

## Principles and Applications from Colossians 1

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1. *We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying **always for you**, since we **heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and **the love which you** have for all the saints (vv. 3-4).*

  - **Pray for believers who are doing well, not just those with problems. And it's for praise and thanksgiving, not just prayer for healing.**
2. *...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which **you previously heard** in the word of truth, the gospel which **has come to you** (vv. 5-6).*

  - **Make yourself available to disciple those who someone else has led to Christ. Most of the twelve were not Christ's converts.**
3. *Just as **you learned** it from Epaphras, **our beloved fellow bond-servant**, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf (v. 7).*

  - **Take the initiative to offer teaching to new believers. Ask believers close to you if they would like to meet to study the Bible. And when you meet, study the Bible—don't just discuss their problems.**
4. *...and **he also informed us** of your love in the Spirit. **We have not ceased to pray** for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God (vv. 8-10).*

  - **Introduce your ministry to believers you do not know, through believers both of you know. Jesus received His first five disciples through referrals.**
5. *For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (vv. 13-14).*

  - **Teach the person and work of Jesus Christ theologically, as the foundation for morality. Theology is always the foundation of morality. There is no difference between your faith and your works (James 2).**
6. *Yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard (vv. 22-23).*

  - **Don't give assurance of salvation to people who do not continue in the faith. People who continue in unrepentant sin need to become firmly established and steadfast in their faith and walk with Christ.**
7. *...the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (vv. 26-27).*

  - **Never look for types of, examples of, or predictions of, the church in the Old Testament. There are types of Christ but no types of the church in the Old Testament.**