

Christ in Colossians

Overview of the Book of Colossians

We are going to begin our study in Colossians still differently than any other book we have studied.

*So often people tend to get lost when we go verse by verse or even word by word, so we are going to get an overview of this book about JESUS CHRIST then we will begin at **Colossians 1:1** and study it the way it should be studied.*

JESUS CHRIST The Authority and Purpose of Living for All Verses 1-2.

verse 1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

verse 2

**To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are at Colossae*:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father. (Grace and Peace are from God, not from what you do.)**

Prayer begins with Thanksgiving to God the Father and then the Place of JESUS CHRIST in prayer. Verses 3-11

verse 3

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Motivation for Prayer. Verse 4

verse 4 **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;**

Prayer motivated by confidence of the future. Verse 5

verse 5 **because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel**

verse 6 **which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;**

verse 7 **just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,**

verse 8 **and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.**

Seven petitions for prayer. verses 9-11

verse 9 **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask**

(1) that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding

verse 10

so
(2) that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

(3) to please *Him* in all respects,

(4) bearing fruit in every good work and

(5) increasing in the knowledge of God;

verse 11

(6) strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,

(7) for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

Abiding in JESUS CHRIST is basis of rewards and inheritance in eternity. verses 12 and 2:18

verse 12 **giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

The Incomparable Christ

JESUS CHRIST is Salvation out from Satan's kingdom and transfers us into the Kingdom of His Son. Verses 13-14

verse 13 **For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**

verse 14 **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

The Person of JESUS CHRIST:

He is the image, revealer of the Invisible God; the embodiment of all Divine fullness. Verse 15

verse 15 **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

He is the architect, creator and sustainer of the universe. Verse 16-17

verse 16 **For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

verse 17 **He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**

He is the architect, creator and sustainer of the universe. Verse 16-17

verse 16 **For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

verse 17 **He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**

He is the head of all things, especially the Church, which means He is the authority in your life. Verses 18-19

verse 18 **He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

verse 19 **For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**

JESUS CHRIST is the Peace Maker:

He is the source of Christian life, joy and peace. Verses 20-21

verse 20 **and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

verse 21 **And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,**

He is the rewarder of all believers who abide in Him (prepares you for the Judgment Seat of Christ). Verse 22-23

verse 22 **yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—**

verse 23 **if indeed**
(1) you continue in the faith firmly
(2) established and
(3) steadfast, and
(4) not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

The Church is His Body and, therefore, we are to serve One Another. Verses 24-25

verse 24 **Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.**

verse 25 **Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God*,**

He is the mystery... hidden. Verses 26-27

verse 26 ***that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the *past ages* and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,**

verse 27 **to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

He is the Message which we have for the world; He is Wisdom. Verse 28-29

verse 28 **We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.**

He has sent us His power... the Holy Spirit. Verse 29

verse 29 **For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.**

Another brief outline of Chapter 1:

Three hindrances to Satan's counter attack:

- (1) Prayer in name or authority of. Verses 3-11
- (2) God taking us out of Satan's Kingdom of darkness. Verse 12-22
- (3) Abiding in JESUS CHRIST. Verses 23-29

Chapter 2

JESUS CHRIST is God's mystery and all the treasures of true wisdom. Verses 1-3

verse 1	For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,
verse 2	that their hearts may be encouraged, (1) having been knit together in love, (2) and <i>attaining</i> to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, (3) <i>resulting</i> in a true knowledge of God's mystery, (4) <i>that is, Christ Himself,</i>
verse 3	in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Gospel for Christians. Verses 4-5

verse 4	I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.
verse 5	For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

Our Faith in JESUS CHRIST is pattern of our Faith in the Holy Spirit. Verses 6-7

verse 6	Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, <i>so</i> walk in Him,
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verse 7

(1) having been firmly rooted (by Faith in JESUS CHRIST) *and*
(2) now being built up in Him (by Faith in the Holy Spirit) **and**
established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and
overflowing with gratitude.

Legalism is avoided by staying focused on JESUS CHRIST;
keeping your eyes on Jesus. Verse 8

verse 8

See to it that no one takes you captive through (philosophy) **and**
empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to
the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to
Christ.

Knowing JESUS CHRIST is the knowing of deity. Verse 9

verse 9

For in Him

(1) all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

JESUS CHRIST is the full and final authority. Verse 10

verse 10

and

(2) in Him you have been made complete, and

(3) He is the head over all rule and authority;

Every believer of the Church Age is sanctified in JESUS CHRIST.

Verses 11-12

verse 11

and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made
without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the
circumcision of Christ;

verse 12

having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also
raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who
raised Him from the dead.

