

Colossians

Chapter 1

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

A. Paul- Gr. **Paulos**- *little*

1. Paul's original Hebrew name was Saul- *desired*. He was named after the first king of Israel. He was the king the people desired. He was tall, handsome, and gifted. However, he was prideful and lacked character. Saul of Tarsus was much like this first king. He was very able and proud in himself. God had to knock him off his horse in [Act 9:4!](#)
2. He later took on the name Paul- Gr. *little*. Paul took on a Greek name because of his calling to the gentiles. He once thought himself to be above everyone else especially the gentiles, but a revelation of grace changed his name or character from great to small. He was great in God but small in himself.
3. We must all come to the realization that we are small in ourselves. We are a circle with the center knocked out without Jesus. This means that if you are not trusting God to lead you, provide for you, and deliver you, then you are about to get knocked off your horse! You cannot experience greatness in God until you fully realize your smallness in yourself.

B. an apostle of Jesus Christ- Gr. **apostolos**- *sent one with authority*

1. An apostle is a sent one with authority given to them by the one or ones sending them
2. 4 classifications of apostles in the New Testament
 - a. The Apostle of our Confession- Jesus Christ
 - b. Apostles of the Lamb- 12 disciples of Jesus
 - c. Foundation Apostles- [Eph 2:20](#), [Eph 3:5](#)
 - d. Equipping Apostles- [Eph 4:11](#)

C. by the will of God

1. Saul had appointed himself as God's messenger to **destroy** the church
2. However, after Paul got saved he waited upon God and was appointed by God to be a messenger to **build** the church. [Act 13:2](#)
3. Here is a point we must ask ourselves:

- a. Are we doing what we are called to do by the will of God or are we self appointed? If we do things self appointed we will lack authority, even if we try to use the name of Jesus!
- b. Do we seek to **follow God** in our daily affairs, or do we head out doing what we want and expect the **Lord to follow us**? Our order should be pray and then walk, not walk and then pray!
- c. If we will start our day out with prayer, and commit our way to the Lord, then we can trust God is directing our steps! [Psa 37:5](#)
- d. Many times I have tried to direct others but I had no authority in that area! It did not work out well! I was not sent by God!
- e. Many are going who are not sent, and many who are sent are not going! It is amazing that God is getting done what is getting done in the church! If you are sent go! If you have not been, then wait! We can know these things by the inward witness!

D. and Timothy our brother

1. Timothy was a huge help to Paul. Paul called him our "brother". Timothy acted as a brother to all around him.
2. We need brothers and sisters. Paul was not a "one man show". He relied and needed others.
3. Do you have brothers and sisters to talk with and pray with? Don't wait for one to approach you! You approach someone else and be a brother or sister to them!
4. [Pro 17:17](#)- *A brother is born for adversity.*
 - a. If you are going through adversity you need a brother!
 - b. We all should seek to be a brother to another and be sensitive for those who are going through adversity and encourage, pray with, and help if possible.

2. To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. to the saints- Gr. **hagios**- *set apart ones*

1. Believers are called "saints" 60 times in the New Testament.
2. "Saint" literally means to be set apart for a special purpose. ex. fine china on special occasions.
 - a. We are to live for God and His purposes.
 - b. Are we living for ourself and our purposes or God's?
 - c. Some Christians are even fulfilling the devil's purposes!
3. Some teach that you must live holy enough, perform miracles, and then die to become a saint. The Word of God teaches that you do

not become a saint by dying. You become a saint by being born again. Once you get this understanding then we will live holy and perform miracles! Religion always gets things backward.

B. Faithful brethren- There are saints and out of the saints are faithful brethren. Not all saints are very faithful! The faithful brethren are just that faithful- to attend, to serve, to give, and love.

C. in Christ- in Colosse

1. This speaks of dual citizenship- We spiritually are in Christ, but naturally we are in the earth. Our spiritual location should impact our natural circumstances and location. Too many Christians let their natural location and circumstances affect their spiritual life.
2. Colossae was known for its riches! However, but compared to our spiritual location which is in Christ, Colossae was poor! We are to live from the riches in glory in Christ Jesus!
3. We can be supplied naturally from our spiritual residence.

[Php 4:19](#)

D. Grace to you

1. 12 New Testament books quote this phrase. This is one of the most repeated phrases in the New Testament. It is repeated for emphasis and to bring out its importance. It was not just a nice introduction or ending of a letter.
2. Grace is what God does for man. The Law is what man does for God. The first half of each N.T. letter focuses on Grace- what He has done for us. The second half of each letter is our response to what God has first done for us! Our **responsibility** as Christians is to **respond** to His **ability**. We serve God from the resources of His grace He has deposited within us, namely through the Spirit of God in our heart.
3. The grace of God is His ability within us to live an God honoring life. Grace does not free us to live as we want, but it empowers us to live as God wants!

E. and peace

1. peace is an all encompassing term which means all around wholeness. Peace always proceeds from grace. Without grace can't know peace. If we do not first receive grace from God then we cannot have peace.
2. We have peace with God because of what Christ has done for us. The grace of the Lord Jesus has brought us the peace of God.
3. We receive the grace of God through revelation of the Spirit and faith. When the Spirit reveals to us what Jesus has done for us

and what has been given to us, then we can receive them by faith and walk in the power of the Lord to live as we designed to live.

3. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

A. We give thanks- Gr. **euchristeo-** *root of thanks is grace!*

1. The fruit of grace is thanksgiving. A person who is not thankful lacks an understanding of grace and fails to receive much grace.
2. Those who are legalistic or carnal lack the grace of God and so lack in thanksgiving!
3. Thanksgiving is an outflow of faith in God's grace.
4. Thanksgiving is tied to the flow of the anointing
 - a. [Eph 5:18-19](#)
 - b. [1Co 14:17](#)
 - c. [1Th 5:18-19](#)

B. Praying always for you

1. We should pray for others when things are going wrong and when things are going well- always praying.
2. Colossians theme is the supremacy of Jesus Christ as our head and Lord. The first and most important way we acknowledge Jesus Christ as supreme in our life is by prayer.
3. Prayer is the language of dependence and submission.
4. The secret to Paul's extraordinary life was prayer. This will make our life extraordinary also.

