



KING FOREVER

Week 1 | How to Please the King

| KEY THOUGHTS

- Paul wrote this letter when the church at Colossae was only a few years old
- **Here's how the gospel works:** regular people telling others about the change God has made in their lives.
- **When God speaks, we step; if He doesn't, we wait.**
- How we can pray for others...
 - **To gain an eternal perspective, rather than an earthly (limited) perspective**
 - **To be strengthened in endurance and patience**, because following Jesus is challenging;
 - When we follow Jesus, we place ourselves in deliberate opposition to the culture of the world
 - The Holy Spirit transforms our lives, pushing back against worldly desires
 - **To give thanks to God for his grace, mercy, forgiveness, and salvation in Christ.**
- **When we pray these things for others, we experience growth ourselves.**

| SCRIPTURE

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:1-14 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- Knowing God's will leads to pleasing Him, which bears fruit for Him, which leads to increasing knowledge of Him; it sounds strange, but, the more you know God, the more you'll know God!
- Our lives can never be pleasing to God without Jesus; we're only made worthy in Christ.
- Decide to pray someone every day — either for a fellow-disciple to grow spiritually, or for someone who's separated from Christ to come to Him in faith:
 - Make a list of 15 names and pray for one person each day, praying that each person would:
 - know God;
 - be strengthened to endure with joy; and
 - see his or her life transformed by God.
 - Contact the person you're praying for each day, let them know that you're praying for him or her, and ask how you might pray specifically.

| REFLECT

- If God could transform the Jesus-hating Saul into one of the most effective disciplinarians, Jesus-loving Paul, how might He change you?
- What's your next step in your journey with Christ?
- Do you see the goodness of God in the challenges of your life?
- Are you in love with the stuff God's given you, or are you in love with God Himself?

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