

A Gracious Greeting

Colossians 1:1-8

Members of God's Family Should Be Greeted With Grace

A. Members of God's Family (1:1-2a)

1. Saints (1:1)

Set apart to God at the time of salvation

2 Corinthians 5:21

2. Faithful brothers (1:2a)

Faithful because of trusting Christ

Titus 3:5, John 1:12-13

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B. Cherished Members of God's Family (1:2b-5)

1. Greeted warmly (1:2b)

By the grace and peace of God

2 Peter 1:2, Hebrews 4:16, Hebrews 12:28

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B. Cherished Members of God's Family (1:2b-5) – cont'd

2. Appreciated deeply (1:3-5)

a. A people never met by Paul

b. A prayer of thanksgiving for...

1. Their faith in Christ

By the hearing of the Word (Romans 10:17)

2. Their love for Christ

By the fellowship of the saints

Romans 5:5

3. Their hope by Christ

By acting on the Word

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C. Productive Members of God's Family (1:6-8)

1. Experiencing the power of the Word (6-7) – Ps 126:6

a. By fruitfulness beginning at salvation

b. By fruitfulness believing the truth of God's grace

c. By deciding to be fruitful - Being sanctified

John 17:17, Ephesians 5:25b-27, Titus 2:11-12

d. By following a good model – Epaphras

Colossians 4:7, Philemon 23

2. Expressing love in the Spirit (8)

Faithfulness overcomes adversity

1 Thessalonians 1:6-9

A Prayer For Life

Colossians 1:9-13

**The Christian life demands daily spiritual
growth**

Paul's Outlook On Serving Christ

A. His highest goal

Philippians 1:12

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

B. He did what God wanted

Acts 26:1-18

C. Followed through to the end

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

I. Know God's Will (1:9-10)

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be **filled** with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

I. Know God's Will (1:9-10b)

A. Thoroughly (9)

“Filled” = Controlled

Ephesians 5:18

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

1. Why?

Colossians needed to combat Gnosticism

2 Peter 3:17

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

I. Know God's Will (1:9-10b)

A. Thoroughly (9) - continued

2. How?

Psalm 119:104-105

104 Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:130

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

I. Know God's Will (1:9-10b)

B. Experientially (9b-10)

1. Two keys

a. Wisdom

To distinguish truth from error

b. Spiritual understanding

1) To apply truth in decisions and actions

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

2) "in the knowledge of God" - Desire and means

II. Know God's Power (Col 1:11)

Colossians 1:11

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

A. Extensively

Realize God is all-powerful

B. Practically

By patience, longsuffering, and joyfulness

John 15:11

These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

III. Magnify God's Goodness (1:12-13)

Colossians 1:12-13

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

III. Magnify God's Goodness (1:12-13)

A. He has given us an inheritance (12)

“saints of light”

1 Peter 1:4

**To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that
fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**

III. Magnify God's Goodness (1:12-13)

B. He has delivered us from the power of darkness (13a)

Ephesians 5:8

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

III. Magnify God's Goodness (1:12-13)

**C. He has given us citizenship in His Son's kingdom
(13b)**

Exodus 19:6

And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

1 Peter 2:9

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;

**How Are You
Living?**