4. since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

A. Paul heard about their faith and love! These saints were not in sin or doing bad spiritually, but Paul prayed for them. Paul never met these folks. We can pray for people we don't know because of the tie we have in the Spirit.

B. They had love for all the saints. This is a true work of grace when you have love for all the saints. Most have love for only some saints. They had love for all the saints, even the ones who weren't in the faithful group!

C. Faith in Christ proceeds love for the saints. Oftentimes it takes faith to love the saints. The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts through the Spirit of Christ. [Rom 5:5](#) We need to rely on this love within us to love all the saints. Some saints are so lovable. God's love is not

dependent on us, but God. Therefore when we tap into the love of God in our heart then loving others does not depend on them but us!

5. because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

A. because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven

1. Faith in what Christ has done is past tense, love for the saints is present tense, and hope is future tense. These three remain- faith, hope, and love. Love is the greatest of these because God is love. He is not faith or hope. God is love.
2. Our faith is in the love of God. Our hope is in the love of God. Our whole existence is wrapped up in the love of God.
3. Hope is confident expectation of future good. Hope is reserved for us in heaven. When things get tough down on earth we need to lift our eyes to heaven.
4. When Jesus was about to leave earth he warned the disciples that tough times were coming. The first thing Jesus told them was to get their focus on heaven! [Joh 14:1-2](#)
 - a. A new resurrection body awaits us in heaven
 - b. Our love ones await us in heaven
 - c. Our mansion awaits us in heaven
 - d. rewards await us in heaven
 - e. Jesus waits for us in heaven! He is the chief hope we have in heaven.

B. of which you heard in the word of the truth of the gospel

1. Christians all heard good news that led to their salvation. The problem with many Christians is that they turn their ears afterwards to listen to bad news, sad news, and worldly news.
2. The power of the Christian life is found in listening to the good news of the gospel.
3. The gospel is more than you get to go to heaven when you die. It is good news of what Jesus has provided for you to use in this life. It is good news about your new identity in Christ. It is good news concerning the benefits you have right now because of an eternal covenant with God.
4. Too many Christians rest upon having heard in the past instead of hearing the good news today.

6. **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;**

A. which has come to you, as it has also in all the world

1. The gospel has come to you. Grace is God coming to you and blessing you freely. [Eph 1:3](#)- **Every blessing has been already given to you. This was declared before any actions were called for in Ephesian saints!**
 - a. God found you before you found Him! His grace is the resources in which you can live a God honoring life!
2. God so loved the world that He gave. He took the initiative.
3. Many Christians get things backwards. They think it is up to them to come to God and get Him to respond to them and bless them by their works. No the gospel has already come with all the blessings of God. Acknowledge them, believe them, confess them, and receive them! This will lead to a pleasing life before God.

B. and is bringing forth fruit

1. The gospel brings forth fruit. This means something has been planted in you when you got saved. God planted His own life in you that you are to draw upon to bear fruit.
2. The roots of grace have been planted in your spirit. The roots of righteousness, holiness, love, healing, and abundance have been planted within you. You draw upon these roots by faith and see fruit manifested in your natural life.
3. Fruit bearing takes place when you choose to listen to the good news of the finished work of Christ and speak it and act upon it. This works in no matter what climate or what place you are in the world. The gospel is bringing forth fruit in all the earth by those hearing and believing it!

C. heard and knew the grace of God

1. The saints must first hear the grace of God before they can know it. The word "know" is **epiginosko**- *which means revelation knowledge*. The grace of God can only be understood by revelation from the Spirit of God. However, just like the gospel to sinners, it must be preached to Christians.

D. in truth

1. The grace message can be taught in error.
2. Often grace is mixed with legalism. This is not the grace of God in truth.

3. Often grace is taught in a way in which our behavior and sinful behavior does not matter. This is not the grace of God in truth.
4. Many only see grace as forgiveness. Grace is also the impartation of the life and nature of God into our spirit so we are equipped to live a supernatural and holy life. Grace does not free us to live as we want; it frees us to live as God wants!
5. The grace of God in truth is the fact that our actions are a response to what God has first done for us, to us, and in us by the finished work of Jesus Christ. Our actions do not cause God to respond to us. Religion gets this backwards.

7. as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

A. as you also learned from Epaphras

1. The Colossians learned about grace from Epaphras. He was their pastor. It is a New Testament pastor's responsibility to teach the grace of God to the saints. We are in the dispensation of grace. We have the New Covenant of grace. Too many pastors are teaching legalism to the saints. Therefore, their churches lack fruit.

B. our dear fellow servant

1. You cannot be the minister God wants you to be unless you become a servant first. Servant hood ministry is what Christ modeled and requires of those who represent Him. This also includes all Christians. We are to minister by serving others.

C. who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

1. A faithful minister serves others as an ongoing habit. They do it day in and day out. They are steady and reliable. If you are going to be promoted to leadership you must be found faithful. [1Co 4:2](#)

8. who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

A. who also declared to us your love in the Spirit

1. Epaphras reported about the Colossians fruit of love which came by the Spirit of God. It was a supernatural thing. When something supernatural takes place it makes you talk about it! Are people talking about your love walk, or how mean you are?
2. The Spirit of Christ is the source of the Christian life. The chief fruit of the Spirit is love.
3. Tapping into the Spirit is done by prayer and faith.

9. For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

A. For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you

1. **For this reason-** We need to pray with reason. As soon as Paul heard that the Colossians were bearing fruit, he started to pray for them. It is like when you start a fire and see a spark. When you see it then you start blowing on it with vigor! This is what Paul was doing with these saints. The church at Colossae caught hold of grace but needed prayer for it to increase and flourish to maturity.

B. Do not cease to pray

1. **ceaseless prayer is the key to fruitfulness- cease-** Gr. **pauo-** *to pause*. Paul did not pause in prayer. He just kept it going!

2. **prayer-** Gr. **proseuchomai-** petition to the face- we need more face time with God!

C. and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

1. **knowledge-** Gr. **epignosis-** *epi-* above; **gnosis-** *knowledge-* this is higher knowledge or revelation knowledge from above.

2. Paul's first and chief request was that these baby Christians grow in **revelation knowledge of the Word of God**. The Word of God is the will of God. We need to have a revealing of God's will to our heart.

