

Christ In Colossians

A 16 lesson study of Paul's epistle to the church at Colossae,
with special emphasis on the nature of Jesus Christ
and His will for all who would follow Him to eternal salvation.
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“CHRIST IN COLOSSIANS”

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Christ and Commitment (#1)

Colossians 1:1-8

1. Where is Colossae, and how did this church begin?
2. The church at Colossae was Jewish, Gentile or both (Col 2:8, 11-14, 16)?
3. Who was the writer of Colossians and what were his circumstances (1:1; 4:3, 10, 18)?
 - a. What have we learned to expect from Paul (2:1)?
 - b. Who does Paul identify as his “fellow servant” (1:7)?
 - c. What else do the following verses reveal about this man (1:7-8; 4:12)?
 - d. What obligation did Paul enjoy on the churches of Colossae and Laodicea (4:16)?
4. What is the purpose of the book (2:16-19)?
5. What facts are established in Paul’s greeting (1:1)?
6. What relationship did the Colossians have to Christ (1:2)?
7. How did Paul show his thoughtfulness toward them (1:3)?
8. What had Paul heard about this church (1:4)?
 - a. What served to motivate them (1:5)?
 - b. How did they learn of this hope (1:5)?
9. Men’s aspirations in this life are: popularity, financial security, secular accomplishment, good health, pleasure and happiness.
 - a. How deeply are we committed to achieving the things above?
 - b. And how does this compare to our commitment to “faith”, “love”, and “hope”?

Christ and the Gospel (#2)

Colossians 1:2-8, 23

1. Define the word "gospel"?
 - a. Where does the word first appear in the Bible? (Note context)
2. What do we learn of Jesus in these verses (Matt 4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14)?
3. Check a concordance to find out how many N.T. books do NOT contain the word "gospel".
 - a. Does this mean that the gospel is not contained in those books?
4. Why is the gospel important (Mark 16:15-16; Rom 1:16-17)?
5. What do the following verses tell us about the importance of the gospel to early Christians (Col 1:23; Acts 8:4; 1 Cor 1:18, 21; 2:4-5; 9:14)?
6. The characteristics of effective gospel preaching:
 - a. What is preached must be the "gospel" (1:5; 1 Pet 1:22-25).
 - b. It must be "heard" (1:5; Rom 10:1, 14-15).
 - c. It must be the "word of truth" (1:5; 1 Thess 2:13).
 - d. It will "bear fruit" (1:6; Isa 55:8-11).
 - e. It magnifies the "grace of God", but it does not exclude _____ (1:6; Eph 2:5-8; Titus 2:11-13)?
 - f. Those who preach it must be _____ (1:7; 1 Tim 4:12)?

Christ and Prayer (#3)

Colossians 1:9-14; 4:2-4

1. If Christ is our life (Col 3:4), then we must be a people of prayer. Paul always gave thanks to God when praying. What do the following passages reveal about Paul? Rom 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4; 2 Cor 1:3-4; 2 Cor 13:7; Eph 1:15-16; Phil 1:3-5; 1 Thess 1:2-3; 2 Thess 1:3; 1 Tim 1:12; 2 Tim 1:3-5; Philemon 4-5 (compare 1 Cor 11:1)
2. What were two things for which Paul thanked God in regard to the Colossians (1:3-4)?
3. Paul made other requests on behalf of the Colossians.
 - a. "...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (1:9). Discuss how this relates to:
 - 1) New Christians (1 Pet 2:1-3).
 - 2) Mature Christians (Heb 5:14).
 - 3) Persecuted Christians (2 Pet 1:5-11; 3:18).
 - b. "...that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him" (1:10).
 - 1) Rom 6:4 –
 - 2) 2 Cor 5:7 –
 - 3) Gal 6:15-16 –
 - 4) Eph 4:1-3 –
 - 5) 3 John 4 –
 - 6) 1 John 1:7 –
 - c. "...being fruitful in every good work" (1:10).
 - 1) John 15:5, 8 –
 - 2) Gal 5:22 –
 - d. "...increasing in the knowledge of God" (1:10).
 - 1) John 17:3; 14:7, 9; 1:18 –
 - e. "...strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy" (1:11).
 - 1) Study this verse and put it in your own words.
4. What was Paul's reason for giving thanks in verses 12-14 of chapter 1?
5. What three things do we learn from Paul about prayer in 4:2?
6. What special request did Paul make in 4:3-4?

