

That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully  
pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and  
increasing in the knowledge of God

Colossians 1:1-12

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
  - 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. \*
- Their Faith in Christ*
- 3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,
  - 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

This is what we hear people say, we need to put our faith in Christ and God is Love.

By putting your faith in Christ, you come to know the God of love. You learn two of the greatest commandments as Jesus says

Love God with all your heart ... and Love your neighbor as yourself ...

Matthew 22:40

- 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

1 John 5:1-4

- 5 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.
- 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands.
- 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,
- 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

1 John 4:19-21

- 9 We love because he first loved us.
- 20 If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.
- 21 And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.

NIV

This is good advice. How do we follow these commandments? How do we love our brother? The media of the day is full of the violence men do to one another. We know what the Bible says is what ought to be. But how then shall we live? And why should we?

I heard a song the other day that was aired when I was a boy. It goes something like this,

"What the world needs now, is love sweet love. It's just the one thing that there is too little of."

What makes the song interesting to me it that it is a prayer. The singer is mentioning all the good things we have but the one thing the world needs is love. I wonder how that song would sound in our culture today with the Middle East crises and proliferation of nuclear and biological weapons.

Before we can ask God for more love we must look to His word. We must read of His great love for us and come to believe that ...

**"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten that who so ever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."**

There's that word again, "love."

As Christians we believe that Jesus is the Son of God. And we can attest to this because of His Holy Spirit dwelling within us when we receive His love by believing that Christ died for us. This is how we can love with the unfathomable great love of God living within us. We won't be perfect in our conduct and [love](#) but we will have the joy and [peace](#) that passes all understanding as the scriptures tell us with this Holy Spirit living in us. God will see us as being perfect. He will see the finished work of the cross. We will have entrance into Heaven. This means this is the only way to escape [hell](#). Christ is the atonement for all mankind.

Colossians 1:5-12

**5** because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

This is the Good News – the Gospel. We have hope in the truth of God's word. We know no matter what happens to us or what happens in this world, through God's Holy Spirit living in us, that we have God's peace and love in the worst and best of times. And, we know that Heaven is real.

**6** which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, \* as *it is also* among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

The fruit here are the believers in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of God's word – the Gospel which goes forth to the entire world planting, watering, and harvesting the souls of countless millions from eternal damnation. The life of Christ (Messiah) was laid on a cross for all to see. Why, because this is what the scriptures said would happen and we read in the New Testament that this was orchestrated by God and Jesus before the creation of the world itself. God knows the all and this is why He is called the Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. Man has free will; Jesus came as a bond servant to serve man that men may learn to love and avoid killing one another and eventually enter Heaven.

**7** as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

**8** who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

**9** For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

We are renewed and washed by the reading of the word – the Bible. When we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, God’s word becomes meaningful to us and we are, as it is expressed, washed by the word. We get back on the right track when God’s word is before us. This is what we need to do to increase in the Knowledge of God.

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

NKJV

*Paul the Apostle*