

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today we shift our focus to Colossians and THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST.

1) Paul's letter to the Colossians

- a. Share some background about Paul's inspired letter from prison to Christians in Colossae.
- b. Who was Epaphras? (Colossians 1:3-8, 4:12)
- c. What lessons can we learn from the growth of the Christian community in Colossae?

2) Paul's prayer for Christians in Colossae

- a. Colossians 1:9-12 What are your thoughts about the Apostle Paul's prayer at the beginning of his letter?
- b. It is a great blessing to have someone praying for you. Who has been a prayer warrior in your life?

3) Paul's exalted revelation of Jesus Christ

- a. Jesus Christ: Redeemer
 - i) Colossians 1:13-14 What important revelation about Jesus Christ does the Apostle Paul share at the beginning of his inspired letter from prison to Christians in Colossae?
 - ii) Where else in the Scriptures do we find a clear teaching that salvation comes through faith in Jesus and what He has accomplished for us? John 3:16, 1 Peter 2:21-24, etc.

b. Jesus Christ: Image of the Invisible God

- i) Colossians 1:15a What does the expression "image of the invisible God" mean? (Colossians 1:19, Hebrews 1:1-3, John 14:9, 10:30, etc.)
- ii) Where do you see the image of the invisible God most clearly revealed in the life of Jesus?
- c. Jesus Christ: Firstborn over all creation
 - i) Colossians 1:15b What does the expression "firstborn over all creation" mean?
 - ii) What reasons does the Apostle Paul give for Jesus being called the firstborn over all creation? Colossians 1:16-17 (see also John 1:1-3)
- d. Jesus Christ: Head of the church
 - i) Colossians 1:18 Why is it important to remember that Jesus Christ is head of the church? (see also Colossians 2:10, 18-19)
 - ii) Colossians 1:19-22 How did God the Father reconcile all things to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ?

4) Discussion questions

- a. What are your thoughts about the exalted revelation of Christ given by the Apostle Paul in his inspired letter from prison to Christians in Colossae?
- b. What is your personal response as you consider all God has done to deliver you from the power of darkness and redeem you? (Colossians 1:13)