Christ and Our Inheritance (#4)

Colossians 1:12-14

1. Identify four great blessings from God the Father found in our text.
 - a. Who may receive these blessings (1:2, 12)?

2. What do the passages below tell us about this inheritance?
 - a. 2 Cor 5:1-3

 - b. Heb 4:1; 6:18-20; 11:10, 16, 26

 - c. 1 Pet 1:4, 5, 9

 - d. Rev 2:10; 21:3-5; 22:1-5

3. Relate the passages below to this phrase: "He has delivered us from the power of darkness".
 - a. Acts 26:13-18

 - b. Rom 6:17-18

 - c. Eph 2:1-3

4. "Translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."
 - a. What does "translated" mean?

 - b. We are "brought over" into a relationship where Jesus is _____ (1 Tim 6:15) and we are _____ (Phil 3:20).

 - c. It is a relationship where Jesus is _____ and we are the _____ (Col 1:18).

 - d. It is a relationship where Jesus is the _____ (1 Cor 3:11) and we are _____, _____ (1 Cor 3:9) and the _____ (1 Cor 3:16).

 - e. It is a relationship where Jesus is the _____ (Acts 20:28) and we are the _____ (1 Cor 6:20).

5. What is redemption (1:14)?

Christ, the Image of God (#5)

Colossians 1:15; 2 Cor 4:4

1. Our texts tell us that God is _____ and that Christ is the "image" or manifestation of God.
2. What did Jesus say in John 14:9 that relates to our texts?
 - a. In what ways did Jesus prove His statement in verse 9 (find your answers in 14:10-31)?
3. The Hebrew writer says that the Son is the _____ of God's glory and the _____ image of His _____ (Heb 1:3).
4. How can Christ be the "image of the invisible God" (Col 1:15; see Matt 1:23; John 8:58)?
5. What does Paul say regarding the nature of man (1 Cor 11:7)?
 - a. How is this true?
 - b. In what way is this different from the nature of Christ?
6. "Image" (eikon) was used by the Greeks in reference to a portrait; in order to see Christ as the "image of...God" let us draw a verbal portrait of God.

1) Love (1 Jn 3:1; 4:8-10)	8) Supplier (2 Cor 9:10; Phil 4:19)
2) Goodness (Rom 2:4; 11:22)	9) Just (Rom 3:26; Matt 12:18)
3) Grace (Titus 2:11; 3:7)	10) Jealous (Exo 20:5; 34:14; Deut 4:24; Josh 24:19; Ezek 39:25; Nah 1:2)
4) Mercy (Eph 2:4)	11) Perfect (Deut 32:4; 1 Pet 5:10)
5) Lovingkindness (Jer 9:24)	12) Unchangeable (Heb 1:2; 6:18)
6) Longsuffering (Exo 34:6; Rom 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9, 15)	13) Truthful (Jn 1:14, 17)
7) Impartial (1 Pet 1:17; Jas 3:17)	
7. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18; 4:3-4 and explain how these verse relates to our lesson.

Christ and His Preeminence over Creation (#6)

Colossians 1:15-18

1. What is preeminence? And what act clearly gave preeminence to Christ? (Rom 1:4)
2. What man wanted preeminence and how did he try to accomplish this? What was in store for him instead of preeminence? (3 John 9-11)
3. Read the following texts: John 1:1-3, 14; Heb 1:1-2; Gen 1; Psa 33:6-9, and discuss the Preeminence of Jesus Christ.
4. It is claimed that since Christ was “the firstborn over all creation” (1:15), this means He was the first part of God’s total creation (cf. Gen 1). How do the following passages refute that idea, and help to explain the true meaning of Christ as “firstborn”? (Exo 4:22; Psa 89:27)
 - a. How does Paul build on the fact of Christ’s preeminence (Col 1:16-18)?
5. By what means will the creation be terminated? (2 Pet 3:5-7)
6. Since Christ is to have preeminence in all things. Does He have preeminence over us, for our good, in the following areas? (Find verses that apply)
 - a. Our view of Him – (Matt 28:18; 1 Cor 15:25-27)
 - b. Our homes –
 - c. Our time –
 - d. Our jobs –
 - e. Our recreation –
 - f. Our association with people in the world –
 - g. Our actions toward faithful Christians –
 - h. Our actions toward unfaithful Christians –
 - i. Our view of civil government –
 - j. Our use of money –

Christ and the Church (#7)

Colossians 1:18 (Col 1:24; Eph 1:23)

1. Read Matthew 16:13-20 and discuss:

- a. What did Jesus ask His disciples (16:13)?
- b. Who answered and what were their answers (16:14, 16)?
- c. How did he arrive at that conclusion (16:17)?
- d. How does the answer compare with 1 Corinthians 3:11?
- e. What is “this rock” upon which Christ would build His church (16:18)?
- f. What figure is used to depict Christ (16:18)?
- g. What role did Christ say the apostles would have in His church (16:19)?

