

LESSON 1: COLOSSIANS 1:1-23

Qualified to Share in the Inheritance of the Saints in Light

1. Paul is “an apostle by the will of God.” What does this say about God, what does it say about the one chosen? What does it mean to you that you have been chosen by the will of God?
2. What characteristics of the Colossians is Paul thankful for (v. 4)? How have these characteristics been expressed? How are they expressed in our church?
3. Why is the hope stored up in heaven crucial to you (v. 5)? How does your faith in Christ and love for other believers rise from this hope which you have?
4. What impresses you about the spreading of the gospel in verse 6? What are the requirements for the spread of the gospel? Is our church on the right track? What yet needs to be done?
5. Epaphras is important to Paul and the Colossians (v. 7). Why? How have others helped you to understand the gospel of the grace of God?
6. How often does Paul pray for those whom he has never seen (v. 9)? For what does he pray in their behalf? What characteristics of the believer’s life are pleasing to God (v. 10)?
7. What is Paul’s desire for the Colossians (v. 11)? Why would this prayer have been important to them? Have things changed?
8. You have been qualified to “share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (v. 12). Has this already happened? What does this mean to you?
9. What have you been saved from and for (vv. 13-14)? How is the dominion of darkness different from the kingdom of the Son?

10. List the titles and descriptions which you find for Christ in verses 15-20. Which speak most to you? Why?
11. Why is it important that Christ is the “image of the invisible God” (v. 15)?
12. What was created by Christ (v. 16)? What has been redeemed through Christ (v. 20)? Why is this important? What does this tell you about Christ?
13. What did Christ come before, what does he hold together (v. 17)? What does this mean to you? What does this tell you about Christ?
14. What does it mean that Christ is the “head of the body, the church” (v. 18)? In what kind of respect is he to be held? In what kind of respect is he really held today?
15. After reading verses 19-20, express the ways in which Christ reflects God’s image and purposes.
16. Why did Christ die for you (v. 22)? How are you to respond (v. 23)?
17. To whom does Paul say the Gospel has been preached? How did this happen?