



COLOSSIANS 1:1-12 WEEK 1

**ENGAGE YOUR SOUL (YOUR MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS)
IN THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES THIS WEEK**

Our focus this week is Colossians 1:1-8... Faith in the Gospel

1. Warm up Part 1... READ & WATCH

- **READ** Colossians 1:1-12 in at least 3 Bible translations. (Biblegateway.com is a great resource for this)
- **WATCH** the Intro to Colossians 1:1-12 video on our YouTube channel (Established Footsteps Ministry)

2. Warm up Part 2... COPY Colossians 1:1-8.

3. Summarize

As discussed in the Intro video, the first 8 verses of Colossians chapter 1 really establish the relationship that Paul has with the believers in Christ at Colossae (and all believers). This relationship is based on their shared faith in the Gospel of Jesus. To make sure we grasp all that Paul is saying, take a moment to make note in your journal of the content of verses 1-8. To help you get started, take care to consider the following ideas, but feel free to make note of other things as well:

- Paul's reasons for writing
- The connection point between Paul and those to whom he is writing
- Ways that the Gospel affected the believers
- How the Gospel was affecting the world
- Who taught these believers the Gospel

4. Things to Ponder

In Colossians 1:7, Paul names Epaphras as the one who shared the Gospel with these believers. I imagine that when Epaphras shared with them, he couldn't see ahead to all that would come to be as a result of their hearing... that these believers would form a church, that this church would be highlighted in Scripture and that all these years later, we would still be talking about how Epaphras shared the Gospel with them. He was simply sharing his faith, and these believed and began their own faith journey. Epaphras couldn't see all that lay ahead and none of us can see into the future either, but we can all look back and remember with gratitude. So, let's do so by answering the following in your journal.

- Who is your Epaphras? Meaning, who shared the Gospel with you? And what is your story of how you came to faith?
- When you did come to faith, who like Paul may have thanked God that someone shared the Gospel with you? Why?
- Are you presently being an Epaphras to someone? If so, ponder whose prayers are you may be answering?
- Have you ever thanked your Epaphras? If not, reach out today and do so. And even if you have, why not reach out and thank them again?

5. Implications for Life Change

As we read what Paul wrote to these believers, we can see some distinct implications of things that should be happening in our lives once we profess faith in the Gospel of Jesus. Some of these implications are noted below. Take time to review each one and ask yourself if these things have taken place in you. Journal your thoughts and pray about each one.

- Verse 4... they have love for all the saints
- Verse 5... they have hope in heaven
- Verse 5... they understand that the Gospel is Truth
- Verse 6... the Gospel message is bearing fruit and increasing through them
- Verse 6... the Gospel message took root in them one day, but they kept growing in understanding of it
- Verse 6... they understood the grace of God in the light of Truth, not based on their own assumptions or feelings
- Verse 8... now that the Spirit of God is alive in them, they are living in love

6. Use the Scripture Prayer Image to pray into the theme of Colossians 1:1-8.