

**LESSON 2**  
COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

After Lesson 1 and at least three careful readings of Paul's letter to the believers at Colossae, you should have a much firmer grip on what Paul was communicating to them. Great! But aren't you a bit curious about who these people were and what occasioned Paul's letter? For those of you who enjoy a good hunt and have some tools available, read a commentary and briefly write down your additional discoveries. You'll learn a few basic facts from the following paragraph.

Colossae was a relatively unimportant Gentile town about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the Lycus Valley. It was one of three small cities in the same area where Christian churches had been established. The other two, Laodicea and Hierapolis, were flourishing more than Colossae. Paul's connection with these churches is second-hand (he had not visited them – Colossians 1:4, 2:1), but his concern was genuine. Since they were Gentiles he regarded them as coming within the sphere of his personal responsibility (1:7).

He wrote to counteract false teachings that were confusing these believers. Although we don't know fully the heresies set forth, we can tell what some of them were by the Christian teaching Paul answers them with. Evidently a false view of Christ, as well as angel/demon worship and the adherence to human tradition (food, drink, festivals etc.), were being presented, leading to asceticism. Paul sees the need to teach "the truth as it is in Jesus" to counter these philosophies. In doing so, he also gets very practical about issues of our daily lives. What we know and who we know are to affect how we live.

Paul was probably in prison in Rome when the letter was written.

Memorize Colossians 1:13, 14. Say it to someone before class \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Read the introduction above. Locate Colossae on a map. (Most Bibles have maps of Bible times and lands.) Did you find it?

Read Colossians 1:9-14 five times. ( \_\_\_1 \_\_\_2 \_\_\_3 \_\_\_4 \_\_\_5)

2. Paul tells them something he has been doing. What is it?

3. Is this the first mention Paul makes of his prayers for them? (See verses 1-8.) Do you see a difference in the two types of prayer? What difference do you see?

4. What effect could Paul's mentioning his prayers for them have on the believers at Colossae?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What did Paul ask for them? Notice that verse 9 begins, "For this reason." What has Paul heard about them that led to his prayer in verse 9?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. From verses 5 and 12, what information tells you what God's will is for you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Notice that verse 10 in the NASB begins with "so that." These are connecting words indicating a result. Read verse 9 and the first part of 10. What can be the result of being filled with a knowledge of His will?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. To "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (NASB) is a pious-sounding but very general statement. Paul gets more specific as he continues. List the three specifics he mentions in verses 10, 11, and 12. There is one in each verse.  
To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and to please Him in all respects involved:
  - a)
  
  - b)
  
  - c)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Verse 11 speaks of the power that strengthens us. What qualities does this power have?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What event in history most demonstrated the greatness of the power of God? (Check Ephesians 1:19, 20.)

11. How does prayer contribute to one's growth in Christ-likeness in both faith and practice?
  
12. Paul prays for us to be strengthened with this kind of power for "steadfastness and patience," (NASB) or "endurance" (NIV). What additional element does he include (see verse 11) that prohibits this process from being done with a grit-your-teeth-and-bear-it stoic attitude?
  
13. Now let's do some personal reflection. In what situation in your life do you most need to be strengthened with God's power RIGHT NOW? In practical ways, what is the process you go through to avail yourself of this power?
  
14. Is God's power sufficient? How do you know?
  
15. What promotes our giving thanks to the Father in whatever situation we find ourselves (verse 12)?
  
16. According to verses 13 and 14, how has the Father qualified us to share in the inheritance of His kingdom? What was the Son's part (Ephesians 1:7)?

17. In your own words describe the contrast between where we were (verse 13) and where we are (verses 12-14).

18. Thank the Father right now that He has delivered you from the domain of darkness and transferred you into the Kingdom of Light, His Kingdom. Thank Him for your inheritance gained for you through the blood of Jesus.

If you have never thanked Him and never availed yourself of the new Kingdom opened to you by Jesus' death, now is a good time to take this step. Thank Him and tell Him you want His loving authority in your life rather than darkness. His forgiveness is complete! You've begun.

19. As a result of studying this section of God's Word I plan to –