

What’s interesting about Colossians is Paul didn’t plant this church—Epaphras did. Paul writes to a church he’s never met before, but still expresses deep care for them.

What kinds of things does Paul point out about the church in these verses? (Paul pointed out their faith, love, hope, how they’re bearing fruit, and how they understood God’s grace.)

How do you tend to express your love for God’s people? What about your faith in Jesus Christ? Your hope stored in heaven? What does it practically look like to be full of love, faith, or hope?

If you had to pick faith, love, or hope to work on, which one would you pick? Why? What might it look like to improve in that area?

Paul recognizes the Colossians’ true understanding of the gospel when they first believed. They bore the spiritual fruit of love and faith. Paul continues his encouragement in the next section of verses.

Read Colossians 1:9–14.

Paul mentions for the second time that he and Timothy pray for the church in Colossae. He specifically says they never stop praying for them. **When has someone modeled this kind of prayer life for you?**

Christians who are more mature than us can give us an example of what it looks like to follow Jesus. In their prayers for the Colossians to grow in Christ, Paul and Timothy offer an example of Christian maturity. They pray that the Colossians would live a life worthy of God. **How does Paul describe a worthy life in these verses?** (A worthy life is one that bears fruit, grows in the knowledge of God, is strengthened by God, endures, is patient, and gives thanks.)

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Read more about what Paul says about living a worthy life in the following verses: Rom. 16:1–2; Eph. 4:1–3; Phil. 1:27–28; 1 Thess. 2:9–12

According to these passages, what kind of attitude characterizes a worthy life? What do these verses say about how we should treat other people?

When Paul asks believers to live a worthy life, he is telling them to live a life that matches the salvation they’ve received.

How do the actions mentioned in these verses reflect a changed life in Christ?

In Christ, we are forever changed. He frees us from sin and death and brings us into relationship with God. But being saved doesn’t mean we can do whatever we want—as Christians we should conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the grace we’ve received. In Christ, we are forever changed. He frees us from sin and death and brings us into relationship with God. But being saved doesn’t mean we can do whatever we want—as Christians we should conduct ourselves in a way that reflects the grace we’ve received.

If we look back to verse 9, living worthily begins with God filling us with His knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. To Paul, following God begins in the mind and heart, and then expresses itself through action. **What has it looked like in your walk with Christ to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding? How have you seen your mind mature?**

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