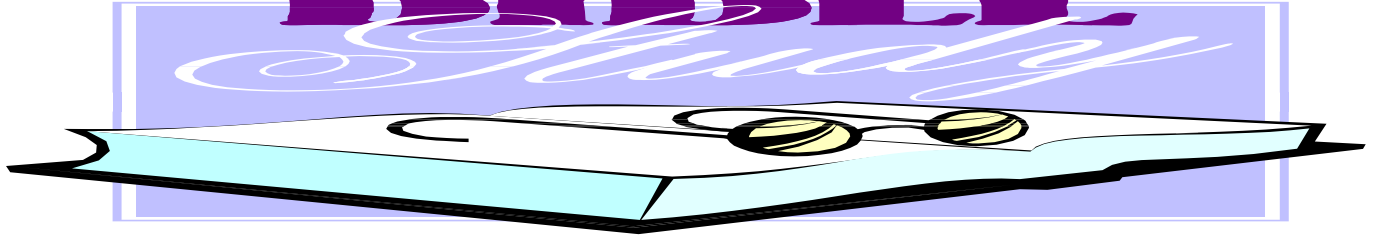


# BIBLE



Facilitator  
**The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr.**  
Director, Bureau of Evangelism  
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church  
Charlotte, North Carolina



Topic:  
**The Book of Colossians:  
Introduction and Chapter 1**

# BIBLE STUDY

Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

## Topic: Colossians 1

- Author:** The Apostle Paul, the Missionary-Theologian and Apostle to the Gentiles from Tarsus
- Date:** 57 A.D. or 62 A.D., from a Roman prison cell, soon after he had written his Epistle to the Ephesians.
- Recipients:** A gentile church in Colossae, an important city in the province of Phrygia in Asia Minor, situated to the east of Ephesus. Although not founded or visited by Paul, its founding probably sprang from his directing. During his three years in Ephesus the whole province of Asia was evangelized, so that all its inhabitants, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord (Ac.19:10).
- Purpose:** To counteract false teachings that tried to combine Oriental mysticism, Gnosticism, and asceticism with Christianity, promising a higher spiritual life and a deeper insight into the world of spirits.
- Theme:** The scope of the epistle is to show, that all hope of man's redemption is founded on Christ, in whom alone are all complete fullness, perfection, and sufficiency.

### The Outline of the Book of Colossians

- I. Paul's Greeting** (1:1 - 2)
- II. Paul's Thanksgiving** (1:3 - 8)
- III. Paul's Prayer** (1:9 - 12)
- IV. God's Work in Christ** (1:13 - 23)
  - A. His Work of Redemption (1:13-14)
  - B. His Work of Creation (1:15-17)
  - C. His Work of Reconciliation (1:18-23)
- V. Paul's Ministry** (1:24-29)
- VI. False Teaching Denounced** (2:1 - 23)
  - A. The True Knowledge of Christ (2:1-3)
  - B. Walking in Christ (2:4-7)
  - C. The Completeness of Christ's Work (2:8-15)
  - D. An Exhortation against Pompous Ritual (2:16-23)
- VII. The Christian Life** (3:1 - 4:6)
  - A. The New and the Old (3:1-11)
  - B. The Exercise of Christian Virtues (3:12-17)
  - C. Family and Social Relationships (3:18 - 4:1)
  - D. Exhortation to Prayer and to Walking in Wisdom (4:2-6)
- VIII. Conclusion** (4:7-18)
  - A. The Mission of Tychicus (4:7-9)
  - B. Greetings (4:10-17)
  - C. Signature (4:18)

# Colossians 1

## I. Paul's Greeting (1:1-2)

- A. The Author Identified: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God, and Timothy (1:1)
- B. The Readers Addressed: the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae (1:2)
- C. The Greeting Extended: Grace to you, and peace from God, our Father (1:2)

## II. Paul's Thanksgiving to God (1:3-8)

- A. For the Colossian Christians (1:3-5)
  - 1. For their faith in Jesus Christ (4)
  - 2. For their love for all the saints (4)
  - 3. For their hope of heaven (5)
- B. For the Gospel (1:5-8)
  - 1. It is the good news of God. (5)
  - 2. It is the truth. (5)
  - 3. It is universal. (6)
  - 4. It is productive. (6)
  - 5. It is about God's grace. (6)
  - 6. It is humanly transmitted. (7)

## III. Paul's Prayer for God's People (1:9-12)

- A. That they may be filled with the knowledge of His will.
- B. That they may have all wisdom and spiritual understanding.
- C. That they may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.
- D. That they may be fruitful in every good work.
- E. That they may increase in the knowledge of God.
- F. That they may be strengthened with all might, according to God's glorious power
- G. That they may have all patience and longsuffering with joy.
- H. That they may give thanks to God who enabled them to share in the inheritance of God's holy people.

## IV. God's Work in Christ (1:12-23)

- A. His Work of Redemption [Transference into the Kingdom of Christ] (1:13-14)
  - 1. A transference from darkness to light
  - 2. A transference from slavery to freedom
  - 3. A transference from condemnation to forgiveness
  - 4. A transference from the power of Satan to the power of God
- B. His Work in Creation (1:15-17)
  - 1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
  - 2. Jesus is the first-born [supreme] of all creation.
    - a. All things were created by Jesus.
    - b. All things were created for Jesus.
    - c. He existed before all things.
    - d. He holds all things together.
- C. His Work in Reconciliation (1:18-23)
  - 1. The object of His coming is reconciliation. (1:18-20)
    - a. He is the Head of the Church.
    - b. He is the first-born from the dead [resurrection]
    - c. He is supreme over everything.
    - d. He is the fullness of the Godhead.
  - 2. The medium of His reconciliation is His sacrificial death. (1:20-22)
  - 3. The goal of His reconciliation is to present us holy, blameless, and without reproach before the Father. (1:23)

**V. Paul's Ministry** (1:24-29)

- A. The Gospel Ministry is about suffering for sake of the gospel. (24)
- B. The Gospel Ministry is about servant leadership. (25)
- C. The Gospel Ministry is about making the word of God fully known. (25-27)
- D. The Gospel Ministry is about proclaiming Christ, the hope of glory. (27-28)
- E. The Gospel Ministry is about presenting every believer complete and mature in Christ. (28)
- F. The Gospel Ministry is about letting the power of God work mightily within us. (29)