**Rooted in Christ, A Study of Colossians - Lesson 2**

Women of Grace | GraceLife Church

*We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and multiplying, just as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard and understood the grace of God in truth; just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow slave, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, who also informed us of your love in the Spirit. -- Colossians 1: 3-8*

**Day 1**  Verse 3

*We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

*–Colossians 1: 3*

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1. What does this verse teach us about the Trinity?
2. What elements of prayer do you see in this verse?
3. Read Matthew 6:5-13 and answer the following questions:
	1. How should we pray?
	2. Who should we pray to?
	3. What should we ask for?
	4. What should our heart attitude be?
4. What are some of the purposes for prayer? See the following passages:
	1. Matthew 14:23
	2. Mathew 26:40-41
	3. Ephesians 6:18-19
	4. Philippians 1:9
	5. Colossians 1:9
	6. Colossians 4:3
	7. 2 Thessalonians 3:1
	8. 1 Timothy 2:1-2
5. How important is thanksgiving in our prayers?

**Heart-Check** (to be completed for your own growth in grace and will not be discussed in group time):

* Do you often thank God for the Church and her qualities or are you prone to complain about her?
* How can you add “giving thanks to God” for others to your prayers?
* Do you realize in prayer you are coming face-to-face with God, through the Son, and by the power of the Spirit? How can this change your prayers?

**Day 2** Verse 4

*since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints,*

*–Colossians 1:4*

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1. Define faith.
2. Who is the object of our faith?
3. What two things does saving faith produce?
4. How does faith in Christ take place? See Romans 10:17.
5. Can a true Christian lose their faith? Use Scripture to support your answer.
6. What evidence of saving faith are the Colossians demonstrating?
7. According to these verses, how can believers show love to one another?
	1. Proverbs 17:17
	2. Matthew 22:39
	3. John 15:13
	4. Romans 12:10
	5. Ephesians 4:32
	6. 1 Peter 4:8
	7. 1 John 3:18

**Heart Check:**

* Does your life show evidence of saving faith?
* What areas of godliness do you desire to grow in? Write them down and pray over them.

**Day 3**  Verse 5

*because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel –Colossians 1:5*

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1. What is our hope laid up in heaven?
	1. What does 1 Peter 1:4 tell us about our hope?
	2. What is our hope in 1 John 3:2-3? What effect does this have on our life?
	3. How does Romans 8:18, 24-25 and Hebrews 11:26 help us in keeping our eyes fixed on our future hope?
2. What is the Word of truth in this verse?
3. What is the gospel? Use Scripture to support your answer.
	1. What is the message the lost need to hear in order to be saved?
	2. What are the essential elements in the gospel message?
4. According to the following verses, how did Jesus spend his time during His ministry on earth? See Matthew 9:35 and Mark 1:14-15.
5. From Mark 16:15, what does He command us to do?

**Heart Check**:

* Do you regularly share the gospel?
* Do you regularly pray for the Lord to give you opportunities to share Christ?
* Are you more prone to set your mind on earthly troubles or on your hope laid up in heaven?
* How can this be a stumbling block to your growth in Christ?

**Day 4** Verse 6

*which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and multiplying, just as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard and understood the grace of God in truth; –Colossians 1:6*

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1. How does the gospel go into all the world?
2. How does the gospel bear fruit?
3. What does Scripture say about bearing fruit in the following verses?
	1. Matthew 7:18-20
	2. Matthew 12:33-35
	3. John 15:4-7
	4. Ephesians 5:9
4. According to the following verses, how does the gospel bear fruit in the life of a believer?
	1. John 15:14
	2. Acts 26:20
	3. Romans 7:4-6
	4. Galatians 5:22-24
	5. Colossians 1 :10
	6. 1 Peter 2:2
5. How do we recognize God’s grace in truth?

**Heart Check:**

* Are there any areas, like sucker-shoots, that are stealing your spiritual vitality? These can be good things too, not just sinful things.
* Are there any thoughts you need to “put-off”? What thoughts can you “put-on” in their place?

**Day 5** Verse 7-8

*just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow slave, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, who also informed us of your love in the Spirit. –Colossians 1:7-8*

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1. Is Epaphras mentioned anywhere else in Scripture? Who was he?
2. Paul calls Epaphras “our beloved *sundoulos*.” What does this word mean?
3. Why do you think modern Bible translators avoid using the word *slave* to describe the relationship of the believer to God?
	1. What consequences has this had?
	2. Why do you think so many Christians struggle with the concept of being a slave of Christ?
	3. Do you see yourself as God’s slave?
4. What other description does Paul use when describing Epaphras?
5. Epaphras likely travelled 1000 miles to see Paul and bring him the message of the church at Colossae. What does this tell you about his love for them?
6. This is the second time Paul has mentioned the love of the Colossians. What does this tell you?

**Dig Deeper** (for personal study):

* Read the book of 1 John and count how many times it mentions Christians loving one another.
* Listen to Erin’s session on love found on the GraceLife Women’s Ministry page.
* Make a list, a prayer list or journal of:
	+ On-going needs in the church
	+ Those you desire to see come to Christ
	+ Your own personal holiness and areas to grow
	+ Opportunities to share the gospel