

Richard Todd Merz serving Christ meaning maturing each day / this occurs through study and then living!! Scripture, the most accurate book on the planet written over 1,500 years by an approximate (give or take a few per the dictionary) 40 authors [MOD 1 applied January 16, 2022]

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1

Scripture passage included then commentary underneath each verse

King James Version (KJV)

Verse (1): Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,

Notice straightway, the Apostle Paul was called by “...the will of God”.

The Apostle Paul stood the test of scrutiny and time and to this present day has become even stronger. It was not of the Apostle Paul’s strength, but of the submissiveness of the Apostle Paul to the will of God.

Faithfulness Strengthens:

Notice very clearly, God calls people brother (singular verse (1)) or brethren (plural verse (2)). In the Nation message of Matthew 25:31-34, during the study of the book of Zephaniah this Ministry Website, God also looks for which Nations He can call brethren - as we learned together.

During the Tribulation, the worst time in humanity, God calls The Jewish Remnant brethren (Scofield, 1996). During the Tribulation, the Scripture will reach all Nations by the Jewish Remnant (Scofield, 1996). The test is how Nations treat The Jewish Remnant (Scofield, 1996).

Scofield, C. I. (1996). *The scofield study bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

But notice this very closely, God also tests the Gentile Nations as an inclusion in the brethren. For the Jewish Remnant who shoulder the Scripture in the Tribulation this is the complete opposite of what occurred in Matthew 26 when the Jewish elders, scribes, Chief priests, and the High Priest accused Jesus Christ (The God-Man) that then instigated the crucifixion.

Which Gentile Nations can God call brethren in God’s Strategic Joint Kingdom???

Merz, R. T. (2021). *The merz ministry website*. <https://merzwebsite.com/> - Established 2015.

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Verse (2): To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

God provides the first matter of importance, which is that of faithfulness that abounds in the grace of God almighty. It is critical to be found faithful because that is where grace has its strength. This is a foundational truth within Scripture because it is an Apostolic greeting.

Notice moving to verse (4) for a moment, faithfulness is heard “...Since we heard of your faith”. Faithfulness is critical because it is significant within the larger community – that is proven. “...Since we heard of your faith” is a strong matter because it encompasses faith that crosses the boundaries of life itself as only God can do.

Verse (3): We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Notice what comes with faithfulness, Thankfulness to God and of the Lord Jesus Christ and Always being prayed for. Revelation 5:8-9 (King James Version) is proof that God keeps All prayers from All people and All Nations from the saints. God will (newly) join all things at the appointed time.

Verse (4): Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

Notice the strength of faith is linked to love to All the saints of God from All the people from All the Nations.

Verse (5): For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

In going through verses (1) to (5) Faithfulness and Love, “For the Hope...” are the three linked themes.

Verse (2) = Faithfulness Verse (4) = and of the Love Verse (5) = For the Hope

Notice closely: “...whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel”. Hope is not blind; it is full of strength as the fullness of prayers in Revelation 5:8-9 (King James Version). God will (newly) join all things at the appointed time.

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Verse (6): Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Verse (2) = Faithfulness

Verse (4) = and of the Love

Verse (5) = For the Hope

To build off of these three main themes, the result is that they come unto you (God is a personal God) as it also does to All the saints of God from All the people from All the Nations. God will (newly) join all things at the appointed time.

Verse (6) “...and bringeth forth fruit...since the day ye heard of it, and knew of the grace of God in truth”.

Verse (7): As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

To build off of verses (6), “...and bringeth forth fruit...since the day ye heard of it, and knew of the grace of God in truth”.

Epaphras in verse (7) is evidence that God will build His Universal Church (Reference: Matthew 16:18, King James Version), “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”.

Verse (8): Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

The Question in verse (8) is, Who will declare the love in the Spirit?

As the fruit of the spirit is since heard fellow servants of strong faith, love and hope are recognized within the Universal Church of God.

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Verse (9): For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Notice these strong words from the Apostles approaching 2,000 years ago, "...since the day we heard it...". Here in verse (9), this message could not be more strengthened about the Apostolic Prayer that ranges from verse (9) to verse (14).

The New Jerusalem wall will be strongly Joined with the Apostles names surrounding the city to bring honor and glory to God almighty as the foundations. In Revelation 21:14 (King James Version), this truth of God is clear because although the Apostles prayed for the Colosse here, God almighty's love is greater and greatly expounds upon the Apostles:

Reference: Revelation 21:14 (King James Version) "And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb".

We learned together in verse (2) that this "Apostolic Prayer" is eternal forming the foundations of the New Jerusalem. Revelation 5:8-9 (King James Version) is proof that God keeps All prayers from All people and All Nations from the saints. That means the "Apostolic Prayer" is a living prayer that is eternal and in the verse does not cease.

Verse (10): That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

This verse has been proven concerning this Ministry Website, which has a wide audience. "...all pleasing, being fruitful..." means that the heart of God is definitely in the Ministry Website. In this life, everything of God is scrutinized so that the legitimate matters are weaved into society as acceptable being inclusive.