3. We gain knowledge of the Word by reading and study, but only God can give **revelation** knowledge that brings transformation in our life. We should pray for revelation knowledge of the Word **EVERY** time we sit down to read or study the Word. We should also pray for revelation from the Word before we go to church and sit down to listen to the Word preached. Too many Christians are gaining mere knowledge and not revelation knowledge which comes from the Spirit of God.

D. with all wisdom and spiritual understanding

1. Not only are we to pray for revelation knowledge but we are to pray for wisdom in how to apply what is revealed to us. Wisdom is the application of the Word of God.

2. knowledge, understanding, and wisdom are connected. Knowledge is what is known. Understanding is to understand the meaning of what is known and how it works. Wisdom is the discernment on what do with what is known and understood. Ex. You can know that the thing in your driveway is a car. Understanding involves

knowing how to operate it. However, wisdom knows where to drive the car!

3. Wisdom is mentioned first because often God tells us to do something before we understand why? The beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord. We should fear God to the point that if He tells us to do something we do it even if we don't understand why? Understanding comes when we trust God. By faith we understand... [Heb 11:3](#)

10. that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

A. that you may walk worthy of the Lord

1. Revelation knowledge leads to wisdom which leads to **walking worthy of the Lord.**

2. **Worthy-** Gr. **axios-** *equal weight-* it is the picture of a balance with equal weight on each scale. The Lord invested a certain amount in our heart through the new birth. Now he wants us through revelation knowledge and faith to live a life that corresponds equally to what has been placed within us. Our lives should equally reflect what God placed within us.

B. fully pleasing Him

1. It is impossible to please Him without faith- [Heb 11:6](#). Faith is the means in which we draw upon what God has planted within us and produce fruit in our lives.

C. being fruitful in every good work

1. The paradox of the Christian life is that our work is a manifestation of fruit bearing. We abide in Christ and draw from His nature within us and our work is empowered and directed by Him.

2. Bearing fruit comes from drawing on what has been planted in us already. In the New Covenant God will not require from you what He has not first placed within you. God wants us to walk in love, so that means he has placed love within you to draw from and act upon.

D. increasing in the knowledge of God

1. We will never fully reach the point where we reach a balance where our outward life is of equal weight to what God placed within us so we are to continue towards that goal constantly! We do this by our continued increase in the revelation of the knowledge of God. The key to getting more revelation in the Word is acting upon and putting into practice the revelation you received. Many receive revelation, but

fail to act upon it, or stop acting on it. They rest in the mere knowledge of doctrine and deceive their own selves! ([Jas 1:22](#))

2. We are to continually meditate and study the Word of God. No matter how much you know you need to increase. If you are not increasing you are decreasing! We do not need mere knowledge by revelation knowledge. This requires us to stay in the Word of God and prayer.

11. strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

A. strengthened with all might

1. Lit. **empowered with all power**- The Christian life should be one of power from the Spirit of God in us. God's power released from God to us by our communion with Him and our faith in His revelation He gives us from that communion.

B. according to His glorious power

1. Lit. "**according to the ruling power of His glory**"

2. God's glory is the manifestation of His presence. God communicates His presence to us and through us by our spending personal time with Him. A person of prayer carries God's presence and power with them. A person who spends time meditating the Word carries God's presence and power with them.

3. This power is a ruling power that will control our attitudes, flesh, and turn our negative situations around.

C. for all patience and longsuffering

1. You can tell when someone spends time in God's presence. They are patient- Gr. **hupomone**- *endure hard situations*, and are longsuffering- Gr. **markrothumia**-*endure hard to deal with people*, and they have joy in their life that doesn't not fluctuate with either!

2. I can tell I have not spent time with God when I have no patience with situations and no patience with people and I have no joy.

12. giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

A. Giving thanks to the Father

1. life lived under the grace of God is a life that constantly receives from God, not one that tries to achieve for God.

2. A life that constantly receives from God is a life filled with thanksgiving. A person who rarely expresses thanks to God is a Christian who is not receiving much from God.

B. who has qualified us

1. In the Old Covenant it was upon man to qualify for what He received from God. In the New Covenant of grace, God qualified us in Christ to receive from Himself.
2. Too many Christians are trying to qualify for what they need from God by their performance and works. They try to earn what they get from God. That is why they walk away empty handed. God demands perfection. That only came from Jesus. We do not live holy to get what God gives, we receive what God gives and by what we receive we walk holy! We receive from His grace and produce the fruit of holiness.

C. to be partakers of the inheritance

1. an inheritance is received by the death of someone, not how good you are, or what you have achieved. Our inheritance was given to us through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were qualified to receive from God because Jesus died for us.
2. God pictured this by the OT sacrifices. When a person brought their sin offering the priest spent all of his time examining the sacrifice and no time examining the one who brought it. If the death of the sacrifice was accepted by God then they would receive from God. We are qualified to receive all of God's inheritance right now because God accepted your sacrifice, Jesus Christ. The sacrifice of Christ qualified you to receive healing, provision, freedom, peace, and power in your life.

D. of the saints in the light

1. What you need to understand in order to receive your inheritance that has been left to you is to receive the light. Too many saints are saints in the dark! You need to be saints in the light. You need to stay in the Word. The entrance of the Word brings light. ([Psa 119:130](#)) When you see the light of what belongs to you, you can take it and say thank you! You can stop asking God for what you need and start thanking God for it!

13. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

A. He has delivered us

1. Many today are seeking deliverance from darkness- Satan, sin, bondage, habits, and lack.
 - a. This verse plainly tells us that we **HAVE** been delivered from the authority of darkness (Satan and sin). We can experience

deliverance by renewing our mind to the fact we **HAVE** already been delivered from darkness. Confess this often, "**I HAVE BEEN DELIVERED!**"

- b. Many are begging God for deliverance. We will always be frustrated trying to do something that God has already done. Many beg God to deliver them, but God's response is, "I already have through the cross of my Son Jesus, I will not and cannot do any more!"
2. Many are caught up with being in the **process** of being delivered. However, God says He **HAS** delivered us. Deliverance was a process but this was a process accomplished by Jesus and the process is over now when He sat down at the Father's right hand!
- 3.. It then is left for us to believe, receive, confess, and act upon it! **Often this is a process on our side of things** because our need of renewing our mind and beliefs. However, many are trying to get delivered by different means and methods. We only need to receive deliverance as a gift from God.

