



## Colossians

Paul writes the church at Colossae a letter about who they are in Christ, and how to walk in Christ. Written during Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment.

**Author:** Paul

### In Colossians – Jesus is the Supreme Position in all things

Colossians 3:23

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."



TEACHER: 4 CHAPTERS

This is another letter written by Paul while he was in Jail. It is brief but powerful. It seems that Epaphras planted this church, and Paul had not visited the church as of yet. Also of note, Philemon lived in Colossae, whom the Epistle of Philemon is written to. Let's begin.

STUDENT:

CH. 1

From Paul, who by God's will is an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy—

<sup>2</sup>To God's people in Colossae, who are our faithful friends in union with Christ: May God our Father give you grace and peace. (GNT)

STUDENT:

<sup>3</sup>We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you. <sup>4</sup>For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all God's people. <sup>5</sup>When the true message, the Good News, first came to you, you heard about the hope it offers. So your faith and love are based on what you hope for, which is kept safe for you in heaven. <sup>6</sup>The gospel keeps bringing blessings and is spreading throughout the world, just as it has among you ever since the day you first heard about the grace of God and came to know it as it really is. <sup>7</sup>You learned of God's grace from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is Christ's faithful worker on our behalf. <sup>8</sup>He has told us of the love that the Spirit has given you. (GNT)

**STUDENT:**

<sup>9</sup> For this reason we have always prayed for you, ever since we heard about you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will, with all the wisdom and understanding that his Spirit gives. <sup>10</sup> Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds, and you will grow in your knowledge of God. <sup>11-12</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength which comes from his glorious power, so that you may be able to endure everything with patience. And with joy give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for his people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son, <sup>14</sup> by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. (GNT)

=====

**TEACHER:**

What a beautiful prayer. From Paul's heart to God's ears. Paul jumps right in with the deity of Christ.

=====

**STUDENT:**

<sup>15</sup> Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things. <sup>16</sup> For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole universe through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place.

=====

**STUDENT:**

<sup>18</sup> He is the head of his body, the church; he is the source of the body's life. He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. <sup>19</sup> For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. <sup>20</sup> Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven. (GNT)

=====

**TEACHER:** To recap the previous two segments, follow this list of the attributes of Jesus.

1. Jesus is the visible likeness of the invisible God.
2. Jesus is the 1<sup>st</sup> born Son of God.
3. Jesus is superior to all created things.
4. All things in Heaven and Earth were created through Him, both seen and unseen.
5. He created spiritual powers, lords, rulers and authorities.
6. He created the whole universe.
7. The whole universe was created for Him.
8. He existed before all things.
9. In union with Him, all things have their proper place.
10. He is the head of the church and the source of its life.
11. He is risen from the dead to give Him 1<sup>st</sup> place in all things,
12. Through Him God the Father has decided to bring the whole universe back to Himself.
13. Through His blood God made peace and brought all things on Earth and Heaven back to Himself.

Paul then relates that because of these truths about who Jesus is, we should live in a manner that pleases Him. Try to pray this list. "Jesus you are the visible likeness of God, You are God's 1<sup>st</sup> born Son, You are superior to everything in creation, everything was created by and through You,....you get the idea."

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>21</sup> At one time you were far away from God and were his enemies because of the evil things you did and thought. <sup>22</sup> But now, by means of the physical death of his Son, God has made you his friends, in order to bring you, holy, pure, and faultless, into his presence. <sup>23</sup> You must, of course, continue faithful on a firm and sure foundation, and must not allow yourselves to be shaken from the hope you gained when you heard the gospel. It is of this gospel that I, Paul, became a servant—this gospel which has been preached to everybody in the world. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

Keeping all of this revelation in mind, Paul reveals his role, and then ours in God's plan.

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>24</sup> And now I am happy about my sufferings for you, for by means of my physical sufferings I am helping to complete what still remains of Christ's sufferings on behalf of his body, the church. <sup>25</sup> And I have been made a servant of the church by God, who gave me this task to perform for your good. It is the task of fully proclaiming his message, <sup>26</sup> which is the secret he hid through all past ages from all human beings but has now revealed to his people. <sup>27</sup> God's plan is to make known his secret to his people, this rich and glorious secret which he has for all peoples. And the secret is that Christ is in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God. <sup>28</sup> So we preach Christ to everyone. With all possible wisdom we warn and teach them in order to bring each one into God's presence as a mature individual in union with Christ. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER: Oh yes, another R.B.S. list.

