

Below is the Bible text for this study. The relevant parts of the text have been highlighted and underlined to help you and your group connect the questions in this guide with the Bible text itself, so that God's Word is doing the talking.

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,


⁴because **we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus** and of **the love you have for all God's people** — ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in **the true message of the gospel**

⁶that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world — just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

I ntro


 **Pray for your time together.**

 What are some of the things that people might think you need to do to be a Christian?

What about you... what do you think?

 **Read Colossians 1 v1-4.**

D iscover

 Colossians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul and his co-worker Timothy in the 1st century AD. They were writing to Christians in the Roman city of Colossae (which was in what is now modern-day Turkey).

 Paul begins his letter by thanking God for the Colossians in v3-8...

▶ **What two things does Paul thank God for when he prays for the Colossians, and what do these two things flow out of?**

▶ **How did the Colossians hear about this 'hope laid up for them in heaven'?**

Paul then goes on to tell the Colossians what he is praying for them in v9-12...

▶ **What does Paul pray for the Colossians?**

▶ **How should this affect how we live our lives?**

Lastly, Paul reminds them of some key truths of the Gospel in v13-14...

▶ **What are the key truths of the Gospel (the good news of Jesus) in these verses?**

Engage

Think about your own life...

- ▶ **When did you first hear the Gospel?**
- ▶ **How did you respond to the Gospel when you first heard it?**

Think about your life since you first heard the Gospel?

- ▶ **What difference has hearing and believing the Gospel made to you since you first heard it?**
- ▶ **To what extent is your life characterised by a certain hope of eternal life, faith in Jesus, and love for others (especially other Christians)?**

Apply

† We can only ever truly apply the Bible once we have understood how it fits with the Gospel, the good news of Jesus...

- ▶ **The good news of Jesus is that we have been rescued from sin and can now love and follow Jesus as Lord and King. Jesus died on the cross in our place for our sin, and rose to new eternal life, which he gives to us through faith in Him.**
- ▶ **The Colossians first heard the Gospel from a man named Epaphras. The Christians in Colossae had come to trust in Jesus and love other people (especially other Christians) because they had heard about the certain hope of eternal life in Christ Jesus.**
- ▶ **Paul thanks God for the Colossians and prays that God would fill them with the knowledge of his will and that they would live a life worthy of the Gospel. This doesn't mean that they needed something *more* than the good news of Jesus. Instead, they simply needed to *hear and believe the good news of Jesus more.***

💬 A Christian is someone who hears and believes the good news of Jesus. They have the hope of eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection and so they put their faith in him and want to show God's love to all his people.

- ▶ **Is this describing you?**
- **Why / why not?**

🙏 **Spend time in prayer as you finish.**

Give thanks and pray through the things you have shared together.