

LESSON 1

BACK TO THE BASICS

COLOSSIANS 1:1–14



1 Think of a sport and list its fundamentals.

2 Why is it important for athletes to master the fundamentals of their sport?



Read the introductory material to Colossians, Colossians 1:1–14, and the following notes:

☐ 1:1 ☐ 1:2, 3 ☐ 1:4, 5 ☐ 1:6 ☐ 1:8 ☐ 1:9–14 ☐ 1:12–14 ☐ 1:13

3 What roles do faith, hope, and love play in building a firm foundation for the Christian life?

4 What is the difference between knowing “God better and better” (1:10) and increasing our knowledge about God?

Paul had never met the believers in Colosse, yet he felt burdened to pray for them and comfortable enough to encourage and teach them. The Colossian believers were very fortunate that Paul saw how they were being misled and then offered them the loving correction they needed. Paul cared enough about these brothers and sisters in Christ to challenge them and to help them get back to the basics. It's easy to become distracted from what is truly important in life and then drift even further from it. Where have you become distracted, or even been misled, as you follow Christ? Get back to the basics.



5 Why is it so important that believers agree about the fundamentals of the faith?

6 How can churches prevent people from drifting away from a true understanding of the gospel?



7 Who or what has helped you avoid error in your doctrine?

8 How can you build a solid foundation for your faith?

9 What pressures or forces do you face that might confuse your understanding of Christian doctrine?

10 Where do you need help in sticking to the basics?

11 What people, programs, books, or other resources can help answer your questions about your faith and keep you on the right track? What resource should you use right away?



A Why did Paul write this letter to the Colossians? What kind of letter would he write to your church?

B What were some of the distinguishing features of the heresy at Colosse? How do each of the Megathemes serve as corrections to these? How is the New Age movement similar to and different from the Colossian heresy?

C Where else in the Bible does Paul emphasize the importance of faith, hope, and love as key elements of Christian experience? How are faith, hope, and love interrelated?

D What were the requirements for being an apostle? What was special about Paul's qualification? What special role does God have for you?

E What does it mean that God has "enabled" us to be a part of his Kingdom (1:12)? What is the inheritance in which we are allowed to share?

F How is the pattern of Paul's prayer in 1:9–14 similar to that of the Lord's Prayer? How does it differ? Compare Paul's prayer with your prayers for other Christians.

G What makes it difficult to live out the gospel? How does Paul's prayer encourage you to overcome these difficulties?

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