

CENTERED

Colossians: Living a Christ-Centered Life

PART 1

Mike Taylor www.TaylorNotes.Info



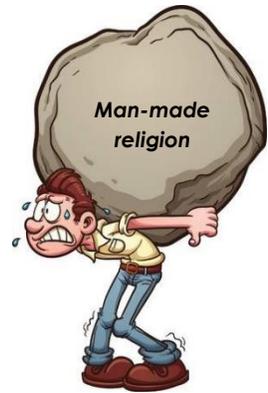
I. MAIN POINT OF COLOSSIANS

Christ is Lord over all creation, including the invisible realm. He secured redemption for his people, enabling them to participate with him in his death resurrection, and fullness.¹ He is therefore to be the center of the Christian life.

II. BACKGROUND

Author	Apostle Paul, along with Timothy (amanuensis)
Recipients	The Christians living in Colossae (mostly Gentiles)
Where	Paul was imprisoned in Rome (1 st imprisonment)
When	AD 61-62

- A. False teachers were promoting a heresy that stressed man-made rules (legalism). They also promoted the idea that spiritual growth comes only through severe discipline of the body (asceticism) and visions (mysticism).
- B. Against this backdrop Paul offers clear godly clarifications to Christians in Colossae who were becoming unsure about the importance of the law, and self-efforts regarding salvation. They were also becoming confused about who Jesus is.
- C. Although Paul never visited Colossae, he knew much about them and his letter indicates that it was one of "his" churches--through a coworker Epaphras (1:7-8).
- D. Paul writes to encourage them to stand firm in what they have been taught, and to avoid the errors of embracing a performance-based religion centered on keeping the Mosaic Law, even though Christ's death brought it to an end (2:21). He does this by emphasizing the supremacy of Christ over all things, his powerful role in creation (1:15-19).



III. PAUL'S GREETING (1:1-2)

- A. Paul introduces himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus, and his brother in the Lord, Timothy (1:1)
- B. He addresses the letter to the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae, and greets them with grace and peace from God the Father.

¹ (ESV Crossway Bibles 2289)

IV. PAUL'S THANKFULNESS TO GOD (1:3-8)

For what three things does Paul express thankfulness (1:4,6)?

- A. He is thankful for their _____ (1:4).
- B. He is thankful for their _____ (1:4).
- C. He is thankful for the _____ around the world (1:6).

V. PAUL'S PRAYER FOR FELLOW CHRISTIANS AT COLOSSAE (1:9-14)

- A. He prays that they would know God's will through spiritual wisdom and understanding (1:9).
- B. He prays that they might live a worthy life that pleases the Lord (1:10).
- C. He prays that they would bear fruit through good works (1:10a).
- D. He prays that they would grow in the knowledge of God (1:10b).
- E. He prays that they would be strengthened with power so they might have endurance and patience (1:11).
- F. He prays that they would joyfully give thanks to the Father for rescuing them and bringing them into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves (1:12-14).

VI. THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST (1:15-23)

Jesus Christ is Supreme because...

- A. He is the _____ of God the Father (1:15a).
- B. He is the _____ over all creation, (1:15b, 18; cf. Ps. 89:27; Rom. 8:29).
- C. He the _____ of everything (1:16).
- D. He _____ together (1:17).
- E. He is the _____ (1:18).
- F. The Father _____ in him (1:19).
- G. He restores _____ (1:20-23).

VII. APPLICATION

- A. How can Paul's prayer in 1:9-12 for these Colossian Christians be applied today?
- B. What does it mean to have Jesus Christ as the center of your life?
- C. What evidences would you expect to see in your own life as you make Jesus Christ the center of your life?