

# Crash Course for Colossians

## *Why Bother With Church?*

January 4, 2009

### **Colossians 1:1-14**

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

# Discussion Questions

What's your worst experience at a no name motel or restaurant?  
Is it what you expected?  
Did you know what to expect?

Paul wrote this letter to the church at Colossae, a church he didn't start and never led.  
Why do you think he wrote a letter to *this* church explaining what following Christ is about?

Do you expect different things at different churches?  
Do you expect some things to be the same at all churches?

How important are churches in telling people about Jesus?...helping people?...making a difference in the world?  
What happens when churches get things wrong?  
What happens when churches get things right?

How can churches 'get things right'?  
How does this affect the people of the church?...the community?...the world?