B. **power of darkness**

1. **power-** Gr. **exousia-** *authority- the right to act; license*
 - a. Satan has authority over those who are lost. He has the right to act in their lives. However, he has no right to act in the life of a believer because we have been removed out from His authority into the Kingdom of the beloved Son of God.
 - b. Satan must come in as a thief and as an intruder in the life of a Christian. The main way he does this is capitalizing on the ignorance and false teaching of Christians.
 - 1a. Satan has access into a believers life if a believer is taught that all things that happen are from God.
 - 2a. Satan has access into a believers life if a believer does not know their authority and fails to resist him.
 - 3a. Satan has access into a believers life is a believer believes that every time they sin, Satan has the authority to attack and destroy them. Many Christians get an attack from the enemy and their immediate thought is what sin they committed for disaster to strike. Our faith is crippled if we think the enemy has the right to attack us.
 - c. Satan has **no authority** in a believers life unless the believer or God gives him access.

- 1a. [1Co 5:5](#), [1Ti 1:20](#)- These believers were handed over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh or natural lives. This was after a prolonged period of serious sin.
- 2a. Notice that Satan did not have authority to destroy these believers **UNTIL** God handed them over! Before then Satan did not have authority to attack and destroy them. Satan will try to attack us and if we do not know our authority, he will be successful!
- 3a. When we sin we sow to the flesh and **from the flesh we reap destruction.** ([Gal 6:8](#)) However, Satan must be given the right to destroy us in the natural either by our ignorance, false teaching, or after prolonged and serious sin God hands them over to be afflicted in their natural life, health, and circumstances.
- 4a. **GOD DOES NOT ALLOW SATAN FREE ACCESS TO YOU, NEITHER SHOULD YOU!!!**

C. **conveyed-** *translated, transferred, transported*

1. In the Star Trek series they could transport people from one place to another. It was fun to see someone about to be killed or attacked by ugly aliens and at the last second they were transported and disappeared to another place and escaped! This is what happened to you when you got saved! Satan was about to devour you on His plate and when he went to open up his mouth God transported you out of His authority and realm and transported you into the kingdom of God!
2. We must renew our mind to our authority and always keep our faith strong to stand in our authority against Satan. He has no rights in your life! Give him none! If you will stand and resist the devil he will flee in terror! ([Jas 4:7](#))
3. Satan operates only in the natural realm. He got kicked out of heaven! We are far above Satan and all His minions because we are in Christ. ([Eph 1:21](#)) Give the devil a head ache- Stomp your foot!

14. **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

A. **in whom we have redemption through His blood**

1. This is the basis for which we were transported from Satan's authority over into God's. We were redeemed from sin.
2. **redeemed-** Gr. **apolutrosis-** *to buy back, pay the ransom price*

- a. Sin is a debt owed
- b. The original sin was against God, so we owe God. The payment price for sin is death.
- c. Since Satan was the one who got man to sin, he took authority away from man and could rule over fallen man. Satan had the keys to death and hell, but Jesus took them back from him!
([Rev 1:18](#))
- d. Jesus became as a man born without sin and through His shed blood and death He paid our debt of sin and sins to the full. Jesus cried out "**PAID IN FULL**" on the cross. ([Joh 19:30](#))
- e. Since our debts have been paid by Jesus we are right with God and we are free from Satan's authority and control

B. the forgiveness of sins

- 1. Jesus paid for every sin we committed. The debt and guilt of them have been taken away by His shed blood. Satan has no grounds to legally accuse us because our sins were legally paid for and removed from us as far as the east is from the west. ([Psa 103:12](#))
- 2. Once a death row inmate is executed he has paid his debt and can go free. He has no life to get up from the gurney though! Praise God, Jesus died as my representative and He had the power to raise up from the grave and was resurrected with new life. That resurrection is the cause for my new birth! I was born into a new kingdom in which Satan has no control or authority!
- 3. When we sin as a Christian it does not affect God or change how he views us. Sin has been paid for fully in Jesus in God's eyes. However, sin changes us and how we view God. Sin hardens our heart and cripples our faith. Our faith will not operate as it should and we will not be able to receive the grace of God.
([1Jn 3:21](#))
- 4. If you know you are righteous and your sins have been forgiven then your faith will be strong and robust and you will be able to exercise authority over the enemy.

15. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

A. He is the image- Gr. *eikon*- *exact likeness or resemblance*.

- 1. We have a saying that someone is a spitting image of their father. Jesus was the spitting image of His Father. That is why He sometimes spat in people's eyes to heal them!

2. Paul is combating Gnosticism which at cropped up at Colosse. Gnosticism taught that spirit was good and physical matter was evil. Therefore they taught that the true God could have not made the universe and earth. They came up with a system in which God produced another lesser god from Himself that was less like Him. That god did the same and so on and so on until one was sufficiently unlike God and evil in order to create all that we see. They said that this was the god of the OT that was mean and wrathful. They taught that men must contact all these gods through knowledge and get access to the next one until you finally could return the the original true God. You found your way back to God by special learning and knowledge, not by faith in the cross of Christ. Paul debunked this manmade theology by saying Jesus is the very image of the invisible God and that He was the One who created all we see. Jesus is just like God and is God. There is not a series of gods you have to go through to get to the supreme God. There is only one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ, and Jesus is just like the Father!

3. Whatever we see Jesus doing, saying, and acting while He was on the earth is just the Father is doing, saying, and acting towards us. Jesus was full of mercy, love, and compassion. So is the Father! Jesus healed all who came to Him. So does the Father. Jesus restored hearts, so does the Father.

B. of the invisible God

1. No human as seen the face of the Father except Jesus ([Joh 1:18](#))- No one with fallen flesh could see Him and live! ([Exo 33:20](#))

2. God is invisible so it takes faith to relate to Him. In our fallen state the best thing for us to relate to God with is faith. Our flesh would never be satisfied. In Jesus day they always wanted to see another miracle or another miracle. Our senses are controlled by the fallen flesh. The best and safest way to relate to God is by faith. Many want to see Jesus and God but the disciples did and it did not make them a bit more spiritual! They were made spiritual by faith!

