

# Talk It Over

Filled, Complete, Whole

(Week 1)

Because Jesus Rescued Me

## SMALL TALK

1. Have you ever been rescued? From what? What happened?

## VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Colossians 1:1-14.** What attracts Paul to these believers? (1:3-6)
3. How does Paul pray for them (1:9-13)? List his requests.
4. What is the “Gospel” (1:5)? How is the Gospel message already embedded in 1:1-14? Look for key phrases and explain them.

## GETTING PERSONAL

5. Is the fruit of faith, love, and hope (1:5) growing well in your life? Suffering from drought? Destroyed by intense storm? Budding? How will you develop this “crop”?
6. How do your prayers compare with Paul’s prayers of thanks (1:3-6)? How do your prayers compare with Paul’s intercessory prayers (1:9-13)?

7. Should we be modifying our personal prayers or group prayers to more closely resemble these prayers?

## **PRACTICE!**

Keep “Training in the Word” through Colossians.

1. Take it in. 2. Process it. 3. Live it out!

November 7, 2021

## Filled, Complete, Whole (Week 1) Because Jesus Rescued Me

Don't we all need to feel like we are filled, complete, and made whole?

**Series theme verse:**

*Colossians 2:9–10 (CSB) — 9 For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, 10 and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.*

If you want to be filled, complete, and whole, Jesus is who you need to come to.

**Today's theme verse: My ("Notice Text") is this.**

*Colossians 1:13 (NIV) For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*

**Let's get oriented before we jump into Colossians.**

**In the Gospels** (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) we learn about the life and ministry of Jesus. All the Gospels finish with Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection as a victorious act of deliverance and rescue. Jesus explained this beforehand, then it's meaning is later explained further in the New Testament.

**In Acts** we read about the explosive movement of Jesus initially called "the Way" that spread throughout the Roman Empire within a generation. By the end of Acts, Paul is in chains in Rome, awaiting his trial. It is during this timeframe that he writes this letter to the Colossians.

**Paul's Letter to the Colossians is not Paul's earliest letter.**

The year was approximately 62 AD. and even then it is only 32 years after the resurrection of Jesus. Paul wrote to people he had never met in

a church he did not start. The Colossian church was started by Epaphras, one of Paul's associates. Epaphras was from Colossae and most likely met Paul while Paul ministered in Ephesus for 3 years. Epaphras came to encourage Paul in Rome and tells him about the church in Colossae, and about some of the challenges the church was facing. So, Paul writes to encourage them and teach them important truths they needed as some bad teaching and philosophies had been creeping in.

I'm so glad Paul addressed the problems that they had because we learn so much that is so very important to us today from this letter.

*Colossians 1:1–3 (NIV) — 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,*

In the section we are about to study today, we will be introduced to the GOOD NEWS in 3 powerful words:

- **GRACE:** (not just a greeting) but a theologically loaded term.
- **CHRIST:** the basis for grace. (Christ is the central focus of the entire letter)
- **The SPIRIT:** is the one who fills us personally with the riches of His grace

*Colossians 1:9 (NIV) ... "We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,"*

Now that you are oriented, let's jump in.

## I. Rescued by **FAITH**

FAITH IN WHAT? Paul makes it very clear it is Faith IN CHRIST Jesus that is the true message of the gospel!

*Colossians 1:4–5 (NIV) — 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people—5 the*

*faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in **the true message of the gospel***

**We are not rescued by a generic faith.** The New Testament is very consistent. Apart from faith in Jesus there is no adequate rescue.

**Today, generic faith is quite popular.** You hear things like, “*Everybody needs faith. You gotta have faith.*” In athletics we are told to *believe in yourself*, and by believing we can achieve the thing you want to achieve. This is NOT the kind of faith we are talking about here.

**Salvation does not come by believing in belief.** Saving Faith is not in faith itself. Faith is only as powerful as the object you place your faith in. Paul teaches that salvation comes by faith in Jesus.

Colossians will lift our eyes to a completely sufficient, totally supreme Jesus who is the central answer to all of life’s problems.

Faith in who Jesus is, and what he has done, is the true message of the good news (1:5). That is the Gospel. Who Jesus is, and what he has done.

## II. Rescued from **DARKNESS**

*Colossians 1:12–13 (NIV) — 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has **rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,***

There are many kinds of darkness.

- **Sorrow** is a kind of darkness.
- **Fear** is a kind of darkness.
- **Ignorance** is a kind of darkness.


- **Sin** is a kind of darkness.
- **Deception** is a kind of darkness.
- **All of this falls within the domain of darkness** dominated by the rebel prince of darkness. And he has many other fallen angels (demons) at his command.
- **Deception is his chief weapon** from the beginning, and he still masquerades as an angel of light. His deceptions sound like good and pleasing decisions. They are presented as paths of enlightenment, and paths that appeal to a self-centered life.
- Everyone has sinned and given themselves over to the dominion of darkness, and needs to be rescued. Those of us who have been rescued have already been brought out of that Domain of the DARK kingdom and into another domain, the Kingdom of light, the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our deliverer and rescuer!

### III. Rescued by REDEMPTION

*Colossians 1:14 (NIV) in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

How are we rescued? By Redemption found only in HIM!

Redemption is the release from bondage through the payment of a price.

We will get more into this as we continue in Colossians. Let's conclude today this way:  Show the Bible Project Video ("heaven\_and\_earth.mp4") 7 minutes

#### **Application today:**

- We need to place our faith entirely on the adequacy of Jesus to fill us completely and make us whole. Nothing else can or will do this.

- Growth challenge: Please dive into Colossians everyday for 7 weeks! I'll come alongside to help you "Train in God's Word." Take it In, Process it, and Live it Out.

### **Prayer based on Colossians 1:9-14**

Our Father God, We continually ask you to fill us with the knowledge of your will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that we may live a life worthy of our Lord Jesus, and please you in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, as we grow to know you better and better, that we might be strengthened with all power according to your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience, and give joyful thanks to you, our Father, because you have qualified us to share in the inheritance of your holy people in the kingdom of light. For you, our Father in heaven, have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, your dear Son, whom you love, and in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. It is in his Name that we come to you and pray, Amen.