

Lessons From Colossians 1

One of the main reasons that the letter to the Colossians was written was to face head-on the problem of false teaching. Paul had, during his time in Colossae, taught the people there the things God wanted taught – telling them how to live in an acceptable and a presentable manner.

In chapter 1, verses 10-14, Paul tells the Colossians how to live lives that he says are “worthy of the Lord.” They were to:

Please God in every way (emphasizing their relationship with Him)

Bear fruit in every good work (emphasizing their relationship with each other)

Grow in the knowledge of God (speaking to their “relationship” with themselves)

They were told to do this because of what God had done for them—qualifying them for and giving them a share of the inheritance they would receive because of their redemption—the forgiveness of sin. This is what Paul had preached to them. God had come to earth in the form of Jesus Christ. He mentions that Jesus was the “image of the invisible God” in verse 15 and that He was the “fullness of the Deity in bodily form” in chapter 2, verse 9. He gave us salvation. What they needed to do in the face of false teaching was to remain firm. Of the Colossians (and us), Paul says:

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation – if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.” (Colossians 1:21-23)

We must be convinced the God came to earth in human form, taught us what we needed to know in order to be well-pleasing to Him, and returned to heaven to ready a place for us. We must hold up the gospel truth as a lamp to expose any error that is being taught in the world today. And we, like the Colossians, must live a life “worthy of the Lord” by doing all we can to please Him, help others, and learn as much as we can about Him. By doing this, we are qualified by God to receive redemption, the forgiveness of sin.