

## GOD'S SOVEREIGN WILL

Colossians 1.1-5

### COLOSSIANS: A BACKGROUND

**From:** Paul, possibly penned by Timothy as dictated by Paul

**When:** Around 62AD, during Paul's imprisonment in Rome (**Acts 27 and 28**).

**To:** A growing church of new believers in Colossae, about 85 miles inland from Ephesus. It seems Paul himself did not establish the church, nor at least at his writing had ever met the Colossian church. A Colossian named Epaphras seems to have heard Paul preaching in Ephesus, got saved, went back to Colossae, shared the Gospel, and a church was born.

**Why:** Some bad teaching was influencing this young church, and Paul wanted to remind them of core doctrinal truths in order to keep them from wandering from the truth of the Gospel.

### CHOSEN BY THE WILL OF GOD

Paul starts off by letting people know, first of all, that he is not someone who commended himself, but that it was God's sovereign wisdom that made him an Apostle, and thus his message was sure. He also wants to remind them of the supremacy of God's sovereign purpose, plan, and ability.

Ephesians 1.11, 12

**There is only one God, and I am not Him.**

**We always thank God:** Notice Paul also thanks *God* for the fact that they had "faith in Christ," "love for the saints," "because of the hope laid up" for them in heaven. He knew that it was *God* who gave them all of these gifts.

### IN CHRIST...AT COLOSSAE...

As believers, no matter where we are at in life, we are *always* in Christ.

**It doesn't matter who, where, or what you are, but WHOSE you are. No matter what prepositional phrase describes you, only one positional phrase should define you..." in Christ"!**

Romans 8.28, 39 // // Genesis 50.20 // Ephesians 2.10 // Ezekiel 36.22-28



## NOTES:

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

### NEWCOMERS' MEET AND GREET

If you are new to **Life Mission Church** and would like to know more about who we are and what we're about, please join us for a time after church on **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** right after church. We'll have a time for Pastor Jobey to give a brief history of how we got here, what we believe, what our mission is, and we'll have a time for open Q&A.

### KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out [www.lifemissionchurch.com](http://www.lifemissionchurch.com) and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

**Also**, the daily devotional book, **Long Story Short**, is available in the Atrium to purchase.



## WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

- **JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP!**

If you want to get connected to a group of people near your neighborhood, let us know by filling out the **Connection Card** or visiting the **Connection Booth** in the Atrium!

- **JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM!**

We would love to have you come serve our community with us. Let us know on our **Connection Card** that you want to help!

## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

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## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Ephesians 1.3-14**. How would you describe to someone *how* you got saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think it is so important for Paul (and ultimately, the Holy Spirit who inspired Paul), to make clear to his readers that salvation (and everything else for that matter) is by God's will and choice? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Romans 11.33-36**. After talking about how God used the Jew's rebellion against Himself for His own glory, Paul here assumes the Roman Christian readers will object to God being "unfair" in His sovereign choosing. What does his response in these verses tell us about God's ways and decisions? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it that many people object to God being totally sovereign, in control, and as One who works outside of our realm and autonomy? \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of the day, we all want to be in control, we want to be sovereign, and we want to be self-governing and autonomous. Additionally, we also tend to fear that which we don't understand, especially if we feel it threatens what we know. But how does God being totally sovereign actually work for our benefit?

Read **Ezekiel 20.44** and **Psalms 103.10**. What if God was forced to deal with us according to our self-governed choices? What would have to happen?

Most people "want their cake and they want to eat it, too." We want the ability to be sovereign and in control, but then we don't want to be held accountable for those choices. This is one of the many reasons why Paul is adamant about God's sovereign will to be known. It brings thankfulness, awe, wonder, and worship to God, because *despite* being sovereign and able to punish sin, He instead shows mercy, grace, and peace to many.

In **Colossians 1.2**, we see that the saints are "in Christ at Colossae." Where are you "at" in your faith that needs some "in Christ" perspective? Is it your job, family, struggle with sin, apathy, confusion, health? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Ephesians 2.10**, **Romans 8.28**, **Isaiah 41.10**, and **Psalms 23.1-6**. How do these verses encourage you as they remind you that no matter where you are "at," you are always "in Christ"? \_\_\_\_\_

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