C. the firstborn over all creation

1. **the firstborn-** Gr. **prototokos-** *first in birth thus having superior rank, honor, and dignity*

a. Jesus was the first Son of God. He was eternally the Son of God. He was eternally begotten of the Father. Christians are sons of God through faith in Christ. But Jesus was the first Son.

b. Jesus has the highest rank, honor, and dignity of the sons of God because He is the firstborn.

c. We get the blessing of the firstborn because Jesus was rejected so that the blessing of the first born would fall upon us who are unworthy. Ishmael was rejected so Isaac could receive the blessing of the firstborn. Esau was rejected so Jacob could receive it. Manasseh was rejected so Ephraim could receive it. Jesus was rejected at the cross so the first born blessing would come to us. We are now in the church of the first born and enjoy the firstborn blessings! ([Heb 12:23](#))

16. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

A. For by Him all things were created

1. God the Father devised the plan of creation. The Word of God created and executed all there is. Jesus created everything that is both spiritual and natural. The Spirit reveals the plan.

B. that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible

1. Jesus created the things in heaven and on the earth. This corresponds to what is visible and invisible. What is in heaven is invisible to us. What is on the earth is visible.

C. whether thrones or dominions

1. These are natural rulers and their domains- These correspond to what is visible on the earth

D. or principalities or powers

1. These are heavenly rulers- These correspond to what is invisible in the heavens

E. No matter if we are dealing with natural problems or spiritual problems Jesus is ruler over all and we are in Him.

17. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

A. And He is before all things

1. Jesus is before - Gr. *pro- prior in time*- to all things

2. Christ was here before anything else was here

3. This speaks to us today. Is Jesus first in our life? Does He get the first time slot prior to all of our other activities of our day, or does he get the last time slot before we go to bed when we are spent, or does he get a time slot at all.

4. In the universe Jesus is before all things. Is He before all things in your life?

B. and in Him all things consist- Gr. **sunistemi-** *stand together; stay together*

1. Scientists do not know what keeps molecules and atoms together and keeps them from tearing apart. It is the Word of God that keeps them together. All things are held together by Jesus!
2. This includes our life! Jesus holds your life together. When we fail to put Jesus before all our things then our lives will start to unravel and fall apart. If you will put him first before all your things then He will cause your finances, job, relationships, and personal life to come together.
3. Jesus is before all things in the entire universe therefore He holds the entire universe together. We have a choice to allow Jesus to be first in all our things. If we do then he will hold us together!

18. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

A. and He is the head of the body, the church

1. Jesus is the head of a new race of being called the new creation.
2. The church has been united into oneness with Jesus Christ.
3. Jesus is the head of the body
 - a. Our head gives direction to all the members of our body. The head is the inspiring, ruling, guiding, combining, sustaining power, and the mainspring of the body's activity, the center of its unity, and the seat of its life.
 - b. Jesus should be giving all the directions for what is going on in the body of Christ, but oh He is not! The church by in large is trying to direct itself and asking the Head for blessing on their plans! How often our teaching and preaching is void of Christ and His finished work and is just teachings about morals or success principles.
 - c. Direction comes through prayer. Prayer has slowly become an endangered species in many churches. In it's place there are programs, committees, and brain storming meetings (these usually only produce storms)
4. The **church-** Gr. **ekklesia-** *called out ones-* The church is the body of Christ.

a. What Jesus is going to do in the earth must be done through the church because we are His body. Just as our head can do nothing without our body, so Jesus needs our cooperation to enact His will in the earth.

b. We often ask God to go and do this and that, but He can only go and do through us! We have been called out to go out!

B. who is the beginning

1. Jesus Christ is the beginning- Gr. **arche-** *point of origin-* Jesus was the origin of all we see and is the origin of the church. Gnostics taught that Jesus was just one that came along in a long line of emanations from God. No, Jesus has always been God along side of the Father is the origin of all things we can see and can't see including angels.

C. the firstborn from the dead

1. Jesus spirit was quickened by the Holy Spirit. Because of this quickening our spirit is made alive once we believe upon Christ as Lord and Savior. We are given the new resurrection life of Jesus Christ. His quickening came first, and ours comes after His.

2. Jesus is the firstborn **from the dead**. He was the first born again in resurrection. We the church await our resurrection from the dead. Our spirit and soul will go on to be with the Lord, but our body will enter the grave. Jesus' body was raised up from the dead and He is at the Father's right hand. One day at the rapture of the church all those who died in Christ will have a resurrection from the dead.

3. Jesus was also the first fruits from the dead. As the first fruits of the harvest promised a harvest after it, so Jesus' resurrection insures we will be raised at a later time.

D. that in all things He may have the preeminence

1. **In all things-** Jesus has the preeminence in all things in the universe except in one small place in the universe called planet earth. He has given man authority upon the earth and he must decide what will have preeminence upon the earth. Each person can decide if Christ will have preeminence in their hearts. Where Christ is preeminent then His kingdom and rule will be manifest. It will manifest in abundant life. The God kind of life that will dominate anything and everything that is not in accordance with it.

2. **preeminence-** Gr. **proteuo-** *to hold the first place, rank, or dignity*

a. How we spend our time and money will tell us what ranks first in our life. If we do not tithe our first fruits to the Lord then the Lord is not first place in our life. If we do not spend time in prayer to the Lord then He does not hold the first place in our life. The best time

to pray is first thing in the morning. What we give Jesus first place in He will sanctify and bless.

19. **For it pleased *the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,***

A. This verse should be translated- "For in Him it was pleasing all the fullness [of God] should be at home permanently."

B. God was pleased to become a man permanently so that He might deliver, save, and redeem man and ultimately live with man forever.

C. **fullness-** Gr. **pleroma-** *complete in number or series*

1. The Gnostics taught that there were a series of lesser gods that proceeded from God Himself which ended with the being who made the Earth. This span of beings had to be contacted and gone through to gain access and be reconnected to the original and true God. This was done by special knowledge and secret rites. This span of beings was called **the pleroma**. Here Paul is again debunking this false religion. Paul clearly says that in Christ dwelt **the pleroma**! In Christ is the fullness of God. He is the only link between God the Father and mankind. We do not have to access Him by special knowledge that only a few special or highly intelligent people get to know or by secret special rites. We have access to God by simple faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The gospel is to be preached to the whole world openly. It is to be preached to the intelligent and the ignorant. It is so simple even a fool could not miss it! ([Isa 35:8](#))

Those bound in religion end up being worse than fools because they are blinded by the simplest plan of salvation that could be devised! Trusting Christ for the forgiveness of sins is what saves us, not special knowledge that rids us of ignorance as the Gnostics taught.