And our role in Christ?

1. To preach Jesus to everyone.
2. To warn everyone.
3. To teach everyone.
4. To bring everyone into maturity in Christ.
5. To bring everyone into unity with Christ.

On to chapter 2.

=====

STUDENT:

CH. 2

Let me tell you how hard I have worked for you and for the people in Laodicea and for all others who do not know me personally. <sup>2</sup> I do this in order that they may be filled with courage and may be drawn together in love, and so have the full wealth of assurance which true understanding brings. In this way they will know God's secret, which is Christ himself. <sup>3</sup> He is the key that opens all the hidden treasures of God's wisdom and knowledge. (GNT)

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>6</sup> Since you have accepted Christ Jesus as Lord, live in union with him. <sup>7</sup> Keep your roots deep in him, build your lives on him, and become stronger in your faith, as you were taught. And be filled with thanksgiving. (GNT)

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>8</sup> See to it, then, that no one enslaves you by means of the worthless deceit of human wisdom, which comes from the teachings handed down by human beings and from the ruling spirits of the universe, and not from Christ. <sup>9</sup> For the full content of divine nature lives in Christ, in his humanity, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given full life in union with him. He is supreme over every spiritual ruler and authority. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

How does this happen today? What are some false teachings you have heard? How can we know what we are being taught is the truth? Bible study. Having the truth, we are now set free through Christ.

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>12</sup> For when you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death. <sup>13</sup> You were at one time spiritually dead because of your sins and because you were Gentiles without the Law. But God has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; <sup>14</sup> he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And on that cross Christ freed himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; he made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

And how does this affect us today? Let's read.

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>16</sup> So let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> All such things are only a shadow of things in the future; the reality is Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not allow yourselves to be condemned by anyone who claims to be superior because of special visions and who insists on false humility and the worship of angels. For no reason at all, such people are all puffed up by their human way of thinking <sup>19</sup> and have stopped holding on to Christ, who is the head of the body. Under Christ's control the whole body is nourished and held together by its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God wants it to grow. (GNT)

=====

STUDENT:

<sup>20</sup> You have died with Christ and are set free from the ruling spirits of the universe. Why, then, do you live as though you belonged to this world? Why do you obey such rules as <sup>21</sup> "Don't handle this," "Don't taste that," "Don't touch the other"? <sup>22</sup> All these refer to things which become useless once they are used; they are only human rules and teachings. <sup>23</sup> Of course such rules appear to be based on wisdom in their forced worship of angels, and false humility, and severe treatment of the body; but they have no real value in controlling physical passions. (GNT)

=====

TEACHER:

What Paul is referring to is an early practice among some Christians to take some Biblical truths to an extreme. If Jesus is in Heaven and is worshipped, we will worship everyone in Heaven so they can ask God to help us etc. The worship of saints is still practiced today, and Mary as well. Also self-flagellation. On to chapter 3, Paul instructs us to set our sights on Heaven.

=====



CH. 3

STUDENT:

You have been raised to life with Christ, so set your hearts on the things that are in heaven, where Christ sits on his throne at the right side of God. <sup>2</sup> Keep your minds fixed on things there, not on things here on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> Your real life is Christ and when he appears, then you too will appear with him and share his glory! (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul, knowing human nature, now clarifies the position.  
Not being under the Law of Moses, which was given as an example,  
Does not mean that we can ignore the moral law of God.

STUDENT:

<sup>5</sup> You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as sexual immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greed is a form of idolatry). <sup>6</sup> Because of such things God's anger will come upon those who do not obey him. <sup>7</sup> At one time you yourselves used to live according to such desires, when your life was dominated by them.