This Ministry Website owner conveyed that the creation in its totality in the book of Genesis 1:31 (King James Version) is "...Very Good". God is Great because God cannot be less than creation. In God's Greatness, God will right all things past, present, and future according to God's Will, including judgment and reward.

The Apostles emphasized that it is possible to walk worthy of all by being in God's Will. The testimony of God will always survive the lifespan of the person as it did the Apostles because testimony is eternal.

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Verse (11): Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Joyfulness comes because God's Will is fulfilled one way or another (patience and longsuffering) as God makes all things right past, present, and future according to God's Will, including judgment and reward. That is why it is always fruitful to be in the knowledge of God because contained in Scripture is the truth of life itself.

Why trust the God of Scripture? This Ministry Website owner is glad you asked. John 1:1 (King James Version), "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God is truth and the reason a credible source is significant.

John 1:14 (King James Version), "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Verse (12): Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

God saw it to be meet (significant) for humanity "...to be partakers of the inheritance". Being grateful and thankful unto the one that provided Salvation. As we live, the significance of prayer for daily living is vital – Reference verse (2) this study for eternal Scripture references. Sometimes, it is best to savor thankfulness in its simplicity without diving into the various types of discussions that are contained therein. Just be thankful.

Verse (13): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

The significance of repentance is clear and straightforward in Scripture. Luke 13:3 (King James Version), "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish".

What did the Son of God do? This Ministry Website owner is glad you asked. First Corinthians 15:3-4 (King James Version), "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:".

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Verse (14): In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

The result of what the Son of God did from this Ministry Website owners discussion in verse (13), is redemption – even the forgiveness of sins. Scripture teaches that 1 sin separates anyone from God, not just some sins.

Romans 3:23 (King James Version), “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”.

For emphasis, What did the Son of God do? This Ministry Website owner is glad you asked.

First Corinthians 15:3-4 (King James Version), “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”.

Verse (15): Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

God almighty, gave God the Son who will be seen in Great Eternal Glory as the (Firstborn) of All creatures and the image of the invisible God. **God the Son has always existed because He is one God, three persons in the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit), and that means that Salvation is a personal gift to each person, (YES), but is also to deliver (ALL) Creatures who eagerly await the Salvation of humanity.**

In the Salvation of the Son of God in humanity, all things are Jointly fixed.

References (Animal Kingdom – YES)

Romans 8:18-21 (King James Version), “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” **Salvation is a much deeper subject than is paid heed unto.**

So much, that the Angels marvel at Salvation.

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First Peter 1:12 (King James Version), “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.”

Verse (16): For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Notice, created includes that which is in heaven, that which is in the earth, both visible and invisible, thrones, dominion, principalities, powers, and ALL things created. The scope of what is created is inclusive of all things to make it known that there is one creator – God almighty. There is no ambiguity about who created the world, how the world came into being, and how the world is sustained. God made it abundantly clear.

Verse (17): And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

God made it abundantly clear that He was before all things and by Him all things consist. There was a definite order and purpose to creation. There was nothing that existed. God absolutely created all things. This verse covers eternity – God always was and always will be. Apart from God, nothing existed or could exist. God is the only creator and sustainer.

Psalms 33:6-12 (King James Version), “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect. The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.”

Verse (18): And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

God provided Salvation through God the Son (Jesus Christ) and in that provides all humanity the creator's importance in the order of created things. By being the head of creation, nothing has preeminence over God's created order. God is the creator and sustainer. That is a Great Salvation.

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Verse (19): For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;



First and foremost, there is nothing more significant than when the Father is pleased.

Jesus Christ is the trustee of all created things in all fullness (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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So, Salvation is a deeper and wider subject than is typically offered within the Universal Church in its fullness that highly intrigues the Angels as well as they crave to look into Salvation as discussed in verse (15) – **Grace for Grace abounds for humanity in Salvation and (ALSO) created creatures in delivery.**

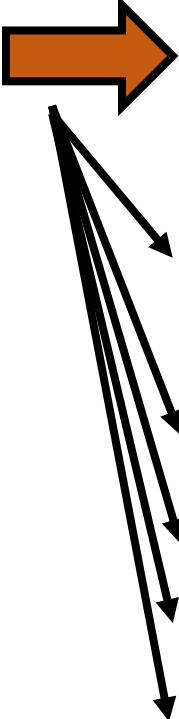
Romans 8:18-21 (King James Version), “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered** from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”



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Verse (20): And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.



In this verse (20), God brings forth what this Ministry Website Owner has contested in that Salvation is a much broader and deeper reconciliation than is typically discussed within the universal church for those things in the Earth or in Heaven.