2. Today many are teaching similar things. They say that you must learn secrets to unlock the blessings of God. If you will pay them handsomely they will share the secrets to the abundant life. Do not be fooled by these mis-guided people! Christ is the secret of God. His death upon the cross and resurrection gives you access to all that God has and the abundant life. Jesus lived and died to give you life and that more abundantly. ([Joh 10:10](#)) They are offered as a gift by simple faith. Just accept them in Jesus name. They will be the resources and the empowerment to live a God honoring life.

D. Fullness in our life comes from Him. As Jesus dwells in our hearts by faith, then we experience of His fullness in our life. ([Eph 3:17](#)) He dwells in our heart by faith in the Word of God and faith released in prayer.

20. and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

A. and by Him to reconcile- Gr. **apokatalasso-** *to set up a relationship of peace that was not present before*

B. all things to Himself- Jesus' offering of His body and blood on the cross removed two sources of hostility between man and God. First, our sins were paid for and removed from us. Secondly, the law of commandments was fulfilled and removed from us. Jesus took our trespasses and provided positive righteousness to man, which made for peace with God.

1. Adam's sin not only corrupted earth but also the heavens. Adam had access to heaven before the fall. When he sinned he not only corrupted earth but also the heavens! Jesus blood was shed to provide both natural and spiritual cleansing. Heavenly things needed to be purified by the blood of Christ. ([Heb 9:23](#))

2. The earth and everything in it was reconciled to God through the offering of Jesus Christ. It has been legally secured, but God is waiting for His own purposes to manifest the reconciliation of the earth until He returns. When He returns then the earth and nature will have corruption removed from it. ([Rom 8:19-21](#))

3. We can claim reconciliation with God and with believers through the offering of the Lord Jesus.

C. whether things on earth or things in heaven

1. Jesus offering has provided for peace on earth and in heaven. There is peace in heaven, but we must exercise our faith in the work of Jesus on the cross to experience peace on the earth. We must allow peace to be established on the earth through our prayers of faith and acts of obedience.

2. Notice, that this verse does not mention that **the things under the earth** were reconciled to God. Those in hell, Satan, and demons were not reconciled to God. These comprise those under the earth. All of these have rejected Christ and His sacrifice on the cross.

D. having made peace through the blood of His cross

1. We have peace with God through the blood of the cross.

([Rom 5:1](#))

2. When we are experiencing strife with others we can claim the reconciling work of Jesus Christ. We need to claim that all things on the earth have been reconciled by the blood of the cross. We must

bind and rebuke all spirits of strife and division because of Jesus work on the cross.

21. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

A. And you, who once were alienated and enemies

1. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. He is not imputing the sins of unbelievers to them, because Jesus paid for them at the cross. ([2Co 5:19](#)) The only sin that sends someone to hell is the unforgiveable sin of unbelief and rejection of the Son of God. This is the sin the Holy Spirit convicts the world of. ([Joh 16:8-9](#)) Men must receive the reconciliation by believing upon and accepting Jesus as Savior. ([2Co 5:20](#))

2. Although Jesus' death on the cross has reconciled the world to Himself and He is not imputing sins against them, the world still thinks in their own mind that God is their enemy and they are alienated from Him because of their wicked works. What is alienating them is not works but unbelief! The mental perception of unbelievers is that God is angry at them and hates them. This is not the case.

3. Also multitudes of Christians who struggle with sin think in their minds that they are alienated from and are enemies of God. Those who live a carnal life **make themselves** the enemy of God. ([Jas 4:4](#)) **God does not make them His enemy.** They make **themselves** an enemy of God. They have hostility in their minds toward God. If they would renew their mind to who they are in Christ and what was made available to them by the finished work of the cross then they could escape the corruption and lust that is in the world by relying upon the nature of God within them. ([2Pe 1:4](#))

B. yet now He has reconciled

1. If we would understand the finished work of the cross we would understand that we have been given righteousness and peace with God. We would understand that He is not alienating Himself from us and He does not view us as His enemy. This would impact our life and empower us to holy living.

2. I do not care what you just did dear Christian, yet NOW has He reconciled you and you have peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. ([Rom 5:1](#)) Be reconciled to God in your mind!

22. in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

A. in the body of His flesh through death

1. This is the means in which God reconciled us to Himself. It was by the bodily death of Jesus Christ. He paid the penalty for our sins which was death. Since the death penalty was exacted in our behalf, we then were declared innocent.
2. In the natural when a criminal is executed he has paid his debt to society and is eligible to go free, but he can't because He is dead and has now power to rise from the dead! But praise be to our wonderful Savior! He died in our place and paid the death penalty for our sins. However, Jesus had the power to come up out of death and as our representative rose us up with Him! We now have new resurrection life in our spirit! It is by this new life we are to live the Christian life. ([Gal 2:20](#))

B. to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight

1. **present-** Gr. **paristemi-** *to stand alongside of-* You are now standing right alongside of God and He is viewing you. What does God see?
2. Jesus died to present **YOU** for God's viewing. **YOU** dear Christian! Put your name in there! It is **you** that is presented right now for God's viewing. How does He see you in Christ?
3. He sees you as **holy-** Gr. **hagios-** *set apart, a saint.* You are a holy one to Him. You are a saint. Do you see yourself that way?
4. He sees you **blameless-** Gr. **amomos-** *This word comes from the Greek god named Momus. He was the ultimate faultfinder. He was critical to the nth degree!* God is saying here that Jesus sacrifice was so complete and His blood has so cleansed you, that not even Momus himself could find even one fault with you! God sees you as faultless in Christ. Do you see yourself that way?
5. He sees you **above reproach-** Gr. **anegkletos-** *not being able to be accused-* Jesus has paid up each and every sin you have committed. He has purged your sins so completely that even Satan himself has no ability to successfully accuse you of anything. Satan accuses us, but if we would but present him the offering of Christ has evidence of your acquittal, then He would flee from you in terror knowing he has been defeated!
6. **IN HIS SIGHT-** You are holy, blameless, and above reproach **in His sight.** The word sight means before His penetrating gaze. When the Father looks at you, He only sees the righteousness of His Son. He does not see who you used to be, because the old

person you used to be with all those sins was crucified with Christ on the cross. He only looks at the new creation you are now in Christ. It is important to know how God sees you, because in **our own eyes** we look unholy, worthy to be blamed and accused. The problem comes in the Christian life when we look at ourselves naturally instead of through the Word of God. If we live by what we see, then that is what we will continue to live out. However, if we will gaze into the mirror of God's Word we will behold the glory of the Lord in us and be transformed into that same image outwardly by the Spirit of God. ([2Co 3:18](#))

