

Colossians 1:1-8

1-2 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and **Timothy our brother**. **To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse:** grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

• **II Timothy 1:1** “Paul, an _____ of Jesus Christ by the _____ of _____, according to the promise of _____ which is in Christ _____, to _____, my beloved _____: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

• **II Corinthians 1:1-2** “Paul, an _____ of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and _____ our _____, to the _____ of God which is at Corinth, with all the _____ who are in Achaia: _____ to you and _____ from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Definition: “To the SAINTS and faithful BROTHERS in Christ who are in COLOSSE”

– The city of Colosse was in what is presently the country of Turkey. “Saints” and “brethren” are terms used in the Bible to refer to true believers in Christ, so **Paul is writing this letter to ALL the Christians** in the church in the city of Colosse. **What he wrote to them also APPLIES to US**, since it was written by the inspiration of God, and as ALL Scripture is written for our doctrine (teaching), reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The more we know of the word of God (Scripture), the better **equipped we will be to do the WILL of GOD**.

• **II Timothy 3:16-17** “_____ is given by _____ of _____, and is profitable for _____, for reproof, for _____, for _____ in righteousness, that the _____ of _____ may be complete, thoroughly _____ for every _____ work.”

• **II Peter 1:20-21** “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of _____ is of any private interpretation, for prophecy _____ came by the _____ of _____, but _____ of _____ spoke as they were _____ by the _____.”

Definition: “Timothy our BROTHER” – Our brother in this sense means a **“brother in Christ.”** When writing to Timothy, Paul refers to him as his “beloved son”, but again, he means a **“son” in the Lord**. Paul helped Timothy to come to Christ and be born again, so he feels like **his spiritual father** and calls him his “son” in that sense. At this time, Timothy is with Paul, since Paul says “and Timothy” when beginning his letter to the Colossian church. Later, Paul writes two letters to Timothy (the books of First and Second Timothy) when Timothy is a young pastor of the church in Ephesus.

• **II Timothy 1:1-4** “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, to _____, my

true _____ in the _____: grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord. As I urged you when I went into Macedonia – remain in _____ that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.”

3-4 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **PRAYING ALWAYS for you**, since we heard of **your FAITH in Christ Jesus and of your LOVE for all the saints**;

•**Ephesians 1:15-16** “Wherefore, I also, _____ I _____ of your _____ in the Lord Jesus, and _____ for all the _____, do not _____ to give thanks for you, making _____ of you in my _____.”

•**I Thessalonians 5:17-18** “Pray without _____, in everything give _____, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for _____.”

•**I Samuel 12:23** “Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should _____ against the Lord in _____ to _____ for _____; but I will teach you in the good and the right way.”

•**Romans 1:9** “For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that _____ I make _____ of you _____ in my _____.”

5-6 Because of the hope which is **LAI D UP for you in HEAVEN**, of which you heard before **in the WORD of the TRUTH of the GOSPEL**, 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;

•**I Peter 1:3-4** “Blessed be the _____ and _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant _____ has begotten us again to a living _____ through the _____ of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, _____ in _____ for _____.”

•**Matthew 6:20-21** “But _____ for yourselves _____ in _____, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your _____ is, there your _____ will be also.”

•**Ephesians 1:13** “In whom also you _____, after you had _____ the _____ of _____, the _____ of your salvation: in whom also after you had _____, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.”

Definition: “The GOSPEL, which has COME to you, as it has also in ALL the WORLD” – The GOSPEL, which means GOOD NEWS, is the INVITATION to

receive **ETERNAL LIFE** through **Jesus Christ**. This gospel is **AVAILABLE to ALL people**, but many **DO NOT RECEIVE** Him. **ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE** have had an opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is not saying that **all HAVE HEARD about Jesus**, but that **ALL people have the OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR, if they WANT to HEAR**. God is absolutely **FAIR and JUST**, and does not condemn anyone to hell without giving them a chance to **HEAR** the truth about Jesus.

•**Revelation 22:17** “And the _____ and the bride say, “_____!” And let him who hears say, “_____!” And _____ desires, let him take the water of _____ freely.”

•**John 12:32** “And I (Jesus), if I am _____ up from the earth (on the **CROSS**), will draw _____ to Myself.”

•**Titus 2:11-12** “For the _____ of God that brings _____ has _____ to _____, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live _____, _____, and _____ in the present age.”

Definition: “BRINGING forth FRUIT” – We, as individual Christians, are to be bearing and bringing forth fruit for God, but there is another sense here that **the GOSPEL itself is bringing forth fruit for God. In other Scriptures, it is called God’s “harvest”** or crop. As the **SEED** of the **GOSPEL** is planted in peoples’ hearts, God causes the growth and the **producing of “fruit” or a crop - His HARVEST of SOULS. Jesus said we, as individual Christians, are to “BEAR FRUIT to GOD.”** In that context “fruit” means product, **RESULTS**, outcome. The **OUTCOME** of our lives should be to **DO God’s will** and live a life that is pleasing to Him. The joyful **REAPING** of a **HARVEST** of souls for God’s kingdom is also likened to God gathering His sheep together into the fold. There is **JOY** in **HEAVEN** over every sheep who comes to Jesus as our Good Shepherd.

