



**COLOSSIANS:
SATISFIED IN CHRIST**
An interactive Bible study for
individuals, families,
and LIFE Groups

~Week One~
“Rescued from Darkness”
Colossians 1:9-14

Welcome to UPC’s study of the book of Colossians entitled “Satisfied in Christ.” We pray that this weekly guide will help you grow closer to the One who promised to fulfill your soul’s deepest longings. Whether you work through these lessons on your own, with a friend, or in your family or LIFE Group, we believe they will help you know “the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

SOME PRELIMINARIES AS WE BEGIN

- **These studies** complement the Sunday sermons at UPC. On Sunday morning you will hear a sermon on a passage in Colossians. That week’s study guide will focus on the NEXT section in the book of Colossians. Each lesson includes a “Recall” section in which you look back at the previous Sunday’s sermon. If you missed that sermon, you can always listen to it online. Just go to our website: www.upc-orlando.com.
- Now, it will help to get a **“big picture” view** of the book of Colossians. Here’s a simple outline:
 - I. **Chapters 1-2** – Redemption accomplished (i.e., what Christ has done for you)
 - II. **Chapters 3-4** – Redemption applied (i.e., how you are to live in order to glorify and enjoy Christ)

- **What is the book of Colossians?** Actually, it’s a letter -- one of nine contained in the New Testament attributed to the apostle Paul. He wrote this letter to a small church of young Christian converts (mostly Gentiles) who lived in Colosse, a town situated on the Lycus River in the interior of modern-day Turkey. Paul wrote this letter around A.D. 60, during a period of imprisonment in Rome.
- **Why did Paul write Colossians?** His friend Epaphras, who founded the church in Colosse, visited Paul in prison and brought him alarming news. He told Paul that the believers in Colosse were slipping away from the gospel. They were being misled by false teachers who boasted of a “secret knowledge” but whose religion was one of rules and traditions. These false teachers were not only deceiving people; they were sowing discord and self-righteous attitudes in the young church.
- **What’s the message of Colossians?** Paul urged the Colossians to stay true to the faith as taught by Epaphras. Paul’s message to them was “You don’t need some ‘secret knowledge.’ You don’t need some extraordinary experience. You just need to get to know Jesus Christ better. Everything you long for can be found in him! He is sufficient.”

WARM UP

Paul speaks highly of Epaphras as the one through whom the Colossians first heard the gospel (vss. 6-7). From whom did you first learn the good news about Jesus?

RECALL – Colossians 1:1-8

As he does in most of his other New Testament letters, Paul begins his letter to the Colossians with words of greeting and encouragement.

- a) Paul addresses this letter “to the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse” (vs. 2). Another word for “holy” is “saintly.” Paul also refers to the Colossian believers as “saints” in verse 4. Do you consider yourself a saint? Why or why not? Why should God consider you one?

- b) List all the things Paul commends the Colossians for in verses 3-8.

- c) According to Paul, what is the source of faith and love (vs. 5)?

- d) What is hope and why is it so central to living the daily Christian life?

- e) Share something you found particularly interesting or relevant in last Sunday's sermon.

REFLECT – Colossians 1:9-14

In this passage we find a remarkable prayer and an even more remarkable summary of the gospel.

Colossians 1:9-12 – A Remarkable Prayer

- a) You will remember that Paul was in prison when he wrote Colossians. But what does this prayer reveal about Paul's attitude while incarcerated?

- b) Make a list of all the nouns you find in Paul's prayer.

- c) Paul chooses his words carefully in verses 9-12. From his prayer, what might you suspect was happening in Colosse? (Feel free to consult a study Bible or some other resource.)

Colossians 1:13-14 – A Remarkable Gospel

- a) What truth embedded in these two verses encourages you most? Why?

- b) Share about a time you were rescued from something. Who rescued you? Why? What would have happened if s/he had not come to your rescue?

- c) "Redemption" (vs. 14) means purchased from a state of bondage by the sacrifice of another person. Can you remember what it was like to be in bondage to sin and outside the family of God? Describe it:

RESPOND

- a) For Paul, prison did not mean the end of ministry. He used his time to write letters to people and pray for them. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being "in the pits"), rate your prayer life. What would it take to move it to a higher number?

- b) Pick one of the phrases in Paul's prayer and pray it for someone this week. Write down the person's name and the phrase you will pray:
