

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

# What's a Real Live Christian Look Like?

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Colossians 1:1-14

**1 What's a real live Christian look like? Let's take a look from Colossians, chapter 1, verses 1 through 14.**

**2**

**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.**<sup>1 3</sup>

**We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints — the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.**<sup>2 4</sup>

**All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow**

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<sup>1</sup> v1-2.

<sup>2</sup> v3-6.

**servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.**

**<sup>3</sup> <sub>5</sub>**

**For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.<sup>4</sup> <sub>6</sub>**

**And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.<sup>5</sup> <sub>7</sub>**

**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,**

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**<sup>3</sup> v6-8.**

**<sup>4</sup> v9.**

**<sup>5</sup> v10-12.**

**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

<sup>6</sup><sub>8</sub>

The first thing I want to point out to you in this scripture is...

## **I. The Apostle Paul was a Real Live Christian**

– v1

**The Apostle Paul was a real live Christian.** <sup>9</sup>

**Paul describes himself as an apostle.** <sup>10</sup> The word “apostle” <sup>7</sup> means one sent out, a chosen messenger.

<sup>11</sup>

**Paul was chosen to be an apostle directly by the Lord Himself. As he was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians a light from heaven blinded him. Then, he heard a voice saying, **Saul, Saul, Why are you persecuting Me?****

**When Paul discovered it was the Lord he was persecuting he was told to go into the city and wait for**

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<sup>6</sup> v13-14.

<sup>7</sup> απόστολος.

instructions. He was then told, through the disciple Ananias, that he would take the Lord's name to Jews and non-Jews. <sup>8</sup> Ananias was told by the Lord that **this man is my chosen instrument.** <sup>9</sup> <sup>12</sup>

Besides Paul and the Twelve Apostles there were others: <sup>13</sup> Titus, <sup>10</sup> <sup>14</sup> James, the Lord's brother, <sup>11</sup> <sup>15</sup> Barnabus, <sup>12</sup> <sup>16</sup> Andronicus and Junias, <sup>13</sup> <sup>17</sup> and Epaphroditus. <sup>14</sup> <sup>18</sup>

But, God has chosen each of you to be His special messengers too! <sup>19</sup> Lord Jesus says to you as well as to them, **Therefore go and make disciples of all**

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<sup>8</sup> Acts 9:1-15.

<sup>9</sup> Acts 9:15.

<sup>10</sup> II Corinthians 8:23 - As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives (apostles) of the churches and an honor to Christ.

<sup>11</sup> Galatians 1:19 - I saw none of the other apostles — only James, the Lord's brother.

<sup>12</sup> Acts 14:14 - But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd . . .

<sup>13</sup> Romans 16:7 - Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

<sup>14</sup> Philippians 2:25 - But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger (apostle), whom you sent to take care of my needs.

**nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.** <sup>15</sup> <sub>20</sub>

**In Acts, chapter 6, verses 2 through 6, the seven deacons were chosen by The Twelve for ministry. <sup>16</sup> One of those men, Stephen, was martyred for presenting the gospel. <sup>17</sup> <sub>21</sub> Acts, chapter 8 tells us that the Christians who were scattered through that region, because of persecution, preached the word as they went! <sup>18</sup> <sub>22</sub>**

**Not only was the Apostle Paul a real live Christian . . .**

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<sup>15</sup> Matthew 28:19-20.

<sup>16</sup> Acts 6:2-6 - They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

<sup>17</sup> Acts 6:8–7:6.

<sup>18</sup> Acts 8: 2-4 - Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

## II. The Colossians were Real Live Christians

– v2-8

The Colossians were real live Christians. <sup>23</sup>

They came from all segments of their society. <sup>24</sup> **Grace** <sup>19</sup> was the common Greek greeting <sup>25</sup> and **Peace** <sup>20</sup> was the common Jewish greeting. This word, “Shalom”, is the way Jews greet one another today! <sup>26</sup>

They were a mixed crowd but they didn't separate themselves by language, nationality, race, gender or age. Galatians, chapter 3, verses 27 through 29, . . . **for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.** <sup>27</sup>

Notice verse 2 of our scripture today, **To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace**

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<sup>19</sup> χάρις.