JESUS CHRIST took away Law at the cross... verses 13-14

verse 13

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He

(1) made you alive together with Him,

(2) having forgiven us all our transgressions

verse 14

(3) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and

(4) He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

JESUS CHRIST has already won the **ANGELIC CONFLICT** securing us victory in the **ANGELIC CONFLICT**. Verse 15

verse 15

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

In Christ is the removal of all legalism or securing victory over Satan's counter attack of legalism. Verses 16-17

verse 16

Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day—

verse 17

things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Abiding in JESUS CHRIST is the only preparation for Judgment Seat of Christ. Verses 18-19

verse 18

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,

verse 19

and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

All legalism and asceticism is removed by our position in Christ.

Verses 20-23

verse 20	if (since) you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
verse 21	“Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”
verse 22	(which all <i>refer to</i> things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
verse 23	These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, <i>but are</i> of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Chapter 3

Effect of Position in Christ and Living for Christ.

Being in JESUS CHRIST should determine your priorities in life; What is going on in heaven directly effects how you live your life.

Verses 1-3

verse 1	Therefore if (since) you have been raised up with Christ, (1) keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
verse 2	(2) Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
verse 3	For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

You will be with JESUS CHRIST for all eternity or ultimate sanctification. Verse 4

verse 4 **When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.**

Your Position in Christ guides your morality not determined by the ways of man. Verses 5-7

verse 5 **Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.**

verse 6 **For it is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,**

verse 7 **and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.**

JESUS CHRIST changes how we are to live each day. Verses 8-11

verse 8 **But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.**

verse 9 **Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,**

verse 10 **and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—**

verse 11 ***a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.**

JESUS CHRIST' love for you establishes how we are to love and forgive One Another. Verses 12-13 —or— SEVEN FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

verse 12 **So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of**
(1) compassion,
(2) kindness,

(3) **humility,**

(4) **gentleness and**

(5) **patience;**

verse 13

(6) **bearing with one another, and**

(7) **forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.**

Christ is the pattern of how we are to love One Another. Verse 14

verse 14

Beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Christ is our peace in this life and grounds of thankfulness. Verse 15

verse 15

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Spiritual growth is from the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and this Knowledge not only prepares you for the Judgement Seat of Christ but also makes for a rich life here on earth living with One Another. Verse 16

verse 16

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Everything we do in life, is to be done for JESUS CHRIST. Verse 17

verse 17

Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Our relationship with JESUS CHRIST is the pattern for our relationships in life. Verses 18-23

verse 18

Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

verse 19

Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them.

verse 20

Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

verse 21

Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

verse 22

Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.

verse 23 **Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, and 4:1**

JESUS CHRIST is the foundation of rewards at the Judgement Seat of Christ and our inheritance in Eternity. Verses 24-25

verse 24 **knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.**

verse 25 **For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.**

Chapter 4

verse 1 **Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.**

Our prayer life should be motivated by telling others of the mystery of JESUS CHRIST. Verses 2-4

verse 2 **Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*;**

verse 3 **praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;**

verse 4 **that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.**

Our witness of JESUS CHRIST should determine how we interact with others. Verses 5-6

verse 5 **Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.**

verse 6 **Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.**

As a witness of JESUS CHRIST everyone needs encouragement. Verse 7-15

verse 7	As to all my affairs, Tychicus, <i>our</i> beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.
verse 8	<i>For</i> I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;
verse 9	and with him Onesimus, <i>our</i> faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your <i>number</i>. They will inform you about the whole situation here.
verse 10	Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and <i>also</i> Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);
verse 11	and <i>also</i> Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.
verse 12	Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
verse 13	<i>For</i> I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
verse 14	Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and <i>also</i> Demas.
verse 15	Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.

Share with others what you are learning about JESUS CHRIST. Verse 16-18

verse 16	When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter <i>that is coming</i> from Laodicea.
verse 17	Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
verse 18	I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

