He absorbed the wrath of God against our sins.**

**Church, the reality is, sin must be paid for.** Wrongs must be made right, which is what Christ accomplished for us through His atoning death on the cross.

So much so, that if we are in Christ, when God looks upon you and me, because of the perfect righteousness of Christ, He no longer sees our offenses, He sees the perfection of the Son in us.

**So, Paul invites the Colossians to remember the power of the gospel in their lives.**

* The gospel had completely changed them.

**They still lived in Colossae, but more important than their physical location was their spiritual “location”: they were in Christ. One of those specific terms I mentioned earlier.**

* This is one of Paul’s favorite phrases. It occurs thirty-three times in his letters, and the fuller phrase “in Christ Jesus [our Lord]” occurs forty-eight times.
* To be “in Christ” is Paul’s way of saying that believers are now “located” in a new “place”—the kingdom of God’s Son (v. 13).[[14]](#footnote-14)
* They had changed residences.

Holy is another one of those specific terms that Paul uses for his audience.

**He addresses his readers as holy and faithful. Your translation may say to the saints in Christ at Colossae.**

Paul’s not talking about a certain group of believers with an advanced level of holiness.[[15]](#footnote-15)

* Paul is making some OT connections here.
* Just as Israel was called out from among the nations to be God’s own people, to be set apart, so is the church to be set apart for God.[[16]](#footnote-16)
* If we are in Christ, then we have been set apart from the world for God.
* We are located in a new “place,” and this new location carries with it a total reorientation of our existence.[[17]](#footnote-17)

PAUSE

**So, to a group of Christians who were encouraged to pursue other options, Paul describes the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ, reminding us that through our union with Christ, we are not who we used to be.**

* We were dead in our sins, but now we are “alive” in Christ (2:4).
* We were separated from God, but now “have been brought near” in Christ (2:13).
* We were “foreigners,” but now we are “fellow citizens” in Christ (2:19).
* We were darkened in understanding, but now our minds have been renewed in Christ (4:20–24).[[18]](#footnote-18)

Paul basically says, *“I don’t even know y’all, but I’ve heard about what’s happened in your life because of the gospel.”*

* I’ve heard about your faith, about how you are persuaded and convinced that the gospel is true and trusting it with your life.
* I’ve heard about your love, that you’re firmly committed to Jesus, and that you show this in how you love other Christians.[[19]](#footnote-19)
* I’ve heard about your hope, that your lives are marked and flavored by this deep hope in the things God has stored up for you.
  + That you are looking forward with eager anticipation and strong confidence to the sure promises of God.[[20]](#footnote-20)
* I’ve heard about how you have come to understand the truth about God’s wonderful grace” (1:6).

**You used to be faithless, loveless, and hopeless, but now the gospel has completely changed your lives.**

PAUSE

Since the Colossians already had the truth, they did not need a new truth. Since they had faith, love, hope, and grace, what more was there to seek? And since they had all of these in Jesus Christ, why would they seek elsewhere?[[21]](#footnote-21)

**Faced with teaching that led them to wonder whether Christ could supply all their spiritual needs, Paul reminds the Colossians of the power in the gospel.[[22]](#footnote-22)**

* The gospel has the power to transform people—and not just in Colossae—but all over “the world” (v. 6).

**And Epaphras kind of serves as exhibit ‘A’ here.**

* We don’t know a great deal about him, but we do know that the Christian community in Colossae owed its origin Epaphras, who was most likely converted during Paul’s three-year ministry in Ephesus (Ac 19:8–10), then went home and shared the gospel with his family and friends in Colossae.
* But Epaphras is short for Epaphroditus and Epaphroditus comes from Aphrodite, the Greek goddess of love and sensuality.
  + In other words, Epaphras wasn’t raised in a Christian home.
  + He wasn’t the person you would expect to become a church planter and yet, because of the power in the gospel, here he is planting churches.

PAUSE

**Church, Paul was convinced that knowing the truth about the power of the gospel and the person of Christ is the believer’s best protection against deception.[[23]](#footnote-23)**

* The gospel is not just a theoretical concept; it is a tangible power that can be experienced in the lives of individuals and communities. It is a message of hope, forgiveness, reconciliation, and transformation that has the potential to change the world, one life at a time.

We don’t need something new or different. We don’t need new items added to the menu. The gospel is power, and the gospel is enough!

***Romans 1:16 NLT*** *For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile.*

**QUESTION**

Have we forgotten the power in the gospel? We’ve got all kinds of options and there are all kinds of influences in our world today. Let us be reminded in the power of the gospel.