•**John 15:8** “Herein is My Father glorified, that ye _____ much _____; so shall ye be My disciples.”

•**Galatians 5:22-23** “But the _____ of the _____ is love, joy, peace, longsuffering (patience), kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

•**Colossians 1:10** “That you may have a walk (lifestyle) worthy of the _____, fully _____ Him, being _____ in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

•**John 15:4-5, 7** “Abide (stay close) in _____, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who _____ in _____, and I in him, _____ much _____; for without Me you can do nothing.”

•**John 4:35-36** “Do you not say, “There are still four months and then _____ the _____?” Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and _____ at the fields, for they are already white (ripe) for _____! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers _____ for _____, that both he who _____ and he who _____ may _____ together.”

•**Luke 15:5-7 & 10** “And when He has _____ it, He lays it on His shoulders, _____. And when He comes home, He calls together His _____ and neighbors, saying to them, ‘_____ with Me, for I have _____ My _____ which was lost!’ I say to you that likewise (in the same way) there will be more _____ in _____ over one _____ who _____ than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.’ (Verse 10) “Likewise, I say to you, there is _____ in the presence of the _____ of God over one _____ who repents.”

•**Matthew 9:37-38** “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The _____ truly is plentiful, but the laborers (workers) are _____. Therefore pray (ask) the _____ of the _____ to send out laborers into His _____.’”

Definition: “The FIELDS are already white for HARVEST” — Jesus is referring to the multitudes of people that are ready to hear the GOSPEL — **they are READY or RIPE for HARVEST** (to be SAVED). Jesus is saying that the people are READY to hear, but there are not enough workers to PREACH the gospel to them.

•**Luke 10:1-2** “After these things the Lord appointed _____ others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, ‘The _____ truly is _____, but the _____ are few; therefore _____ the Lord of the _____ to send out _____ into His _____.’”

•**Matthew 13:44** “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like _____ hidden in a _____, which a man found and hid; and for _____ over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that _____.”

Definition: “He SELLS all that he has and BUYS that FIELD” — Jesus told this parable to show how God the Father **gave His only begotten Son to BUY the FIELD** (the world - John 3:16) **with His own blood** shed on the cross. The “treasure” hidden in the field is the CHURCH, all the people who come to FAITH in JESUS CHRIST and become a part of the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. **God “so loved the WORLD”** and **He BOUGHT the whole world**, but only those who ACCEPT what He has done and RECEIVE Jesus Christ as their Savior will benefit from it. All others will go into a Christless eternity in hell, even though their sins WERE ALREADY PAID FOR by Jesus on the cross!! They choose by their own FREE WILL **to REJECT Christ**, and that means they are choosing hell.

•**I Corinthians 5:18-20** “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us (we are the “LABORERS”) the _____ of _____, that is, that God was in Christ _____ the _____ to Himself, _____ imputing (holding against them) their _____ to them, and has committed to _____ the _____ of reconciliation. Therefore we are ambassadors (representatives) for Christ, as though _____ were

_____ through us; we implore (beg) you on Christ's behalf, be _____ to God."

•**Acts 20:28** "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to _____ the _____, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd (feed) the _____ of _____, which He has _____ with his own _____."

7-8 As you also learned from Epaphras, **our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ** on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

•**Ephesians 3:7** "Of which I became a _____ according to the gift of the _____ of _____ given to me by the effective working of His power."

•**Colossians 1:25** "Of which I became a _____ according to the stewardship from God which was _____ to me for _____, to fulfill the word of God."

•**Romans 15:15-16** "Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace _____ to _____ by _____, That I might be a _____ of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, _____ the _____ of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

Definition: "Our dear fellow SERVANT, who is a FAITHFUL MINISTER of Christ"

– We tend to think of the word "minister" as meaning a preacher or pastor in a Christian church. The word "minister" actually just means a **SERVANT, someone who is appointed by another to carry out his orders. We are each appointed by God to carry out His plan and purpose on this earth, and to WORK for His KINGDOM.**

Each and every Believer in Jesus Christ is a "minister" and a servant of the gospel. The question is: **When Jesus our Lord and Master RETURNS, will He find us FAITHFUL SERVANTS?**

•**Matthew 24:44-47** "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is _____ at an hour when you do _____ expect Him. Who then is a _____ and wise _____, whom his _____ made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that _____ whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing. Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods."

•**Matthew 25:21** "And his _____ said to him, '_____ done, _____ and _____; you were _____ over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the _____ of your _____.'"