

Teacher Class Plan

Colossians: Lesson #45: Introduction of Colossians For Sunday, Oct. 12th

Read Col. 1:1-14 (a simplified explanation of the text is supplied at the end of these notes).

Memory Verse: Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

Explain to the students that today you are starting a new letter, the one Paul wrote to the Colossians. Point out the big letter on the wall. Paul was still writing from prison because in the closing words he asks them to “remember my chains.” There is also a large poster for Colossians should be in your room ready to use. This like the others will give them a few of the things that occur in this letter. It would be good to go over this each week.

Colossae was the name of the town the Colossians lived in. It was in a province called Asia Minor (a province is like a state). *There is a small map on the Bible Quiz.* Colossae was near Laodocia where another church was located that Paul mentions.

A Letter is Written to the Christians at Colossae

- Paul had a visit from a man named Epaphras. Epaphras was a preacher in the church at Colossae. Epaphras told Paul all about the saints in the Colossian church.
- Paul, along with Timothy, decided to write to the church at Colossae and encourage them. Luke and Demas were also with Paul during this time.

Paul Was Thankful That the Truth Had Helped the Colossians

- The people who were in the church at Colossae had once been very sinful people before they became Christians (Col. 3:7).
- But when they heard the gospel of Christ, they truly believed it. Their faith was strong. They truly believed God’s Word and started trying to live it. This really changed their lives.
- They had a great love for Christians everywhere.
- And their hope of heaven was very strong. Jesus has reserved a place in heaven for all who faithfully follow Him. In the Bible we read many passages that talk about heaven and our hope of going there.
- As these Christians continued to learn and grow, they grew fruit in their lives. That idea comes up a lot in Scripture. When a fruit tree grows, it bears fruit. Christians should bear fruit in their lives. Of course our fruit isn’t apples and peaches and bananas, but the fruit of the Spirit, things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
- Paul was very thankful to God for this church.

Praying for the Colossians

- Even though Christians there will really trying hard to serve God, Paul still wanted them to keep growing.
- Paul said that he prayed for them all the time. He asked God to let them keep gaining more knowledge of His Word. God always wants us to grow in knowledge. That is why we study the Bible so much at church, in Bible class and in our homes. We really need to know more and more about the Bible. In time we want to be able to put the whole Bible story together in our minds. The Bible is really one big, long story.
- When we know more about God’s Word and what He expects of us, we can learn to live in a way that really pleases God. There are four things Paul says that this will help us to be:
 - ⇒ More steadfast – that means we God’s word will helps us see why we need to keep living right, keep going to church, keep staying faithful. We can do much for the Lord’s church if we aren’t faithful.
 - ⇒ More patient – more willing to keep going when things get difficult and more willing to keep loving people when they don’t always act right.
 - ⇒ More joyous – Being joyous is just laughing all the time. It is realizing how many things God has done for us and blessed us with. And even when life doesn’t always go the way we want it to, we know that we still can have a hope of heaven.
 - ⇒ More thankful – Be people that do remember that it is God that has blessed us and who also remember to say “thank you” to God for those blessings.
- These are important ways for all of us to grow.

People That Have Been Rescued

- When people sin they are caught by Satan and made part of his kingdom of darkness.
- Christians are people who have turned to Jesus for help. When they obey the gospel, Jesus rescues them from the devil’s power. By Jesus’ blood their sins are forgiven and Jesus is able to take them from Satan’s kingdom to His own kingdom.
- This is where our **memory verse** comes in. Col. 1:13 “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” *Work with the class on the memory verse and see if they can say it.*

Bible Quiz: Please review the Bible Quiz questions with the class. Keep up the good work you have been doing helping them prepare.

Simplified Explanation of the Text

God’s Truth Had Benefited the Colossians

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, along with brother Timothy.
- 2 To those at Colosse who are set apart and faithful in Christ.
- 3 We constantly give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you all the time.
- 4 We have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and the love you have toward all of God’s people who are set apart.

5 And we know that your faith and love give you a reason to hope for what is laid up for you in heaven. This is the hope you have heard about before in the Word of truth, the Gospel.

6-7 This Truth came to you just as it has also come into all the world. And God's Word continues to grow and bear fruit, just as it has done ever since the day you first heard it and understood the truth about the grace of God from Epaphras. This much loved worker is our fellow servant and has faithfully served for us there at Colosse.

8 Epaphras is the one who told us about your love in the Spirit.

Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

9 So every since we heard how God's Word had given you faith, love and hope, we have constantly prayed for you. We've been asking God to fill you with a knowledge of His will, with all spiritual wisdom so that you can put all parts of His truth together and grasp it.

10 We are asking God to give you this so that you will walk worthy of the Lord, trying to please Him in everything, bearing fruit in every good work and always increasing in your knowledge of God.

11-12 God's glorious strength will strengthen you with all the power you need to be steadfast, patient and joyous, as you keep giving thanks to the Father, who has given us what we need to have a part in what the saints in light will be allotted.

13 He rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

14 In Christ our ransom was paid by His blood, providing the forgiveness of sins.