

07

COLOSSIANS 1:9-23

REDEEMER & KING

THIS WEEK'S **focus**

It is not hard to think of something we'd like to change about the world we live in. You don't have to look very far to see things that are broken. Turn on the news or flip through most any social media feed and you will see reports of violent conflicts, poverty, greed, and injustice. It's important to recognize that so much of what is broken about our world is connected to us—to human beings. Today we are going to see that Jesus has done something about the things that are wrong with our world by doing something about the things that are wrong with us. Jesus is King over all and offers reconciliation to God to those who trust in Him.

CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus is King over all and offers reconciliation to God to those who trust in Him.



EXPLORE

scripture

COLOSSIANS 1:9-23

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

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 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is

the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith,

stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

DAILY devotions

MEMORIZE COLOSSIANS 1:13

7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about man?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

DWELL

The very first thing that we can learn from this letter is how to have a thankful attitude for the faith and spiritual growth of other believers. If our ultimate goal as followers of Christ is to glorify God, then we should be thankful for the many other believers around the world who are helping to spread the gospel—the good news—of Christ. Because Paul was thankful for God’s work that was being done both in and through the Colossian believers, he prayed for them continually.



What do these verses teach us about the faith of the Colossian believers?



What would it look like for you to pray for other Christians with a thankful attitude?

MEMORIZE

Write Colossians 1:13 on a sticky note and place it somewhere you’ll see it every day, like your bathroom mirror, a notebook, or inside your locker. Read it to yourself each time you see it.

PRAY

Thank God for the spiritual growth and maturity of other Christians in your life, and the work that He is doing through them.

day 2

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

DWELL

Next, Paul tells the Colossians the kind of things he has been praying for them, and includes an example of that prayer in his letter. We can follow Paul's example by not only praying for our fellow believers, but telling them what we are praying for. Often when we pray, our prayers are for specific events or resources; for example, we may pray for health, or finances, or success in our endeavors. But in this case Paul's prayers were focused more on the overall spiritual growth of the Colossians, and on praising God for what He had done in them and in all believers.



What did Paul pray for the believers of the church in Colossae?



What are some of the areas of spiritual growth that God has developed in you?

MEMORIZE

Take a slip of paper or index card and draw or write Colossians 1:13 using markers or colored pencils. Use it as a bookmark in one of your text books or notebooks this week.

PRAY

Re-read Paul's prayer in these verses and write it into your own words. Read what you've written during your prayer time today.

day 3

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

DWELL

This next passage takes the form of an early hymn to Christ, which means that as we read it we have a glimpse into what Christian worship in the first century might have looked like. The hymn contains two major themes: Jesus' role in creation (vv. 16-17) and His role in redemption (vv. 18-20). Together, these two themes emphasize the supremacy of Christ: He is Lord over creation, and He is the Lord of the new creation.



What does it mean to be an "image" (v. 15) and what does this tell us about Jesus?



How should you live differently knowing that you have been reconciled to God through Jesus (vv. 19-20)?

MEMORIZE

Write each word from Colossians 1:13 on a different index card. Mix them up and then place them in order.

PRAY

Say a prayer of gratitude and praise to Jesus for making peace for us with His sacrifice on the cross.

day 4

GENESIS 1:24-28

DWELL

The hymn in Colossians 1:15-20 also evokes images of the creation story in Genesis, where God created humankind in His image, originally sinless and without flaws. In Colossians 1:15, Paul says that Jesus is the image of the *invisible* God, meaning that Jesus is God. As such He is a *visible* representation of God's qualities and character. In this section of Genesis, we learn that humans were created in the image of God, as well. Of course, humans do not reflect all of God's attributes, such as His divinity or His omniscience (knowing all things). This is because humans, as created beings, are merely a reflection of God. Jesus, on the other hand, as God Himself, is both fully God and fully human.

← In what ways are humans similar to other created beings? How are we different?

→ What responsibility do we have over the rest of creation as beings made in the image of God?

MEMORIZE

Find a recording of Colossians 1:13 on the web, in a podcast, or on a Bible app. Listen to it every day this week.

PRAY

Thank God for His good creation and for giving us the honor of caring for His creations.

day 5

COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

DWELL

Paul moves from the general explanation of Christ's character and work in verses 15-20, and gives a more direct application to the lives of those in the Colossian church. Because of their belief in Christ, they have been reconciled to God. He urges them to stay true to what they have learned. Later on in this letter he is going to address the heresy that is threatening the faith of the Colossians. Part of living the Christian life is learning to distinguish the true teachings of Christ from false teachings that will lead us astray from the gospel.

↻ How does Paul describe the state of the Colossians before they accepted the gospel? What would be the result if the Colossians remain true to the gospel?

→ How can we learn to tell the difference between the true gospel and false teachings?

MEMORIZE

Practice reciting Colossians 1:13 from memory with a friend or family member. Ask them to follow along as you recite, and prompt you with words from the verse if you need help remembering.

PRAY

Pray that God would empower you to stay steadfast and true as you follow Jesus and live out your faith.