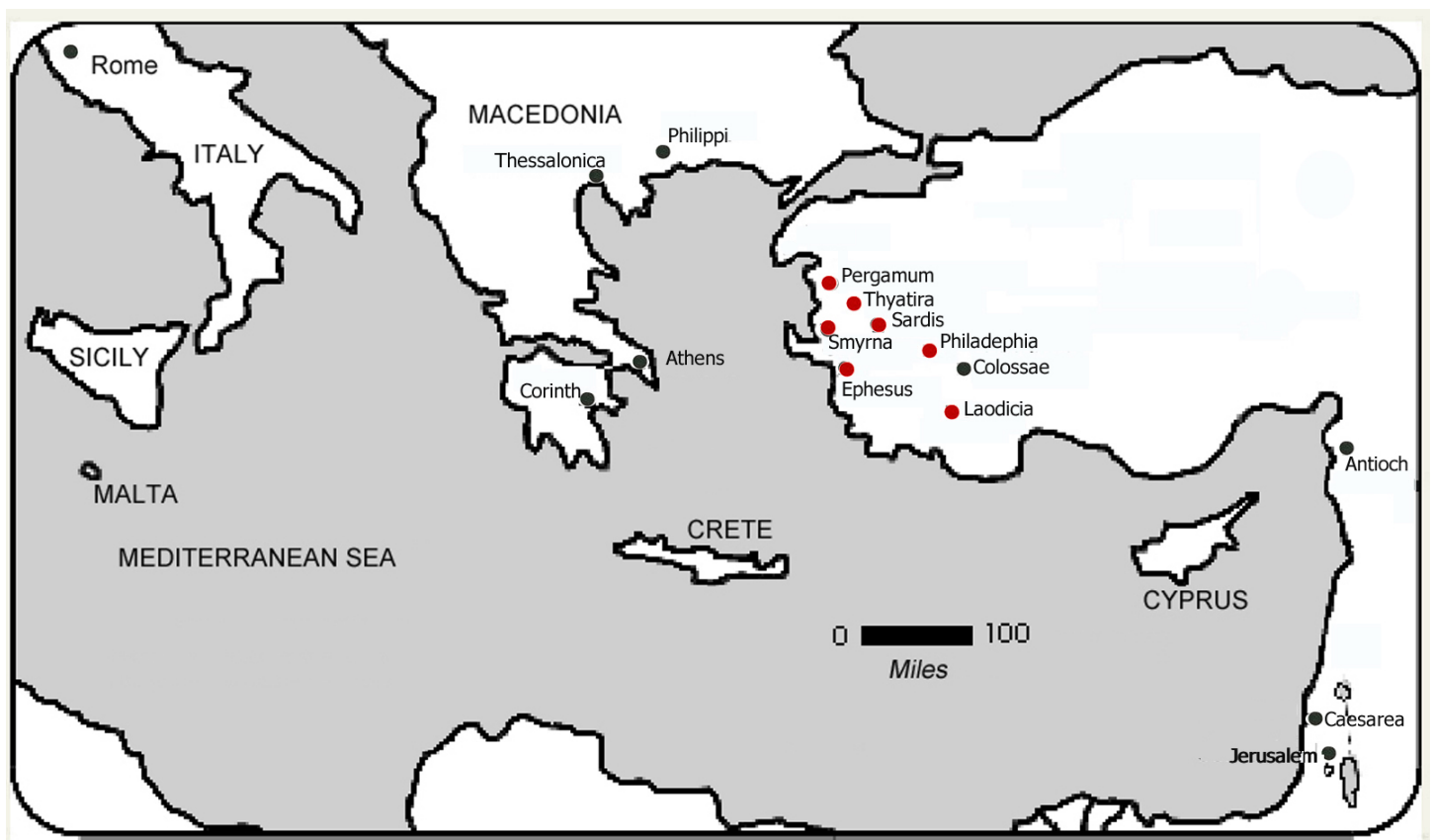
**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?



Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

GOOD FRIDAY

Words: Thomas Kelly, 1804.

Music: 'O Mein Jesu, Ich Muss Sterben' or 'Wo Ist Jesus, Mein Verlangen' from Geistliches Volkslied, 1850.

Setting: "Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book", 1931.

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♩ = 180

1. Strick-en, smitt-en, and a - fflic - ted, See Him dy - ing on the tree!
 2. Tell me, ye who hear Him groan - ing, Was there e - ver grief like His?
 3. Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the re - fuge of the lost.

'Tis the Christ by man re - - ject - ed; Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He!
 Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in - - sul - ting his dis - tress:
 Christ the Rock of our sal - - va - tion, Christ the Name of which we boast.

'Tis the long ex - pec - ted pro - phet, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord;
 Man - y hands were raised to wound Him, None would in - ter - pose to save;
 Lamb of God for sin - ners wound - ed! Sac - ri - - fice to can - cel guilt!

My Dear Son God now has spok - en 'Tis a true and faith - ful Word.
 But the deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that Jus - tice gave.
 None shall ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

STRICKEN, SMITTEN, AND AFFLICTED

Verse 1.

**Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See Him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis He! 'tis He!**

**'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
My dear Son God has now spoken
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

Verse 2.

**Tell me, ye who hear Him groaning,
Was there ever grief like His?
Friends through fear His cause disowning,
Foes insulting His distress;**

**Many hands were raised to wound Him,
None would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

Verse 3.

**Here we have a firm foundation;
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the Rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.**

**Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded
Who on Him their hope have built.**