The second truth I think Paul invites us to remember…

1. **Where the gospel is taking us.**

**Paul’s letter to the Colossians began with a prayer of thanksgiving but in verses 9–14, the focus shifts from thanksgiving to intercession.**

***Colossians 1:9-14 MSG*** *Be assured that from the first day we heard of you, we haven’t stopped praying for you, asking God to give you wise minds and spirits attuned to his will, and so acquire a thorough understanding of the ways in which God works. We pray that you’ll live well for the Master, making him proud of you as you work hard in his orchard. As you learn more and more how God works, you will learn how to do your work. We pray that you’ll have the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting your teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes us strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for us.* ***13-14****God rescued us from dead-end alleys and dark dungeons. He’s set us up in the kingdom of the Son he loves so much, the Son who got us out of the pit we were in, got rid of the sins we were doomed to keep repeating.*

**I think Paul wants the believers in Colossae to remember where this powerful gospel is taking them.** He’s praying that they will keep pressing forward, that they won’t give up, that they find the incredible measure of strength available to them, and that they continue running the race to the finish line.

* The world offers attractive and easier, more comfortable routes. But Paul reminds us where the gospel leads.

Master’s degree.

Michael DeFazio

*“The road that you’re on might not be the road that’s super fun at the moment, easiest, most popular, most accepted, but it’s definitely not one you want to abandon.”*

**That’s what Paul is doing in verses 9-14. He’s reminding the Colossians of where the gospel is taking them.**

And so, he prays for the Colossians to know God’s will and then let that knowledge control them, to fill them.

* The word fill means to control.
* To be filled with something (an emotion like fear or jealousy) means to be under its controlling influence that causes us to do things we might not do otherwise.
* So, being controlled by God’s will means believers comprehend the principles of Scripture and then put them into practice.[[24]](#footnote-24) The ability to discern the truth and to make good decisions based on that truth.[[25]](#footnote-25)
* Paul prays that we will be able to do this.

**And the goal is to live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.**

And Paul says we do this by bearing fruit, growing in knowledge, being strengthened for adversity, and giving thanks for salvation.[[26]](#footnote-26)

**Living a life worthy of the Lord is a high and difficult calling.[[27]](#footnote-27)**

* At times, circumstances are less than friendly. We want to give up for the easier, more comfortable route. It’s at those times that we need **endurance**—the ability to pass through any experience and trust God to see us through.
* At times, people are less than friendly. We want to give up for the easier, more comfortable route. It’s at those times we need **patience**—the capacity to be long-suffering with people and not retaliate when we are wronged or irritated.

We all know from experience, that staying steadfast through the circumstances and being patient with people is tough stuff. It’s often beyond our ability.

**But the good news is that we aren’t left alone with only our own resources to meet the challenge.[[28]](#footnote-28)**

Paul reminds us that God’s power is available.

* We can bear fruit, and grow in knowledge, and please God with endurance and patience as we are strengthened with all power according to his glorious might.
* As we yield ourselves to God in trust and obedience, we will be strengthened to do his will.[[29]](#footnote-29)

**In verse 12 Paul says, “He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people.”**

* This language is full of OT echoes and recalls the promise first given to Abram (Gn. 13:14–17) which was later renewed to Israel (Nu. 26:52–56).
* The inheritance to which Paul refers belongs to a more lasting order than the land of Canaan, for it is *in the kingdom of light, i.e.* in the realm of the light of the age to come, in heaven itself.
* It belongs to a spiritual dimension, unable to be ravaged by war, famine or the like. This inheritance is the ‘hope laid up in heaven’ (1:5; *cf.* 3:1–4).[[30]](#footnote-30)

Paul says, don’t forget where the gospel is taking you.

**QUESTION**

Have we lost sight of where the powerful gospel leads? Paul wants us to know the truth about where the gospel is taking us so that we won’t be victims of the well-disguised lies of those who might lead us astray.[[31]](#footnote-31)

PAUSE

In *The Joyful Christian*, C. S. Lewis writes, “We may note in passing that [Jesus] was never regarded as a mere moral teacher. He did not produce that effect on any of the people who actually met Him. He produced mainly three effects: Hatred-Terror-Adoration. There was no trace of people expressing mild approval” (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1977, 72, 74).

Mild approval is what you give to a book you just read, a film you just watched, or a restaurant you visited recently. Mild approval is good, to be sure, but mild approval is not a “rave review.” It’s nothing to get really excited about. It’s casual. It’s restrained.

It’s impossible to give Jesus Christ mild approval when you understand him. Jesus Christ can be ignored or adored, but you can’t give him mild approval. Jesus is our Creator, our Redeemer, and our Judge. You can’t be casual about that.

**Paul tells us in Colossians 1 that Jesus has the right of absolute supremacy because of who he is and what he has done.** Absolute supremacy. That means first place in everything. That means Jesus deserves preeminence and not mere prominence in our lives. As believers we must always be on guard against allowing anything to occupy the place in our lives which only Jesus deserves. We must also be on guard against the more subtle danger of allowing Jesus a place of equal standing along with the other things that clutter our lives.

