

Colossians: A Chapter-by-Chapter Teaching Through Colossians

Family, today we step into the book of Colossians — a letter written to a young congregation surrounded by false teachings, spiritual confusion, and pressure to mix the gospel with human philosophy.

Paul writes this letter to bring the church back to:

- the supremacy of Yeshua
- the simplicity of the gospel
- the power of the Spirit
- the call to holiness
- the rejection of man-made religion

Just like Galatians, Colossians is often twisted to promote lawlessness. But when we read it in context, Paul is not removing Yahweh's commandments — he is removing:

- human traditions
- pagan philosophy
- asceticism
- man-made rules
- flesh-based religion

Colossians is a book of **Spirit-empowered obedience**, rooted in the supremacy of Yeshua.

Let's walk through it chapter by chapter and let Yahweh speak.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1 — THE SUPREMACY OF YESHUA & THE CALL TO WALK WORTHY

Paul begins with a prayer for the believers:

"That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will... that you may walk worthy of Yahweh."
(Col 1:9–10)

Right from the start, Paul's goal is not lawlessness — it is **walking worthy**.

Walking worthy means:

- knowing Yahweh's will

- bearing fruit
- increasing in knowledge
- being strengthened by the Spirit
- living a life that reflects Yeshua

This is obedience empowered by grace.

1. Yeshua Is Supreme Over All Creation

Paul says:

“He is the image of the invisible God... all things were created through Him and for Him.” (Col 1:15–16)

Yeshua is not a new deity. He is not a lesser being. He is not a created angel.

He is:

- the visible image of Yahweh
- the Creator of all things
- the One who holds all things together
- the Head of the body
- the Firstborn from the dead

Paul is establishing the foundation:

Obedience flows from the supremacy of Yeshua.

2. Reconciliation Through His Blood

Paul continues:

“It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell... and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself.” (Col 1:19–20)

Reconciliation is not freedom from obedience. Reconciliation is restoration to relationship — and relationship produces obedience.

Yeshua didn't die to remove holiness. He died to restore us to holiness.

3. Continue in the Faith — Not Drift Into Deception

Paul warns:

“If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.” (Col 1:23)

This is not a passive faith. This is a **continuing, grounded, steadfast** faith.

Paul is saying:

- Don’t drift
- Don’t compromise
- Don’t mix the gospel with philosophy
- Don’t let culture redefine truth

Continue in the faith — the faith that produces obedience.

4. Paul’s Ministry: To Present Every Believer Perfect in Messiah

Paul says:

“Him we preach... that we may present every man perfect in Messiah Yeshua.” (Col 1:28)

Paul’s goal is not:

- “saved but unchanged”
- “grace without holiness”
- “faith without obedience”

Paul’s goal is:

Maturity. Holiness. Transformation. Perfection in Messiah.

This is the same message as Galatians:

Grace empowers obedience — it does not replace it.

CHAPTER 1 SUMMARY

Colossians 1 teaches:

- Yeshua is supreme
- We must walk worthy
- We must continue in the faith
- We are reconciled to obey
- Paul’s mission is to produce holy, mature believers

Nothing in Chapter 1 removes Yahweh's commandments. Everything in Chapter 1 calls us deeper into obedience through the Spirit.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 2 — TRADITIONS OF MEN VS. THE COMMANDMENTS OF YAHWEH

Colossians 2 is the battleground chapter. People use it to argue:

- “The law was nailed to the cross.”
- “Don’t let anyone judge you for breaking the Sabbath.”
- “Do not touch, do not taste means commandments don’t matter.”

But Paul is not fighting Yahweh’s law. He is fighting:

- philosophy
- human tradition
- pagan mysticism
- asceticism
- man-made commandments
- false humility
- worship of angels

Let's walk through it carefully.

1. Beware of Philosophy and Human Tradition

Paul warns:

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men...” (Col 2:8)

Notice what Paul does **not** say:

- “Beware of Torah.”
- “Beware of Yahweh’s commandments.”
- “Beware of obedience.”

He says:

Beware of the traditions of men.

This includes:

- Greek philosophy
- Roman asceticism
- Pagan mysticism
- Gnostic teachings
- Man-made religious rules

Paul is not attacking Yahweh's law — he is attacking **man's law**.