Ephesians 3:8-11 – To me, who am less than the least of all the _____, this _____ was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the _____ of Christ, **9** and to make all see what is the _____ of the _____, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; **10** to the intent that now the _____ of God might be made known by the _____ to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, **11** according to the _____ which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12** in whom we have _____ and _____ with _____ through faith in Him.

2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and discuss:

- a. How is the human body like Christ (12:12, 14, 20, 27)?
- b. How do we enter the one body of Christ (12:13)?
- c. Should we expect every member to work alike (12:15-17, 19-21)?
- d. What misconception can we have about members (12:22-23)?
- e. How are the members placed in the body and for what purpose (12:18, 24-26)?
- f. What was the thrust of Paul’s argument (12:28-31)?

3. Read Ephesians 5:23-33 and discuss:

- a. What is the theme of verses 22-24?
- b. What is the theme of verses 25-33?
- c. How did Christ sanctify and cleanse the church (5:25-26)?
- d. Why did Christ sanctify and cleanse the church (5:27)?
- e. How does Paul describe the intimacy between Christ and the church (5:28-31)?
- f. Since one is baptized into Christ’s body (1 Cor 12:13), and since His body is the church (Col 1:18), and since He is the Savior of His body the church (Eph 5:23), and since there is only one body (Eph 4:4), then what ought we to conclude about the church (ecclesia: the called out of God)?

Christ, His Walk (#9)

Colossians 2:6-7

1. In our text, what does the word walk mean?
2. Does Satan have a walk (1 Pet 5:8)?
3. What must first take place before one may walk in Christ (cf. Rom 6:3-4)?
4. Comment on the walk of a Christian from the following passages in their context?
 - a. Romans 13:13 –
 - b. 2 Corinthians 4:2 –
 - c. 2 Corinthians 5:7 –
 - d. Galatians 5:16 –
 - e. Ephesians 4:1 –
 - f. Ephesians 5:2 –
 - g. Ephesians 5:15 –
 - h. Philippians 3:18 –
 - i. Colossians 4:5 –
 - j. 2 Thessalonians 3:6 –
 - k. 1 John 1:7 –
 - l. 2 John 4 –
 - m. 2 John 6 –

Christ verses Human Philosophy (#10)

Colossians 2:1-10, 16-23

1. What is the means by which a Christian may be led away from the “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” that are found in Christ (2:4; Rom 16:18; Eph 4:14)?
2. Our walk in Christ is the result of “the faith as you have been taught”. There are several things mentioned in verse 7 that are the consequence of our walk in Christ, what are they?
3. From the text, describe human philosophy and its potential for spiritual harm (2:8).
4. How is the word “tradition(s)” used in 2:8? And how is that different from the way it is used in 2 Thess 2:15?
5. What reasons does Paul give for putting full confidence in Christ rather than in human philosophy and tradition? (2:9-10)?
6. Discuss how verses 16-23 relate to what we have learned.
 - a. Verses 16-17 –
 - b. Verses 18-19 –
 - c. Verses 20-22 –
 - d. Verse 23 –
7. Name as many human philosophies and religious traditions as you can think of that would effectively “cheat” the Christian of his reward?

Christ and Baptism (#11)

Colossians 2:11-15

1. In verses 9-11 Paul related certain facts to build the case for the authority of Christ over human philosophy and tradition. Relate those facts.
2. How is the authority of Christ related to the subject of baptism (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-38)?
3. What is “the circumcision of Christ”, and how does it compare and contrast to God’s covenant of circumcision with Abraham and the Jews (2:11-12; Gen 17; Lev 12)?
4. What word does Paul use to describe the proper mode (form, method) of baptism (2:12; Rom 6:4; Acts 8:36), and what two things does this mode depict (Rom 6:4-11)?
5. How does Paul describe one’s state before yielding to Christ (2:13)?
6. How does Paul describe one’s state after yielding to Christ (2:13)?
 - a. How is this accomplished (1 Pet 3:21)?
7. Assuming the thief on the cross went to Paradise having never been baptized (Luke 23:43), why do we say baptism is necessary to salvation? (Consider 2:14 in your answer).
8. When did Christ receive His authority, and what did He do with it (2:14-15)?

Christ versus Carnality (#12)

Colossians 3:1-11

1. Find a definition for the word carnal in an expository dictionary (like Vine's).
2. What can we learn about the word carnal from these passages (1 Cor 3:1-4; 2 Cor 10:1-6)?
3. From our text in Colossians, list and define things that are carnal (3:5, 8).
 - a. What is a Christian to do with those carnal things (3:5, 8, 9)?
 - b. What reasons are given for taking that action (3:6, 9-10)?
4. Sons of disobedience “live in” a carnal state, what does this mean (3:6-7)?
5. What is Paul’s argument for “putting off” carnality (3:1-3)?
 - a. The Colossians “died” they were “raised...and hidden with Christ in God”, when did that take place (2:12-13)?
6. What is the incentive for “putting off” carnality (3:4, 10-11)?