<sup>8</sup> But now you must get rid of all these things: anger, passion, and hateful feelings. No insults or obscene talk must ever come from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, for you have put off the old self with its habits <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self. This is the new being which God, its Creator, is constantly renewing in his own image, in order to bring you to a full knowledge of himself. <sup>11</sup> As a result, there is no longer any distinction between Gentiles and Jews, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarians, savages, slaves, and free, but Christ is all, Christ is in all. (GNT)

TEACHER:

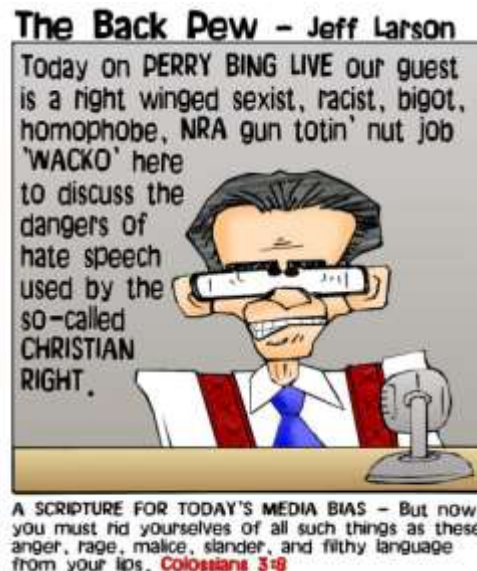
Another list. Things to put off, or rid ourselves of.

1. Sexual immorality.
2. Indecency.
3. Lust.
4. Evil passions.
5. Greed.
6. Anger
7. Passion.
8. Hateful feelings.
9. Insults.
10. Obscene talk.
11. Lying.

Col. 3:5-11

TEACHER:

So if we put these off, what do we replace them with? Let's find out.



STUDENT:

<sup>12</sup> You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. <sup>13</sup> Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you. <sup>14</sup> And to all these qualities add love, which binds all things together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup> The peace that Christ gives is to guide you in the decisions you make; for it is to this peace that God has called you together in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct one another with all wisdom. Sing psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing to God with thanksgiving in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father. (GNT)

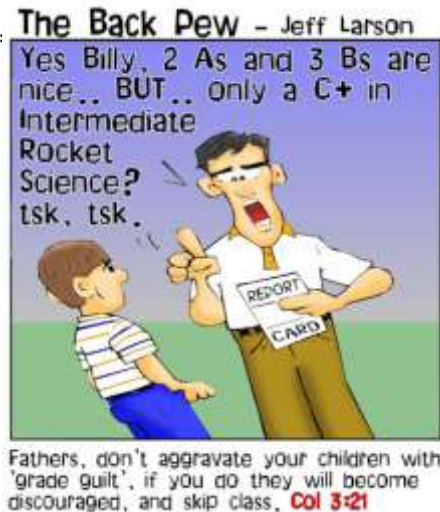
TEACHER:

The list of what to put on.

1. Compassion.
2. Kindness.
3. Humility.
4. Gentleness.
5. Patience.
6. Tolerance.
7. Forgiveness.
8. Love.
9. Peacefulness.
10. Thankfulness.
11. He ends the list with this admonition for #11.

"Everything you do or say then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Paul starts chapter 4 with instructions to pray, and to behave well around unbelievers.



CH. 4

STUDENT:

<sup>2</sup> Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God. <sup>3</sup> At the same time pray also for us, so that God will give us a good opportunity to preach his message about the secret of Christ. For that is why I am now in prison. <sup>4</sup> Pray, then, that I may speak, as I should, in such a way as to make it clear. <sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward those who are not believers, making good use of every opportunity you have. <sup>6</sup> Your speech should always be pleasant and interesting, and you should know how to give the right answer to everyone. (GNT)

TEACHER:

Paul ends with a list of names we will not cover today, they are a fun group to google. Study at your own pace at home. Before we close let's examine those last 2 lists, side by side. I have never seen this done before this study, And it shows how careful the Holy Spirit really was when He inspired the scripture we love so much.



**THINGS TO PUT OFF**

Sexual immorality.  
Indecency.  
Lust.  
Evil passions.  
Greed.  
Anger.  
Passion.  
Hateful feelings.  
Insults.  
Obscene talk.  
Lying.

**THINGS TO PUT ON.**

Compassion.  
Kindness.  
Humility.  
Gentleness.  
Patience.  
Tolerance.  
Forgiveness.  
Love.  
Peacefulness.  
Thankfulness.  
“Everything you do or say then,  
should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

=====

NEXT LESSON 1<sup>st</sup> THESSALONIANS

=====

*Whatever you do, do it with all your heart.*

Colossians 3:23



*Ancient Collossae*