2. You Are Complete in Yeshua — Not in Rituals

Paul says:

“You are complete in Him...” (Col 2:10)

This means:

- You don't need man-made rituals
- You don't need mystical experiences
- You don't need ascetic practices
- You don't need human philosophy

Yeshua is enough. But Yeshua never leads us into lawlessness.

3. What Was Nailed to the Cross? (Colossians 2:14)

This is one of the most abused verses in the entire Bible.

Paul says:

“Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us... He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” (Col 2:14)

People say:

“See? The law was nailed to the cross!”

But the text does **not** say:

- “Torah was nailed to the cross.”
- “The commandments were nailed to the cross.”
- “Yahweh’s law was taken away.”

The phrase “handwriting of requirements” (cheirographon) means:

A record of debt. A certificate of charges. A list of our sins.

It is the **penalty** of the law — not the law itself.

Yeshua nailed:

- our guilt
- our charges
- our sins
- our condemnation

to the cross.

He did **not** nail Yahweh’s commandments to the cross.

If the law was nailed to the cross, then:

- sin no longer exists
- holiness no longer matters
- righteousness no longer matters
- obedience no longer matters

Paul would never teach that.

4. “Let No One Judge You...” (Colossians 2:16–17)

This is the most twisted passage in the chapter.

Paul says:

“Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths...”
(Col 2:16)

People say:

“See? Don’t let anyone judge you for breaking the Sabbath!”

But that is the opposite of what Paul is saying.

Context:

The Colossians were **Gentile believers** who had begun keeping:

- Yahweh’s Sabbaths
- Yahweh’s feast days
- Yahweh’s dietary laws

And they were being judged by:

- pagans
- philosophers
- ascetics
- Gnostics
- Roman culture

for doing so.

Paul is saying:

“Don’t let pagans judge you for obeying Yahweh.”

Not:

“Don’t let believers judge you for disobeying Yahweh.”

“Which are a shadow of things to come...” (v.17)

The Sabbaths and feasts are **shadows** — meaning they point to Yeshua.

A shadow is not abolished. A shadow proves something real is casting it.

5. “Do Not Touch, Do Not Taste...” (Colossians 2:20–22)

Paul says:

“Why... do you subject yourselves to regulations — ‘Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle’... according to the commandments and doctrines of men?” (Col 2:20–22)

People say:

“See? Paul is against commandments!”

But Paul says:

“**...according to the commandments and doctrines of MEN.**”

He is attacking:

- asceticism
- self-denial rituals
- man-made purity rules
- Gnostic restrictions
- pagan taboos

He is not attacking:

- Yahweh’s commandments
- Yahweh’s dietary laws
- Yahweh’s Sabbaths
- Yahweh’s feasts

Paul is attacking **man-made religion**, not Yahweh’s law.

6. False Humility and Angel Worship

Paul warns:

“Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels...”
(Col 2:18)

This was a real problem in Colossae:

- mystical visions
- angel worship
- spiritual elitism
- secret knowledge

Paul is saying:

Stay rooted in Yeshua — not mystical experiences.

7. Summary of Chapter 2

Colossians 2 teaches:

- Beware of human tradition
- Beware of philosophy
- Beware of asceticism
- Beware of man-made religion
- Yeshua nailed our sins — not the law — to the cross
- Don't let pagans judge you for obeying Yahweh
- The feasts and Sabbaths point to Messiah
- Man-made commandments are worthless
- Spirit-empowered obedience is the goal

Nothing in Chapter 2 abolishes Yahweh's law. Everything in Chapter 2 abolishes **man's law**.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3 — PUT OFF THE OLD MAN, PUT ON THE NEW

Colossians 3 is Paul's answer to everything he warned about in Chapter 2.

- If man-made religion can't save you...
- If philosophy can't transform you...
- If asceticism can't purify you...
- If rituals can't change your heart...

Then what can?

The Spirit of Yahweh transforming you into the image of Yeshua.

This chapter is the heart of the letter.

1. Seek the Things Above

Paul begins:

"If then you were raised with Messiah, seek those things which are above..." (Col 3:1)

This is not escapism. This is alignment.

Paul is saying:

- Set your desires on Yahweh
- Set your priorities on holiness
- Set your mind on the Kingdom

- Set your life on obedience

Your life follows your focus.