<sup>20</sup> εἰρήνη.

to you from God our Father. <sup>28</sup> They were **brothers** <sup>21</sup> in Christ; <sup>29</sup> they were **faithful** <sup>22</sup> in their relationships <sup>30</sup> and they were **holy**. <sup>23</sup> (Holy people are the saints, set apart, dedicated to God, sacred.) <sup>31</sup>

Verse 4 says . . . **because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.** <sup>32</sup> Bible faith is more than just intellectual belief or head knowledge. <sup>33</sup> It's the conviction that God demonstrated His love for us by allowing Lord Jesus to go to the cross <sup>34</sup> It's the demonstration of that gospel message in commitment to Jesus as Savior and Lord. <sup>35</sup>

It's the demonstration of that trust in the ministry of love to others! This is a love demonstrated in practice, not just in words! <sup>36</sup> It is described in James, chapter 2, verses 14 through 18, **What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is**

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<sup>21</sup> ἀδελφός.

<sup>22</sup> πιστός.

<sup>23</sup> ἅγιος.



without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. <sup>37</sup>

**How does this type of faith happen? Verses 5 and 6 tell us, . . . the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. <sup>38</sup>**

**Notice in verse 5, they heard the word and received it.**

<sup>39</sup> **Romans, chapter 10. verse 17, Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ. <sup>40</sup>**

Our holy living is motivated by **the hope stored up in heaven**. You are going to live with God forever in heaven! <sup>41</sup>

So, verse 6 says that the word bears fruit and grows in your life. <sup>42</sup>

Verse 7 says this faith was demonstrated in Epaphras. <sup>24</sup> <sup>43</sup> He was a **fellow servant** who considered himself a slave for Christ. <sup>44</sup> He was also a **faithful minister** (a deacon) who humbly served others. <sup>45</sup>

The final question this passage answers is . . .

### **III. What Are a Real Live Christian's Goals? –**

v9-14

What are a real live Christian's goals? <sup>46</sup>

Verse 9 says it is to be filled with the knowledge of God's will. **For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will**

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<sup>24</sup> Colossians 1:7 - You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf.

**through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.** This filling comes by studying God's word, the Bible. Wisdom and understanding come as a result. <sup>47</sup>

Verse 10 says it is to live a life worthy of the Lord. **And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.** A pleasing life to the Lord is a fruit bearing life. This good life is not to earn salvation but to demonstrate that you have it! A fruit bearing life is shown out of gratitude for the cross! <sup>48</sup>

Verse 11 says it is to be strengthened with spiritual power so you could have endurance, patience and joy in your life . . . **being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father . . .**

This strength often comes through trials. While serving in a church in the San Francisco Bay area we were honored to minister to a young lady in her 30's

the last few months of her life. She had a terminal illness slowly draining her life out of her body. But after every daily visit, we left her inspired and encouraged to walk closer to the Lord ourselves. She was the Lord's ministering angel to us as she suffered and, eventually passed. <sup>49</sup>

The final goal in the character of real live Christians is found in verses 12 through 14, to share in an attitude of thanksgiving for God's blessings, . . . giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>50</sup>

Verse 12 points out the blessing of an inheritance in the kingdom of light.

The story is told of the Valedictorian at the commencement ceremony of a small college. He received a special medal for his achievements. After the event he gave his medal to his mother. She looked

up at his father and said, “It was worth all the cost wasn’t it?” The parents had scraped financially to put their son through college and he studied hard to show his appreciation to them. <sup>51</sup>

Verse 13 points out the blessing of deliverance from darkness; your old life. If your life has been changed by your Christian faith, you can appreciate the difference you are experiencing from your former sin oriented life. <sup>52</sup>

Verse 14 points out the blessing of redemption and the forgiveness of your sins. <sup>53</sup>

The world wants to see a real live Christian. Where should they look? Hopefully they would be able to see you and discover the real product!

**<http://biblelifemessages.org/>**