Often, it’s the good things that nudge Jesus aside. Ministry and religious activity can take the place of utmost importance. Our children can occupy the top spot. Our dates or our mates can be idolized. Acquisition of stuff or achievement and status can become the things for which we live. None of these are bad in themselves, but if Jesus stands in line behind or beside them, we’re just giving Jesus mild approval.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the eternal Creator and powerful Sustainer of the universe. Jesus is our Redeemer whose death rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of light. We may ignore him. We should adore him. But mild approval? Never![[32]](#footnote-32)

1. Grace and Truth Study Bible [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. N. T. Wright, [*Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/tntc72colus?ref=Page.p+24&off=415&ctx=tres+of+population%2c+~had+not+visited+the+), vol. 12, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986), 24. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Richard R. Melick, [*Philippians, Colossians, Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nac32?ref=Bible.Col&off=8139&ctx=ndation.+Since+Paul+~saw+himself+as+the+a), vol. 32, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1991), 164. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Harold W. Hoehner, Philip W. Comfort, and Peter H. Davids, [*Cornerstone Biblical Commentary: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, Philemon.*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm70eph?ref=Page.p+238&off=773&ctx=ghtfoot+1896.)+More+~likely%2c+these+people), vol. 16 (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2008), 238. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Hoehner, Comfort, and Davids, [*Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm70eph?ref=Page.p+234&off=1401&ctx=e+the+Colossians+of+~ideas+and+practices+), 234. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Robert W. Wall, [*Colossians & Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/ivntccol?ref=Bible.Col&off=22925&ctx=ng+of+divine+grace.+~According+to+Paul%2c+t), The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), Col. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Max Anders, [*Galatians-Colossians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hntc69ga?ref=Bible.Col1.1&off=89&ctx=self+as+an+apostle%2c+~one+who+is+sent+as+a), vol. 8, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 277. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Wright, [*Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/tntc72colus?ref=Bible.Col1.1&off=445&ctx=olosse%2c+he+had+not.+~It+is+this+God-given), 49. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Anders, [*Galatians-Colossians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hntc69ga?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=407&ctx=spel.+Finally%2c+Paul+~says+the+Colossians+), 277. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Anders, [*Galatians-Colossians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hntc69ga?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=554&ctx=man+considerations.%0a~Paul%E2%80%99s+greeting+of+g), 277. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Hoehner, Comfort, and Davids, [*Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm70eph?ref=Page.p+234&off=1401&ctx=e+the+Colossians+of+~ideas+and+practices+), 244. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Peter T. O’Brien, [“Colossians,”](https://ref.ly/logosres/nbc?ref=Bible.Col1.3-8&off=68&ctx=+gospel%0aThe+apostle+~follows+his+usual+cu) in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson et al., 4th ed. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 1263. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Anders, [*Galatians-Colossians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hntc69ga?ref=Bible.Col1.3&off=292&ctx=for+the+Colossians.+~The+gospel+of+Jesus+), 278. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Douglas J. Moo, [*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/pntccolphm?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=1362&ctx=ect+in+this+letter.%0a~But+more+important+t), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 77. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Wright, [*Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/tntc72colus?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=769&ctx=aithful+brethren%E2%80%99).+~Paul+often+refers+to), 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Moo, [*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/pntccolphm?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=2838&ctx=pening+addresses.21+~The+term+hagios+taps), 78. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Moo, [*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/pntccolphm?ref=Bible.Col1.2&off=2102&ctx=ms+to+have+in+mind.+~%E2%80%9CIn+Christ%E2%80%9D+is+Paul%E2%80%99), 77. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Merida, [*Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/9780805496734?ref=Page.p+14&off=1781&ctx=now%E2%80%9D+expressions%3a%0a%E2%80%A2+~We+were+dead+in+sin%2c), 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Hoehner, Comfort, and Davids, [*Cornerstone Biblical Commentary*](https://ref.ly/logosres/cstonecm70eph?ref=Bible.Col1.3-8&off=10688&ctx=+reports+they+were!+~The+Colossians+were+), 247. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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24. Max Anders, [*Galatians-Colossians*](https://ref.ly/logosres/hntc69ga?ref=Bible.Col1.9&off=1342&ctx=g-term+development.%0a~Paul%E2%80%99s+prayer+is+tha), vol. 8, Holman New Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999), 280–281. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Douglas J. Moo, [*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/pntccolphm?ref=Bible.Col1.9&off=4760&ctx=ob+12%3a13%3b+28%3a20).54+~The+combination+thus), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 94. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
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27. Moo, [*The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon*](https://ref.ly/logosres/pntccolphm?ref=Bible.Col1.11&off=329&ctx=+to+be+achieved.%E2%80%9D69+~Living+a+life+worthy), 97. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
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