23. if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

A. if indeed you continue in the faith

1. The Christian life is lived out by faith. ([Rom 1:17](#)) Faith lays hold upon grace (what has been given to us freely in Christ)
2. If we do not continue in faith then we will not be able to live holy, unblameable, and without accuse.

B. grounded and steadfast

1. If we will renew our mind to see ourselves as God sees us and not according to our fluctuating performance then we will be grounded and steadfast! God's view of us never changes. Our performance is always fluctuating. If you feel God responds to you based upon your performance you will be up and down like a wave in the ocean! If you will look to the unchanging Word of God and what it says about you then you will be steady as a rock!

C. and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard

1. God moved you into His residence of His hope and grace when you got saved. Do not move away! Many pack their bags and get their eyes on their natural lives and give up their residence of grace. They move away to the house of Law to try to meet their own needs and take care of themselves.
2. You will remain at the residence of hope and grace when you continue to **hear** the good news of the finished work of Christ. You will pack up your bags and move away when you continue to **see** all the natural circumstances around you and stop listening to the Word!

D. which has been preached to every creature under heaven

1. **every creature**- Lit. *all of creation*
2. All the known world had the gospel witness. However, not every person in all of creation had heard the gospel. There were also lands not known at that time in which the gospel needed to be preached. ex. North America

E. of which, I Paul, became a minister

1. **minister**- Gr. **diakonos**- *a deacon, servant, one who performs menial tasks*
2. We are all made a deacon of the gospel where we live and work. Many live unfortunately like a demon where they live and work. This should not be! Continue in the Word and you will live a beautiful life in service to the gospel of God

24. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

A. I now rejoice in my sufferings for you

1. Rejoicing in suffering is paradox that is produced by genuine Christianity. Suffering is in the body and soul. Rejoicing comes from the re-born spirit. ([2Co 6:10](#))
2. Paul rejoiced because He **knew** something. He **knew** His suffering was bringing about eternal comfort and help for many. Jesus had joy at the cross because He saw you and me and **knew** we would be saved. ([Heb 12:2](#)) We are told to rejoice **knowing** that tribulation works patience and patience when it is finished makes us complete lacking nothing. ([Jas 1:3](#)) We also can rejoice in knowing that God is working for us and rewarding us.
3. Paul rejoiced in suffering in behalf **of others** for **Christ sake**. Paul had no joy in suffering for his own mistakes. So often we are suffering for being a bone head instead of suffering for doing good and for following the Lord.
4. When we suffer for the Lord there is glory attached to it. However, there is no glory attached for suffering for being a bone head! ([1Pe 4:13-16](#))
5. Many Christians are fine print Christians. It is very irritating to hear a great offer and see a small asterisk by it. Then you look down and see a bunch of fine print that basically tells you that the offer is almost impossible to receive! Many Christians are fine print Christians. They

make grand statements like- I am a follower of Jesus Christ! However there is an asterisk by it and when you go down and read the fine print, it says **VOID IN AREAS WHERE SUFFERING IS INVOLVED**. Being a follower of Jesus involves suffering. We will experience suffering in denying the flesh and being persecuted.

B. and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ

1. Many are offended by this statement. They think that Peter is saying that Christ's sacrifice was not sufficient for salvation. This is not what he is saying. Jesus payment for the sin and guilt of mankind was totally sufficient. Jesus died to save mankind, but He also died to give birth to the church. However, to have the church established in the earth would take labor and suffering in behalf of Christ. The church is to go into all the world and preach that Christ's sacrifice was totally sufficient for their forgiveness from sin and guilt and to offer eternal life as a gift. However, to take the message to the whole world would take much labor and suffering of opposition. The church is actually the Lord's body fulfilling his ministry. We are here in His stead doing His works. The church took up the ministry of Jesus after He left. ([Act 1:1](#)) Jesus began his ministry on the earth, but now continues it through us the church. Jesus left so we could go! We are standing in for Him and receiving the suffering that belongs to Him. Jesus will repay us greatly for this.

2. There is joy and glory for Christians who stand in for Jesus and suffer for him. God actually offers to us the gift of suffering for Him because the reward is so great in heaven! ([Php 1:29](#)) ([Mat 5:12](#)) ([Act 5:40-41](#)) ([1Pe 4:14](#))

C. for the sake of the body, which is the church

1. Paul suffered much to establish the body of Christ.
2. The body of Christ suffers daily in carrying out the ministry of Jesus

25. of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

A. of which I became a minister

1. **minister**- Gr. **diakonos**- *one who performs menial tasks*
2. All leaders must start out by being deacons, or a servant that performs menial tasks. Bishops and elders do not stop being deacons when they are promoted. They must still be willing to do menial tasks. They must be small in their own eyes. However, many when they are promoted become big shots in their own opinion and refuse to touch what is menial.

3. Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors/teachers are deacons for the body of Christ. They minister to the body so the body can minister to the each other and the world. ([Eph 4:11-12](#))

4. This is the second time in this chapter that Paul calls himself a **minister- deacon**. This was a humbling term in his day. Paul did not want the church to make a big deal of him but of Christ. There are many today that desire a big thing be made of them. They splash their name and image all over the TV screen and upon their products.

