

NOTES

Title: Staying on Target

Text: Colossians 1:1–8

Series: *Jesus > Everything*

INTRODUCTION – LOSING THE TARGET

Have you ever tried to take a picture of something beautiful maybe a sunset, a mountain, or your kids and your camera focuses on the wrong thing? You end up with a crystal-clear image of the background and a blurry picture of what actually mattered.

That's exactly what happens in the Christian life when we lose focus. We can be busy doing ministry, building routines, and maintaining appearances but the *main thing* grows blurry: the Gospel itself.

Paul writes this letter to a group of believers in Colossae who had started strong but were now surrounded by noise, false teachers, cultural confusion, spiritual distractions. He starts by helping them **refocus**.

"The goal of the Christian life isn't to find something new—it's to stay focused on what's always been true: the Gospel."

TEXT READING: COLOSSIANS 1:1–8 (ESV)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

1. THE GREETING THAT GROUNDS YOU (v.1–2)

Paul opens his letter, not with flattery, but with **identity**. "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus *by the will of God*."

Before Paul talks about *what* he does, he makes sure we know *whose* he is. He doesn't just say, "Paul, an apostle." He says, "Paul, an apostle **of Christ Jesus**."

That little phrase changes everything.

Because if you take *Christ Jesus* off your calling, all you have left is a title with no power.

But when His name is attached, it turns an assignment into an anointing.

2. THE GRATITUDE THAT GUIDES YOU (v.3–5)

"We always thank God when we pray for you..."

Paul begins this letter not by correcting them but by **thanking God for them**. He models what mature faith looks like: before he critiques, he celebrates.

And what is he thankful for? Three things that summarize the Christian life:

- **Faith in Christ Jesus** – upward focus.
- **Love for all the saints** – outward focus.
- **Hope laid up in heaven** – forward focus.

That's the Gospel trifecta: **faith, love, and hope**.

3. THE GOSPEL THAT GROWS YOU (v.5–6)

"Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing..."

The Gospel is not just a message it's a movement. It's not stagnant; it's spreading. It's not a doctrine collecting dust it's *alive and reproducing*.

4. THE GRACE THAT GROUNDS YOU (v.6–7)

"...since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras..."

Epaphras likely the church planter of Colossae was a faithful servant who taught them the truth. And that truth centered on one thing: **grace**.

5. THE GOSPEL THAT PRODUCES FRUIT (v.8)

"He (Epaphras) has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

SO WHAT?

Recenter your identity – You are “in Christ,” not in crisis.

Reignite gratitude – Thank God for the fruit He’s producing in others.

Recommit to the Gospel – Don’t chase novelty; chase depth.