Christ, a New Man in Him (#13)

Colossians 3:12-17

1. Explain the phrase “the elect of God” used in verse 12.
2. Write a short statement relative to the character of God’s elect (3:12-14)
 - a. Holy –
 - b. Beloved –
 - c. Tender mercies –
 - d. Kindness –
 - e. Humility –
 - f. Meekness –
 - g. Longsuffering –
 - h. Bearing with one another –
 - i. Forgiving one another –
 - j. Love –
3. What is meant by “love...is the bond of perfection” (3:14)?
4. What is the “peace of God” (3:15)?
 - a. How does one allow it to “rule” in his heart?
 - b. What does the “peace of God” have to do with being “called in one body”?
5. Discuss the following as related to verse 16:
 - a. How does one allow the “word of Christ” dwell in him?
 - b. In what manner is the “word of Christ” to dwell in us?
 - c. What type of songs are produced and sung by those in whom the “word of Christ” dwells?
 - d. What takes place in singing?
 - e. Explain “singing with grace in your hearts”
 - f. Although this singing teaches and admonishes saints, to whom are we ultimately singing?
6. Give your best insight into verse 17, both as it relates to the context and also as it relates to the church in general.

Christ and Personal Relationships (#14)

Colossians 3:18 – 4:1

1. What does it mean for wives to “submit” to their husbands “as is fitting in the Lord” (3:18; cf. Eph 5:22-24, 33)?
 - a. Should a Christian wife “submit” to her husband who has NOT submitted to Christ (1 Pet 3:1-6)?
 - b. What if her submission does not accomplished the desired effect (Rom 7:2)?
2. How should a husband express love for his wife (3:19; cf. Eph 5:25, 28, 31, 33)?
 - a. What does it mean to be “bitter”, and how would bitterness interfere with a proper relationship?
3. How should children respond to their parents (3:20; cf. Eph 6:1-3)?
 - a. Why should children respond to their parents in this manner?
 - b. Does a child’s age or whether or not he is living with his parents alter this command?
 - c. When would a child have the lawful right to refuse to obey his parents?
4. How might a father “provoke” his child (3:21; cf. Eph 6:4)?
 - a. What may result from such provocation?
 - b. How can this be avoided (see Eph 6:4)?
5. Do the instructions given to “bondservants” serve a practical use for us today (3:22-25; Eph 6:5-8)?
 - a. Compare the passages in Colossians and Ephesians for similarities and also for instructions given in one that are not in the other.
6. Who are our Masters in a free society (4:1; cf. Eph 6:9)?
 - a. Again, compare the passages in Colossians and Ephesians.

Christ, the Mystery (#15)

Colossians 4:2-6

1. What is the meaning of the expression “the mystery of Christ” (4:3; Eph 3:9)?

2. Read Ephesians 3:1-13 and answer the following questions:
 - a. How and to whom was the “mystery” made known (3:3, 5)?
 - b. How was the “mystery” communicated to the saints in Ephesus (3:3-4)?
 - c. How thorough would be their understanding of the “mystery” (3:4)?
 - d. What is the subject or theme of the “mystery” (3:6)?
 - e. Of what was Paul a minister (3:6-7)?
 - f. What qualified him for that service (3:7-8)?
 - g. What did that service entail (3:8)?
 - h. What did that service accomplish (3:9-10)?
 - i. Was the “mystery” revealed through the gospel an afterthought of God’s plan (3:11)?

3. Discuss the “mystery of godliness” (1 Tim 3:16)?

4. What did Paul request from the Colossians, and was the request only for him (4:2-4)?
 - a. What was Paul’s status at that time (4:18)?
 - b. Should we offer similar prayers today?

5. What are the instructions given in verses 5 and 6, and how do they apply to the subject of speaking the “mystery” of Christ?

Christ, His Affect on Human Life (#16)

Colossians 4:7-17

Our final lesson will be a character study. Who Christ is, what He does, and how He affects our lives is what the gospel—and this study in Colossians—is all about. In this epistle Paul referred to certain Christians who are familiar to us, but he also mentioned names that are lesser known. Research these people and give examples of how they were affected in their lives by Christ and the gospel.

1. Tychicus –

2. Onesimus –

3. Aristarchus –

4. Mark –

5. Justus –

6. Epaphras –

7. Luke –

8. Archippus –

9. Demas –

10. Nymphas –