B. according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you

1. **stewardship [lit. of] God-** Gr. *oikonomia- dispensation, administration*

2. Paul received the revelation of the dispensation of grace. He was given this revelation to give to the church.

3. **was given to me for you-** Revelation that comes to a minister is not for them but to be given to the people. The minister did not come up with it from his great intellect and superior knowledge. It was given by revelation and should be given to others. The minister should not and must not take credit for it but give all glory back to God. There is a tendency in the flesh to praise ministers for revelation they have, and the tendency of the flesh is to receive such praise to oneself as a minister. We are to be spiritual Christians and ministers and give all glory to Christ.

C. to fulfill the Word of God

1. **fulfill-** Gr. *pleroo- to fill up a deficiency.*

2. The revelation of the grace of God was needed to fulfill God's Word. Paul was used to fill up this deficiency.

3. Grace was prophesied to be given to the gentiles in the OT. Paul was to carry this out and fulfill the Word of God.

26. the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

A. the mystery- Gr. *musterion- what is hidden*

1. The church/grace age is called the mystery.

B. which has been hidden from ages and from generations

1. There are 7 dispensations or time periods in which God deals with man- innocence, conscience, human government, promise, law, grace, millennium.

2. 6 of these are clearly discussed and written about in the OT. One is not, which is the dispensation of grace or the church. This was a

mystery. Even Jesus disciples did not know about it, until it came. ([Act 1:6](#)) Paul was given the revelation of the church age of grace and the particulars that go with it. He received the revelation of the mystery. ([Rom 11:25](#), [Rom 16:25](#), [1Co 2:7](#), [1Co 15:51](#), [Eph 3:3-4](#), [Eph 3:9](#), [Eph 5:32](#), [Eph 6:19](#), [Col 1:25-27](#), [Col 2:2](#), [Col 4:3](#), [1Ti 3:16](#))

C. but now has been revealed to His saints

1. These particulars were given to Paul to write down but the Holy Spirit sent from God to dwell in us is the one that reveals them to us.
2. The Holy Spirit will reveal Christ and all that His finished work has provided for us when we ask the Spirit to reveal Christ to us. The Holy Spirit has been sent to show us what has been given to us freely in Christ. ([1Co 2:9](#), [1Co 2:12](#))
3. What hinders believers from receiving the revelation of the mystery of grace is legalism. Approaching God based upon law and works places a veil over our spiritual eyes and we cannot see the glory of God's grace and the glory of the mystery that has been freely given to us through the finished work of Christ. ([2Co 3:15-16](#))

27. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

A. **To them-** the saints- all believers are repeatedly called saints in the New Testament.

B. God willed to make known

1. It is God's will to reveal the mysteries of the kingdom of God to those who receive the new birth and approach God as small dependent children who simply believe and receive from Him. ([Luk 10:21](#))
2. God wants all men to know what was hidden from ages past. It is not for just a few select individuals. Many ministers act like they have secrets that you can only get from their books and CD's. If a minister tells you that he has the secrets to unlock the blessings of God and that you can only get it through their ministry, you need to run! You can open the pages of your New Testament and read all the wonderful secrets that God has revealed through Paul the apostle. If we will ask the Spirit to reveal them to us He will. That is why He was sent!

C. what are the riches of the glory of this mystery

1. God wants to reveal to us all His riches that He has given to you in Christ.
2. It is from the riches in glory that we receive all our natural needs met. ([Php 4:19](#)) These riches are made available to us through the finished work of Christ and by the giving of His righteousness. Righteousness is God's legal right and opening to pour out His goodness and provision upon us freely.

D. among the gentiles

1. It was a mystery that the gentiles would be invited to join believing Israel in becoming the body of Christ the Messiah.

E. which is Christ in you, the hope of glory

1. The indwelling of God in each individual believer was a mystery in the OT. The fact that God has united to our spirit and through our spirit we can commune with Him and bear His spiritual fruit are mysteries that believers need to understand and walk in.
2. Christ is our only hope for eternal glory and bliss. It comes by His finished work and by grace through faith.

28. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

A. Him we preach

1. Oh, how the modern church has strayed from the mooring of Christ. The church used to preach Christ and His finished work. Instead the modern church is preaching principles for success, financial prosperity, and how to get God to bless us.
2. The church has left preaching an internal gospel of union with Christ and has been only focused upon the external gospel. It is important to note that we can only experience the external gospel- (health, prosperity) when we embrace and walk in the internal gospel (the prosperity of our soul)- ([3Jn 1:2](#))
3. All the blessings of God come through the perfect life and death for us. It is by receiving Christ's righteousness that we are candidates of God's provisions. We receive these provisions by faith and by our releasing our faith by words and actions.

B. warning every man

1. Paul warned every unsaved man of his need to receive Christ and the consequences of not receiving Him.

C. and teaching every man in all wisdom

1. Paul taught every Christian in all wisdom of the Word of God. **Unbelievers need warning, but Christians need taught the Word in all wisdom.**

D. That we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

1. It is God's will that all be saved and then come into the full and complete knowledge of the truth. ([1Ti 2:4](#))
2. God wants all to be saved and then grow to maturity.

29. To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

A. To this end I also labor

1. Paul labored to see unbelievers get saved and then to teach believers so they could come to maturity in Christ.

B. striving to His working which works in me mightily

1. Paul not only taught about the mystery but He lived out the mystery. Paul lived from His union with Christ in His spirit. He trusted Christ to do the work in him, and Paul then just responded and acted in faith that Christ was empowering His actions and words. Paul simply worked out what Christ worked in Him. ([Php 2:12-13](#))
2. It is vital that our work come from rest. Jesus told us to come to Him and He would give us rest. From this rest we take up His yoke (a symbol of work) and rest with Him doing the work for us and through us. ([Mat 11:28-30](#))
3. We will enter His rest through faith. We obtain faith by meditating on the truths of the mystery of the grace of God and the finished work of Christ. By meditating on the epistles we will gain faith in who we are, what has been given to us, and what we can do because we are in Christ. We will be living out the mystery! People will be amazed how we can walk in love, joy, and peace no matter what we are experiencing in the natural realm. Christians should be a mystery to an unbeliever. They should scratch their head and say, "How can they do that in this situation!" Of course, they should say this because of our positive lifestyle, but unfortunately many unbelievers are looking at some believers and scratching their heads and are saying, "These Christians are a mystery. How can they live such bad lives and call themselves Christians!" This ought not to be brothers and

sisters. Let's live mysterious lives that cause believers to want to know God and get saved.