

Essentials of a Christian Life

Book of Colossians — pt 1 (Col. 1:1-14)

Essential. Pruning toward a flourishing life because “more” isn’t always better.

Colossians 1:1–8 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. ² 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. ³ 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.

Prayers for Faith Church in 2024:

1. Pray we are filled with wisdom from the Spirit.

Colossians 1:9 —“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.”

2. Pray we live a flourishing life in Christ.

Colossians 1:10 —“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.”

3. Pray we are strengthened to endure pruning.

Colossians 1:11–12 —“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, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.”

4. Pray we walk in freedom.

Colossians 1:13–14 (NLT) —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.

PRACTICING THE WAY

As disciples of Jesus, we know our allegiance to Him as King is expressed in our daily practice. We are not pursuing perfection, but want to practice our faith each day. These practices will point you toward spiritual formation as an apprentice (disciple) to Jesus.

Start the Bible Recap reading plan with a friend.

Recite this prayer each day:

Father, fill me with your Spirit and wisdom. Grant me the joy of your life flourishing in me. I choose to surrender to Your ways. Amen.

Talk it Over (with friends, a spouse, or connect group)

- Read Colossians 1:1-8. What do you notice in this passage?
- Sunday's message was about letting the right light into our lives. Did anything in the message stand out to you or stir a question within you?
- What is one way you have seen faith come alive in you during 2023? What is one area you want to see faith grow in your life in 2024?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your contentment level, with 10 being perfectly content? What can keep us from being content?
- Read Colossians 1:9-14. What do you see in this passage?
- Pray the following prayer, slowly, over the group: *Father, fill me with your Spirit and wisdom. Grant me the joy of your life flourishing in me. I choose to surrender to Your ways. Amen.*