2. Put to Death the Old Man

Paul says:

“Put to death your members which are on the earth...” (Col 3:5)

This is not symbolic. This is not poetic. This is not optional.

Paul lists the sins that must die:

- fornication
- uncleanness
- passion
- evil desire
- covetousness

Then he adds:

“Because of these things the wrath of God is coming.” (Col 3:6)

This is New Testament. This is post-cross. This is post-resurrection.

Paul is saying:

Grace does not protect sin — grace destroys sin.

3. Put Off the Old Man’s Behavior

Paul continues:

“You yourselves are to put off all these...” (Col 3:8)

Then he lists:

- anger
- wrath
- malice
- blasphemy
- filthy language

And then:

“Do not lie to one another...” (Col 3:9)

Paul is not preaching lawlessness. He is preaching **Spirit-empowered obedience**.

4. Put On the New Man

Paul says:

“Put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him.” (Col 3:10)

The new man is not:

- lawless
- rebellious
- careless
- worldly

The new man is:

- obedient
- holy
- loving
- humble
- righteous
- Spirit-led

The new man looks like Yeshua.

5. Put On Love — The Bond of Perfection

Paul says:

“Above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.” (Col 3:14)

Love is not the replacement for the law. Love is the **fulfillment** of the law.

Love:

- protects marriage
- protects truth
- protects purity

- protects holiness
- protects relationships

Love is the glue that holds obedience together.

6. Let the Peace of Yahweh Rule Your Heart

Paul says:

“Let the peace of God rule in your hearts...” (Col 3:15)

Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the presence of Yahweh’s order.

When Yahweh rules your heart:

- sin loses its grip
- fear loses its voice
- chaos loses its power

7. Let the Word of Messiah Dwell in You Richly

Paul says:

“Let the word of Messiah dwell in you richly...” (Col 3:16)

Richly means:

- deeply
- abundantly
- continually
- intentionally

The Word is not a snack. The Word is your life.

8. Holiness in Relationships

Paul ends the chapter with practical holiness:

- Wives, submit
- Husbands, love
- Children, obey

- Fathers, do not provoke
- Servants, work sincerely
- Masters, treat justly

Paul is showing:

Holiness is not mystical — it is relational.

If your home is holy, your life will be holy.

CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY

Colossians 3 teaches:

- Seek the things above
- Put sin to death
- Put off the old man
- Put on the new man
- Love is the bond of perfection
- Let the Word dwell richly
- Live holy in your relationships

Nothing in Chapter 3 removes Yahweh's commandments. Everything in Chapter 3 calls us deeper into obedience through the Spirit.

COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 4 — PRAYER, SPEECH, AND KINGDOM LIVING

Colossians 4 is Paul's closing instruction — not a soft ending, but a focused call to live out everything he has taught in Chapters 1–3.

If Chapter 1 is about **who Yeshua is**, and Chapter 2 is about **what to reject**, and Chapter 3 is about **how to live**, then Chapter 4 is about **how to walk it out daily**.

1. Continue Earnestly in Prayer

Paul begins:

“Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.” (Col 4:2)

Prayer is not a ritual. Prayer is not a backup plan. Prayer is not a religious exercise.

Prayer is:

- vigilance
- warfare
- alignment
- communion
- dependence on Yahweh

Paul is saying:

Stay awake. Stay alert. Stay thankful. Stay connected.

2. Pray for the Gospel to Advance

Paul says:

“Praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word...” (Col 4:3)

Paul is in prison — yet he doesn't ask for release. He asks for **opportunity**.

This is the heart of a true servant:

- not comfort
- not escape
- not ease

but **open doors for the Word**.

3. Walk in Wisdom Toward Outsiders

Paul says:

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.” (Col 4:5)

This means:

- live with purpose
- live with integrity
- live with discernment
- live with urgency

The world is watching. Your life is a testimony.

Redeeming the time means:

Don't waste your life. Don't waste your influence. Don't waste your opportunities.

4. Let Your Speech Be With Grace

Paul says:

"Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt..." (Col 4:6)

Grace does not mean softness. Salt does not mean harshness.

Grace means:

- kindness
- patience
- humility

Salt means:

- truth
- clarity
- conviction

Your words should be:

gracious enough to draw people in, and salty enough to keep them awake.

5. Paul's Final Greetings — A Picture of Kingdom Community

Paul ends the letter with a list of names — and every name teaches something.

