

Colossians 1:1-8
"Faith, Love, and Hope"

Intro: Some reasons for studying Colossians

-The man formerly known as 'Saul of Tarsus': Writing an inspired apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-The letter to the Colossians: Sets for the supremacy of Jesus Christ in a marvelous fashion.

-The letter to the Colossians: Filled with sound doctrine, the duties of the Christian life, and exposes unbiblical philosophies that have no place in the church.

1. We must marvel at the _____ and _____ and _____ of our sovereign God in _____ His salvation to elect sinners.

-Saul of Tarsus, the persecutor of Christians: Never planned on having his life transformed by a personal encounter with the risen Savior on the road to Damascus.

-Timothy, our brother: An example of a convert who grew up with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

-Epaphras: Most likely converted through Paul's teaching in Ephesus as recorded in Acts 19.

-The letters to the Ephesians, the Philippians, the Colossians, and Philemon: The four 'prison letters' of the Apostle Paul.

-The city of Colossae in Paul's time: A small town in decline after the new trade route bypassed Colossae and went instead to Ephesus.

2. Those who know God's _____ must _____ themselves and their _____ and _____ in Christ biblically.

-The apostles: Called by Christ Himself to serve as His appointed messengers.

-The 'saints': 'Holy ones' who have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit.

-Three great virtues that are the fruit of regeneration: Faith in Jesus Christ, love for all the saints, and the hope of heaven.

-The great blessings of faith, love, and hope: All came from God working by and with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

-Personal Application: