



The Qualifier

“This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus , and from our brother Timothy.”

Colossians 1:1 NLT

Paul was a man chosen by God to do the will of Christ. The most unlikely candidate, someone who once murdered Christians, became one of the most important Christian men in history. God isn't looking for who's qualified. He looks to see who He can qualify. In order to be qualified, you have to seek His will and then live it out. Once He chooses you, once you are truly His, you are held to the highest standard, which is to bear the image of God. To be chosen by Christ is no small thing, and just like Paul was with Timothy, you need to surround yourself with like-minded believers. Talk about who Jesus is to you and what He has done in your life. Spur each other on. Be in prayer together, exhorting one another and bearing each other's burdens.

Nobody walks as a Christian alone. We are encouraged to surround ourselves with other believers in the name of Christ, because if two or more are gathered in His name, He is there in the midst. Even Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament and was such a force of nature, needed to be around other Christ followers who believed in the same mission. It is quite the advantage to surround yourself with others, but don't let them define who you are in Christ. Don't become dependent on other people or a church to form your salvation and your growth. Don't become a Christian who relies on being “fed,” because then you'll have every excuse to blame others for the reason you're not growing. Be in good fellowship, but don't become dependent, because ultimately Christ is the one you depend on, for He is the author and finisher of your faith.

Reflect

Are you trying to write your faith on your own, or is Christ the center of how your faith ultimately plays out?



Shield of Faith

*“So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to **give you spiritual wisdom and understanding** . Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.”*

Colossians 1:9-10 NLT

Epaphras gave Paul both the means to pray for the Colossians and insight into their spiritual character. Once Paul understood how they were serving God, he prayed that they would continue in that same faithfulness because a life devoted to the Lord is a weapon against the enemy. Paul's prayer comes at a critical moment: the Colossians are in the process of being exposed to a false doctrine. Paul reminds them that they already possess spiritual knowledge and understanding, and that this knowledge produces the wisdom needed to keep them from being deceived. Paul isn't just praying for them to have knowledge. He's praying that their knowledge of Christ would prove itself in a life built on the finished work of Christ. It is God's will for them to grow and bear fruit as they come to know Him more fully.

As the united people of God, we stand under the sonship of Jesus Christ, a people whose lives are marked by assurance and by knowing the true character of God, and nothing can alter that. Knowing Him will shield you from the demonic schemes of this world. Getting to know our Lord is a continuous journey of learning because He is completely eternal. It is a gift that we get to discover new things about Him every day! The reason we believers ought to know His character is because we were created to bear the image of His goodness, and our lives have to look different than the world if we claim that He is the one in control of our lives. This is where our identity stems from, our purpose, our whole life. A person who is aligned with the will of God is a person who cannot be pierced by anything evil. Stand firm and be strong.

Reflect

If something false were to be taught about Jesus in front of you, would you have the discernment to recognize it, and would you have enough courage to address it?



Firstborn, Supreme, Divine

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation .”

Colossians 1:15 NKJV

The reason the nature of Jesus is so beautiful is because, though He had divine nature, He chose to lower Himself down into physical likeness with humanity in order for the invisible image of God to actually be seen in a way that was tangible. Not tangible in the sense of “you wouldn't believe in God unless He sent His Son Jesus,” no. Tangible in the sense that when people in Jesus' time looked to Him, their human senses, which are the same ones we have, were able to comprehend His nature. Although He was human, He was anything but ordinary. This is why we are told in John 1:18 that nobody truly has seen God, although God sent His Son to bear His invisible image while in a state of physical human likeness. God sent Jesus as a man because His full glory would overwhelm anything human eyes were built to hold.

This is another example of how God literally cares about every single detail of our lives, and He knows that we needed something physical. His Son. This gave disciples and others who witnessed His existence the ability to have real comprehension of who God is. Christ influenced more people, nations, and kingdoms than any dictator, president, or world leader. His impact shows, and it speaks loudly through the 25,000+ manuscripts written about Him. This is why we're still talking about Him. He is everything. What makes Jesus even more fascinating is that He is God, He lived in a physical body, and then He willfully gave up His life. He was tortured, humiliated, made a mockery of, and then He carried His cross after what had been done to Him, even though it seemed physically impossible. Nobody would've ever been able to accomplish what Jesus did, and not just physically but spiritually. He is the first among all creation. He is supreme above everything. Jesus is the demonstration of God's extraordinary likeness lived out through a physical life. Jesus, in the utmost divine way, simultaneously gave the human eye, heart, mind, and soul the ability to comprehend His great and powerful works and to testify about them.

