



## Lesson One: "In Christ at Colossae" (Colossians 1:1-8)

Paul Goebel - September 14, 2021

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

<sup>6</sup> 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, <sup>7</sup> just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup> and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

### Table Discussion Questions

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1. Why did Paul write the letter to the Colossians? What similarities do we share with the Colossian church?
2. What does it mean to be "In Christ"? Why is this phrase so foundational for the Christian life?
3. If you are not united to Christ, what are you united to? How do these competing unions divide your heart? How do these competing unions divide the church?
4. Paul begins every letter in the New Testament with the phrases "by the will of God" and "grace and peace." How are these phrases much more than a simple greeting?
5. How was the faith of the Colossian church being challenged? How is your faith being challenged today?
6. What makes grace so difficult to comprehend?
7. How does our union with Christ give us peace with God? How does our union with Christ give us peace with one another?