

Colossians Part 3

Colossians 1:1-18 select passages set 3 (1:4, 8, 10, 13)

PASSAGE

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of **your love for all the saints**; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your **love in the Spirit**. 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may **walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of **the Son of His love**, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

LOVE

**"your love for all the saints" (1:4) "love in the Spirit..." (1:8) "the Son of His love" (1:13)
"being knit together in love" (2:2)**

--**agape love**... not phileo (friendship love) or eros (romantic love), but self-sacrificing love...

--Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love [*agape*], joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."

--1 Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love [*agape*] is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails..."

--**love is the light of heaven on earth...**

--when we walk in love there is a sense in which we are shining the light of heaven on earth...

--Ephesians 5:8-11: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

--1 Thessalonians 2:12: "live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory."

--in the words of Colossians... "the kingdom of the Son of His love" (1:13) and the "inheritance of the saints in the light" (1:12)

--the kingdom of God is not only a future reality, but it has already begun in our hearts... as Jesus said, "the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21)

--through the Holy Spirit who dwells in our hearts we are empowered to love with agape love! "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." (Galatians 5:22)

--the apostle Paul prayed for the Colossians that they would be "**strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power**, for all patience and longsuffering with joy..." (Colossians 1:11)

--Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love [*agape*] one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35)

-- Jesus prayed for us that we would be "one" and reflect His love...

--John 17:20-23: "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that they may be one** just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that **they may be made perfect in one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have **loved them as You have loved Me.**"

--being "one" as the body of Christ is a reflection of the holy unity that is a very part of the nature of God.

--Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all **one in Christ Jesus...**"

--our mutual dependence on the Lord helps bring into focus the reality of being one in Christ.

--in the words of Colossians: "in Him all things hold together" (1:17)

PLEASING GOD

"walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work" (1:10)

--there is no human relationship that can compare to our relationship with God, but perhaps the closest would be that of a child and father where there is both a sense of reverent fear and the intimate love of a father holding his child in his arms. Yet when thinking of the picture of a father holding a child we must not lose sight of the profound reality that God is not only the Father but also the Son and Spirit who also love us. (in the part 4 of this series we will explore Scriptural evidence for the deity of Christ)

--"reverent fear"

--1 Peter 1:17-19: "Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

--love... God doesn't want us to be legalistic in pleasing Him, but rather He wants us to serve Him out of love.

--"we love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

--the more we are in touch with God's love the more we will be inspired to love others and live in a way that is "fully pleasing [to] Him" (Colossians 1:10)

--furthermore, the more we are in touch with the holiness of God and our sinfulness the more we will appreciate His love for us.

--Psalm 51:16-17: "For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise."

--the heart-beat of serving God is being led by His Spirit as a part of our intimate relationship with Him!

--Romans 8:14-15: "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but **you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."**

--*Abba, Father* is an intimate, endearing term

--Galatians 5:18: "If you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

--pleasing God by turning away from temptations...

--Jesus said, "**Watch and pray**, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Mark 14:38)

--key activities to not only protect us from temptations but to help foster the "abundant life" (John 10:10) of being "filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18) that is pleasing to God:

--**spending time in God's Word**

--**fellowship with others**

--**serving/loving others**

--**quality time in fellowship with God through prayer**

--temptations on a deeper level...

--one way to look at temptations on a deeper level... Satan's temptations in our lives are just as ABSURD as Satan's temptation of Jesus ("All this I will give you," he [Satan] said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'" – Matthew 4:9). Satan's temptations are just as absurd as the idea that Jesus would actually bow down to Satan and forfeit His kingdom. It would make absolutely no sense for Jesus to give into Satan's temptations, and it makes no less sense for us to give into his temptations, yet through the weakness of our flesh sometimes we choose to give into his temptations. May we walk by faith and see his temptations for what they really are...lies from the "father of lies" (John 8:44) designed to "kill, steal, and destroy" (John 10:10). Furthermore, the fiery arrows that he throws at us are really being thrown at Christ! May we keep our focus on Him and know that He has broken the power of Satan, and it is only a matter of time before the resulting judgments that end his reign on the earth... "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5)