Reflect

If you were to die, and somebody were to look at your life in a book, would they see that you really lived with the belief in Jesus that you claim?



Divine Authority

*“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him .**”*

Colossians 1:16 NKJV

This verse leaves no room for doubt: Jesus is God. Jesus is King. Jesus is Lord. All things were created through Him, which means just like the Father, Jesus has always existed. Physically, Jesus had a created body, but divinely, everything was created through Him, including His own body. Every spiritual force was created by Him and for Him, and every spiritual force is under the authority of Christ because every created thing is subject to Him. No spiritual force, good or evil, is able to make a single authoritative move without His command. Christ came to Earth to declare authority over Satan and his demons. Christ's death meant Satan's dominion over the earth shall not last. When demons afflict you, it happens for a reason. Jesus allows it. He wants to see if you will succumb to the fear and schemes of the enemy or the promises of God. Even when demons invade, it's because the Lord allows it. They are pathetic and have no power. Jesus' authority speaks over them. This also means you have been given the power to destroy them. The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in you.

Let this truth be the reason that the posture of your heart is always submitted to Jesus. When you are in the midst of spiritual battle and you become afraid, remember it is all happening for the purposes of building the kingdom of God. He wouldn't allow evil to attack you if there wasn't a strong defense. The way you handle intense spiritual battle, doubt, and temptation will reveal where your faith stands. So the question is: does your faith stand on the promises of God? Have you in any way led yourself to believe that you are the one to carry your own sword, or do you trust in the One who has given the sword of truth? He took this burden off you through His death on the cross. Every created thing was made to glorify God. Nothing was made so that we could bring glory to ourselves, and creation does not exist for us to worship it. Having admiration and gratitude for His creation is a form of worship, but we should never worship creation. Creation is temporary. Christ is forever.

Reflect

Do you wake up every day expecting there to be challenges, but in spite of these challenges, do you rely on the divine power that He has given you through His Son Jesus?



Our Creator, Our Sustainer

*“He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. **He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead** . So he is first in everything.”*

Colossians 1:17-18 NLT

Not only did He exist before everything and create everything, but He also sustains all of it. This is yet another aspect of Christ's divine authority. Nothing you see that is material is capable of existing without Christ. To not have the ability to fully understand this, and just the fact that creation is even a reality, is actually a gift. It is simply another reason to keep learning about Him. If the knowledge of God was finite, and we were capable of understanding the nature of God with just our human brains, then we wouldn't need a savior. This is what makes Jesus so special: He is supreme over everything; He took it upon Himself to shrink Himself down by becoming human. The very head of the Church who is supreme over all creation descended into flesh so that we could have comprehensive knowledge and understanding of who He is. The very fact that He did this reveals His supreme power. He bore Himself. He gave His own life. He resurrected Himself. What's more supreme than that? Absolutely nothing. This is what makes Him supreme in every way. He showed the world that death lost its authority. The God of the universe shrank down into flesh to help you understand His nature. If you were intellectually strong enough to fully understand God's infinite being, then the responsibility of saving your soul would be on yourself, and we know that is not possible. This is why the gospel must not be viewed only from an intellectual standpoint. The evidence for it is found in what it actually accomplishes in the lives of the people who claim it as their own.

True full understanding would mean believing that the knowledge of God is infinite. But that raises a question: if you're only viewing 'full understanding' from a human, intellectual standpoint, how can you call infinite knowledge 'full understanding' when it can never be fully grasped? The answer is that true understanding comes from believing in God and that everything about Him is infinite, and it exists for one purpose: to sanctify your existence for the rest of your life. So with that, you must wake up every day with a full understanding that you, as a Christ follower, rely completely on the works and strength of God, and that reliance is what lets you walk in full understanding every single day. In your physical life on earth, God will give you bits and pieces of infinite knowledge. Having full understanding doesn't mean knowing everything right off the bat. If it did, it wouldn't have the infinite depths that it holds. It means knowing how to live like Him in a complete way, because God gives you bits and pieces of His knowledge. Having any sort of true understanding is always rooted in the fact that you don't know everything, and it's for a good reason. It will spur you on, keep you accountable, and you will always have a reason to keep on learning about Him for the rest of your life in order to stay sanctified.

Reflect

Are you taking it upon yourself to understand the message of the gospel with only sheer human capability, or are you allowing the gospel to be the reason you understand who God is?