Summary of Core points:

- **Salvation itself is only for humanity because humanity is the only created being in the image of God** (Genesis 1:26 dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over the cattle, over all the earth, and over all creeping things) (John 3:16), (First Corinthians 15:3-4), (John 14:3) .
- **Yet, matters of the animal kingdom are renewed by the power of God's Salvation in humanity** (Romans 8:18-21).
- **Yet, the Angels themselves intensely look into the matters of Salvation** (First Peter 1:12).
- **Yet, the Nations that are saved are healed and rebirthed** (Revelation 22:2).
- **Yet, (ALL) things in the (Earth or in Heaven) are (Jointly reconciled) much beyond the ability of This Ministry Website Owner to fully grasp . Please note the verbiage in this verse: "...by him, I say..."** (Colossians 1:20, King James Version).

Verse (21): And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

It is significant to know that reconciliation is divine because God draws unto himself Trust and Love upon the saved life of a sinner by looking toward the effect of reconciliation (Scofield, 1996). It is not what humanity does, rather what God does.

Scofield, C. I. (Ed.). 1996. *The holy bible*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press

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Verse (22): In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

This verse demonstrates the Scripture concept of the God-Man and the premise of This Ministry Website Owners website:

John 1:1-18 "The Word Became Flesh or God with Man (The God-Man)."

Verse (23): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

"If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled..." the Apostle Paul writes of the strength God provides for faithfulness as an Apostle that these principles stand true today for the universal church and the called in the ministry work (Paid or Unpaid).

Paul understood the concept of the (greater benefit to the people – widely received) by empowering them with knowledge of God (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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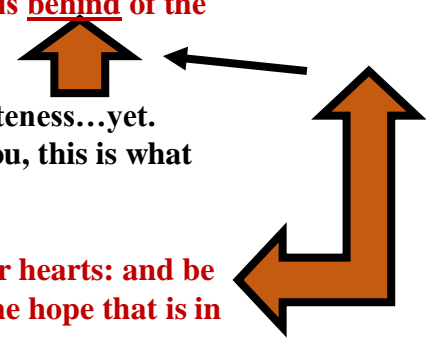
Verse (24): Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Notice the power of Salvation, in that, saved humanity has obtained life eternal albeit not in the completeness of the eternal state until that time comes. "...that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ..."

God's love is so great that saved humanity has obtained just not in completeness...yet. When God says be ready to provide for the reason of the Hope that is in you, this is what God has revealed. It is not a blind Hope, but an absolute Hope.

First Peter 3:15 (King James Version): "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

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This Ministry Website Owner is grateful for the wide acceptance of this public Ministry. The filling up spoken of in this verse comes from the mass in the absolute Hope. For saved humanity, the truth is that life is moving forward as an ever-present growth and development. God has innocence and it is freely understood in the absolute Hope.

Verse (25): Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

In this verse, the Apostle Paul recognizes that he is “...made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me [Apostle Paul] for you [The Mass]...”

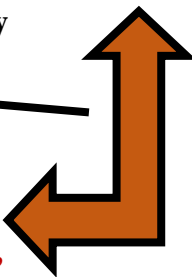
Verse (26): Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

The mystery of God was hid, but in the now calls whom God trusts to deliver the Word of God. Some by rigorous academic round tables, some behind the pulpit, some lay workers, some paid, some unpaid, but all serve a specified purpose. That is to reach anyone with Word of God that is manifested to their explicit great care.

God’s Word must be delivered with great care because of the great warning in Revelation 22:18-19 (King James Version). Notice this, a ministry that is determined by the public to be delivered with great care will be upheld. It is understood by the public, that the delivery of God’s Word will differ to reach the mass more effectively. **God’s love in great care will always cover the great warning.**

Romans 8:38-39 (King James Version) “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

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Verse (27): To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

The Hope that is revealed is an Absolute Hope and not a blind Hope. The answer is in the verse, of Christ in the life of humanity. This Ministry Website Owner offered in verse (20) that Salvation is a much deeper and broader subject than what is typically discussed within the Universal Church - refer to verse (20) for the discussion points.

That ought to energize the Universal Church because the opportunity of Salvation is the reconciliation gift of God almighty in humble confidence.

Merz, R. T. (2021). *Merz ministry website*. <https://merzwebsite.com/>

Why discuss the Gentiles? Because this is the Greatness of God's Mystery not only Christ in humanity (individually) but can also be termed among humanity (Universally) bringing the Jews and the Gentiles as beneficiaries of God's Scripture in the person of the Christ (Henry, 2008).

Henry, Matthew. (2008). *Matthew henry's commentary on the whole bible*. Peabody, MA:

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Verse (28): Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

There is the why question? It is, to present every man in the reconciliation of the Christ unto His perfection of eternal life. It is not the desire of God for any man to pass away from His sight.

Second Peter 3:9 (King James Version): "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Humanity lives in the age of Mercy and Grace, and when that period is ceased there will be eternal determinations of God Almighty concerning who has repented in the Christ. That is the why.

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Verse (29): Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

The Apostle Paul admitted his own labor to strive. However, the Apostle Paul is submissive to the author and finisher of his faith, the Christ, who worketh in the life of the Apostle Paul mightier than the Apostle Paul.