

[Philippians 1, 2, 3, 4; Colossians 1, 2, 3, 4; Philemon 1](#)

November 2, 2003

Web site "nathanolsen.com"

Next Weeks Lesson: "I Have Finished My Course" ([1 Timothy](#) and [2 Timothy](#); [Titus](#))

Today's Lesson: "I Can Do All Things through Christ" ([Philippians](#); [Colossians](#); [Philemon](#))

What is "the admonition of Paul"? Where is it found?

Turn to [Philippians 4:8](#) and compare it to the thirteenth article of faith [[Articles of Faith 1:13](#)]. When Joseph Smith mentioned the admonition of Paul in the thirteenth article of faith, he was referring to [Philippians 4:8](#), which is part of a letter that Paul wrote to the Saints in Philippi. Today's lesson will cover this letter and Paul's letters to the Colossians and to Philemon, all of which were written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome. These letters discuss attributes we should seek to develop as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

1. Paul encourages the Philippian Saints to follow Jesus Christ. ([Philippians](#))

- A. Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote to the Philippians. How did other members of the Church react to Paul's imprisonment? (See [Philippians 1:12-18](#).) How have you been helped by seeing or hearing about others who were courageous in serving the Lord?
- B. In [Philippians 2:2-3](#), what did Paul exhort the Church members to do? In what ways should Church members be "of one mind"? (See [Philippians 1:27](#); [Philippians 2:14-15](#).) Why do we sometimes do things for "vainglory"? Why do you think Paul counseled against this? Why is it important that we not think we are better than other people? (See [D&C 38:24-26](#).)
- C. What did Paul teach about Jesus in [Philippians 2:5-8](#)? How did Jesus set the perfect example of being humble and submissive to the will of his Father? (See [John 8:29](#).) How can we become more humble and submissive to Heavenly Father's will?
- D. What do you think Paul meant when he told the Philippians, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"? ([Philippians 2:12](#)).

President David O. McKay explained: "'Work out your own salvation' is an exhortation to demonstrate by activity, by thoughtful, obedient effort the reality of faith. But this must be done with a consciousness that absolute dependence upon self may produce pride and weakness that will bring failure. With 'fear and trembling' we should seek the strength and grace of God for inspiration to obtain the final victory" (in Conference Report, Apr. 1957, 7).

E. Paul repeatedly counseled the Philippians to “rejoice in the Lord” ([Philippians 3:1](#); [Philippians 4:4](#)). How can we rejoice in the Lord?

F. Paul told the Philippians that he had sacrificed all things for Christ ([Philippians 3:7-8](#)). What had Paul sacrificed? Why is it important that we make sacrifices for Christ? (See [Philippians 3:9-12](#).)

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “A religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things” (*Lectures on Faith* [1985], 69).

G. How can we obtain the “peace of God” mentioned in [Philippians 4:7](#)? (See [Philippians 4:6-7](#).) When have you felt the peace of God?

H. How can we apply Paul’s counsel in [Philippians 4:8](#)? (See also [Articles of Faith 1:13](#).) How are we blessed when we follow this admonition?

I. Paul testified, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” ([Philippians 4:13](#)). How do you think Paul gained this testimony of Christ? How have you seen that you can “do all things through Christ”?

2. Paul reminds the Colossians that redemption comes only through Christ. ([Colossians 1](#))

The Saints in Colosse, a small city east of Ephesus, were being influenced by teachings that minimized the importance of the Savior and focused on attaining perfection by observing ordinances and worshiping angels. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul warned against these teachings, exhorting the Saints to continue to be “grounded and settled” ([Colossians 1:23](#); see also [Colossians 2:5-7](#)) in the knowledge that redemption comes only through Jesus Christ.

A. What truths about Jesus Christ did Paul teach the Colossians? (See [Colossians 1:12-22](#).) Why was it important for the Colossians to understand these truths? How does your knowledge and testimony of Jesus Christ affect the way you live?

B. What is the “inheritance of the saints” that we may receive from our Father in Heaven? (See [Colossians 1:12](#); [2 Nephi 9:18](#); [D&C 50:5](#).) Who makes this inheritance possible? (See [Colossians 1:12-14](#).) What must we do to receive this inheritance? (See [Colossians 1:10-12](#); [2 Nephi 9:18](#); [Alma 5:51](#); [D&C 50:5](#).)

C. What did Paul mean when he exhorted the Colossians to be “grounded and settled” in the gospel? (See [Colossians 1:23](#).) What causes some people to be “moved away from the hope of the gospel”? ([Colossians 1:23](#).) What can we do

to strengthen our testimonies?

3. Paul teaches the Colossians what they should do as the elect of God. ([Colossians 2:1-8](#), [Colossians 2:16-23](#); [Colossians 3](#); [Colossians 4](#))
 - A. Paul wanted the Saints to have their hearts “knit together in love” and in the knowledge of God the Father and Jesus Christ ([Colossians 2:2-3](#)). How can we accomplish this in our own ward or branch?
 - B. What does it mean to be “rooted and built up” in Christ? (See [Colossians 2:7](#).) How can we become rooted in Christ? How can being “rooted and built up” in Christ help us in times of trial?
 - C. What attributes of “the elect of God” are listed in [Colossians 3:12-15](#)? How has Jesus Christ set an example in these attributes? How can we more fully develop these attributes?
 - D. How can we let the word of Christ dwell in us, as Paul admonished? (See [Colossians 3:16-17](#); see also [D&C 1:37](#); [D&C 18:34-36](#).) How can hymns strengthen our understanding and testimony of the word of Christ? How can we make better use of hymns and other sacred music?
 - Elder Dallin H. Oaks said: “We need to make more use of our hymns to put us in tune with the Spirit of the Lord, to unify us, and to help us teach and learn our doctrine. We need to make better use of our hymns in missionary teaching, in gospel classes, in quorum meetings, in home evenings, and in home teaching visits. Music is an effective way to worship our Heavenly Father and his Son, Jesus Christ. We should use hymns when we need spiritual strength and inspiration” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1994, 13; or *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 12).
 - E. Paul repeatedly emphasized the importance of being thankful ([Colossians 2:7](#); [Colossians 3:15](#), [Colossians 3:17](#)). Why is it important that we be thankful? How can we show gratitude to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in all circumstances?
4. Paul encourages Philemon to be forgiving toward Onesimus. ([Philemon](#))

Paul wrote a personal letter to Philemon, a member of the Church in Colosse, regarding Philemon’s slave Onesimus. Onesimus had robbed Philemon and run away to Rome, where he met Paul and was converted to the Church. Paul asked Philemon to forgive Onesimus and accept him as a brother in the gospel.

 - A. What can we learn about Paul from his letter to Philemon?
 - B. How did Paul show respect for Philemon’s agency? (See [Philemon 1:14](#).) How did Paul show his commitment to Onesimus’s welfare?

C. What can we learn from this epistle about the gospel's power to transform human relationships? (See [Philemon 1:16](#).) How does the gospel affect your relationships with the people around you?

It's very important that we seek to develop attributes that help us become more like Jesus Christ, such as those mentioned in Paul's letters to the Philippians, the Colossians, and Philemon. Read [Philippians 4:8](#) and [Colossians 3:12-15](#) and choose one attribute from those verses to work on developing this week.