Tychicus

"A beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant..." (Col 4:7)

Faithfulness matters.

Onesimus

"A faithful and beloved brother..." (Col 4:9)

Grace transforms lives.

Aristarchus, Mark, Justus

“...these are my only fellow workers for the kingdom...” (Col 4:11)

The Kingdom is built by workers, not spectators.

Epaphras

“Always laboring fervently for you in prayers...” (Col 4:12)

Intercessors are warriors.

Luke

“The beloved physician...” (Col 4:14)

Profession and ministry can walk together.

Demas

A sobering reminder — later he falls away (2 Tim 4:10).

Not everyone finishes well.

Archippus

“Take heed to the ministry which you have received...” (Col 4:17)

Guard your calling. Finish your assignment. Don’t drift.

CHAPTER 4 SUMMARY

Colossians 4 teaches:

- Continue earnestly in prayer
- Walk in wisdom
- Speak with grace and truth
- Live with urgency
- Build Kingdom community
- Guard your ministry
- Finish your race

Nothing in Chapter 4 removes Yahweh’s commandments. Everything in Chapter 4 shows how to **live them out** through the Spirit.

CONCLUSION — WHAT COLOSSIANS REALLY TEACHES (AFTER EVERYTHING WE’VE SEEN)

After walking through Colossians chapter by chapter, the message becomes unmistakably clear:

1. Yeshua is supreme over all creation.

Colossians 1 establishes the foundation:

- Yeshua is the image of Yahweh
- All things were created through Him and for Him
- He holds all things together
- He is the Head of the body

Obedience flows from His supremacy.

2. We are called to walk worthy of Yahweh.

Paul’s prayer in Chapter 1 is not for lawlessness — it is for:

- knowledge
- wisdom
- spiritual understanding
- fruitfulness
- endurance
- holiness

Walking worthy is the goal.

3. Paul rejects man-made religion — not Yahweh’s commandments.

Chapter 2 is often twisted, but Paul is clear:

- Beware of philosophy
- Beware of human tradition
- Beware of asceticism
- Beware of mysticism
- Beware of man-made commandments

He never warns against Yahweh's law. He warns against **man's law**.

4. Yeshua nailed our sins — not the law — to the cross.

The "handwriting of requirements" is the record of our guilt, not the Torah.

Yeshua removed:

- condemnation
- accusation
- the penalty of sin

He did not remove obedience.

5. "Let no one judge you" defends obedience — not disobedience.

Paul is telling Gentile believers:

"Don't let pagans judge you for keeping Yahweh's Sabbaths, feasts, and commandments."

Not:

"Don't let believers judge you for breaking them."

6. The new man is defined by holiness.

Chapter 3 is one of the strongest holiness chapters in the New Testament.

Paul commands:

- put sin to death
- put off the old man
- put on the new man
- walk in love
- let the Word dwell richly
- live holy in your relationships

This is Spirit-empowered obedience.

7. Kingdom living is practical, relational, and intentional.

Chapter 4 shows:

- prayer
- wisdom
- gracious speech
- urgency
- community
- accountability
- finishing your ministry

Holiness is not mystical — it is lived out daily.



FINAL CHARGE TO THE CHURCH

Family, the book of Colossians calls us to:

Reject:

- human philosophy
- man-made religion
- asceticism
- mysticism
- false humility
- traditions of men
- empty rituals
- flesh-based righteousness

Embrace:

- the supremacy of Yeshua
- the power of the Spirit
- the commandments of Yahweh
- the new man
- holiness
- love
- wisdom
- prayer
- Kingdom living

This is the true gospel:

Grace that saves us. Grace that transforms us. Grace that empowers us to obey.



CLOSING PRAYER

Yahweh, thank You for the clarity of Your Word. Thank You for showing us through Colossians that Yeshua is supreme, that Your commandments are good, and that Your Spirit empowers us to walk worthy of You. Deliver us from the traditions of men, from empty religion, from philosophy, and from every deception that pulls us away from Your truth. Clothe us with the new man. Fill us with love, wisdom, and holiness. Let the Word of Messiah dwell richly in us. Strengthen us to finish our ministry and walk in obedience every day. Let our lives reflect the character of Yeshua in everything we do. In the mighty name of Yeshua, Amen.