

# DAY ONE

## F FOCUS

Take 30 seconds to quiet your mind and spirit.

Prayer: Father, please quiet my soul, cause me to hear your voice. Give me strength to obey and wisdom to understand.

## T TEXT

Write out the verses word for word below.

Reference: Colossians 1:3-7

*3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints 5 because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and came to truly appreciate God's grace. 7 You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,*



# DAY ONE



## OBSERVE

Be sure to record what is actually in the text. Be careful not to record anything that isn't actually there.

### What did you OBSERVE in this text?

**Who:** *God, Jesus, Paul (writer), Colossians (hearers), Epaphras*

**What:** *Paul is thanking God for them. He is praying for them. They are bearing fruit all over the world. They are taught by Epaphras.*

**When:** *Unknown from th text. Research = Paul's first imprisonment in Rome.*

**Where:** *Colossae, Rome (Paul is writing from there)*

**How:** *Paul is writing a letter instead of being there in person.*

**Why:** *We don't yet know from this text why Paul is writing other than to express his thankfulness for them and their faithfulness. Writing because he is in prison.*

**Other:** *Who is this Epaphras? Did he start the church at Colossae? Follow up later to see who he is.*



# DAY ONE



## INTERPRET

Record 1 to 2 key words from each verse and copy their definitions using the Vocabulary Help Tools noted in the front of this guide.

V. 3 - **Pray** - Strong's: proseúchomai, pros-yoo'-khom-ahee; to pray to God, i.e. supplicate, worship

Vine's: "to pray," is always used of "prayer" to God, and is the most frequent word in this respect,

V. 4 - **Saints** - Vine's: fundamentally signifies "separated" (among the Greeks, dedicated to the gods), and hence, in Scripture in its moral and spiritual significance, separated from sin and therefore consecrated to God, sacred.

V. 5 - **Hope** - Strong's: to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence:—faith, hope

**Gospel** - euangélion, yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on; a good message, i.e. the gospel: Good news or good tidings.

V. 6 - **Fruit** - (Constantly bearing fruit is a phrase, fruit is not just a single word in this text.) karpophoréō, kar-pof-or-eh'-a; from G2593; to be fertile (literally or figuratively):—be (bear, bring forth) fruit(-ful). thus of men who show their knowledge of religion by their conduct

**Grace** - cháris, khar'-ece; graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude)

V. 7 - **Servant** - actually a phrase "fellow bond-servant", meaning a fellow-servant; one who serves the same master with another, e.g. equals



# DAY ONE

A

## APPLY

What principles did you find to apply to your life?

### S - Sins to Avoid

*Not in this text*

### P - Promises to Claim

*Not in this text*

### A - Actions / Attitudes to Pursue

*Thankfulness for other saints, consistent prayer, Hopefulness, faithfulness*

### C - Commands to Obey

*Not really in this text, though one could extract a command to pray, be thankful, and bear fruit - but that wasn't explicitly commanded in the text.*

### E - Examples to Follow

*Paul-praying and being thankful for the Colossians. The Colossians: Faithfulness, fruit-bearing (means they were working) Epaphras: faithfulness and concern for others (e.g. sharing with and teaching Colossians)*

### T - Truths to Accept

*God is the Father of Christ. Epaphras was dearly loved and faithful.*



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R

## REFLECT

What did these passages reveal about ...

... God?

*Though God wasn't directly addressed or spoken of, other than to be declared as the Father of Jesus Christ, we understand from this text that He apparently is ready to listen to the thankful prayers of the saints on behalf of others.*

... you?

*I realized while reading that my prayer life tends to be focused on ME, on my needs or things I am asking for. I need to spend more time being Thankful to God for those both in my life and those I have heard about that are faithful, like Paul did with the Colossians.*

... your walk?

*Again, not just in prayer, but in action, my "walk" tends to be very ME focused. Both Paul and Epaphras seemed to have more concern for others, namely the Colossians, than they did for themselves. That is convicting to me and a point of attention.*



# DAY ONE

P

PRAY

Close with this prayer.

Father,

May your wisdom fill my heart and my soul. May the trials I face in this life spur me on to a greater understanding of who you are and who I am in you. I ask for the wisdom you freely give. Strengthen me with your Spirit.

In Jesus name, Amen.

Use the space below to write out a prayer of your own.

*Father, thank you once again for meeting me and teaching me. Thank you for the example Paul and Epaphras are in this short text regarding the faithfulness of the saints and praying with a thankful heart.*

*Thank you for the saints and people whom you've put in my path, like you did Epaphras for Colossae. Thank you for my parents, my wife, and my pastor. They are all such faithful warriors for the Kingdom. Help me today to spend less time looking for how I can do better, and help me to simply be thankful for the people and things you have already brought into my life to draw me closer to you.*

*Thank you for Jesus, thank you for Salvation.*

*In Jesus Name, Amen.*

