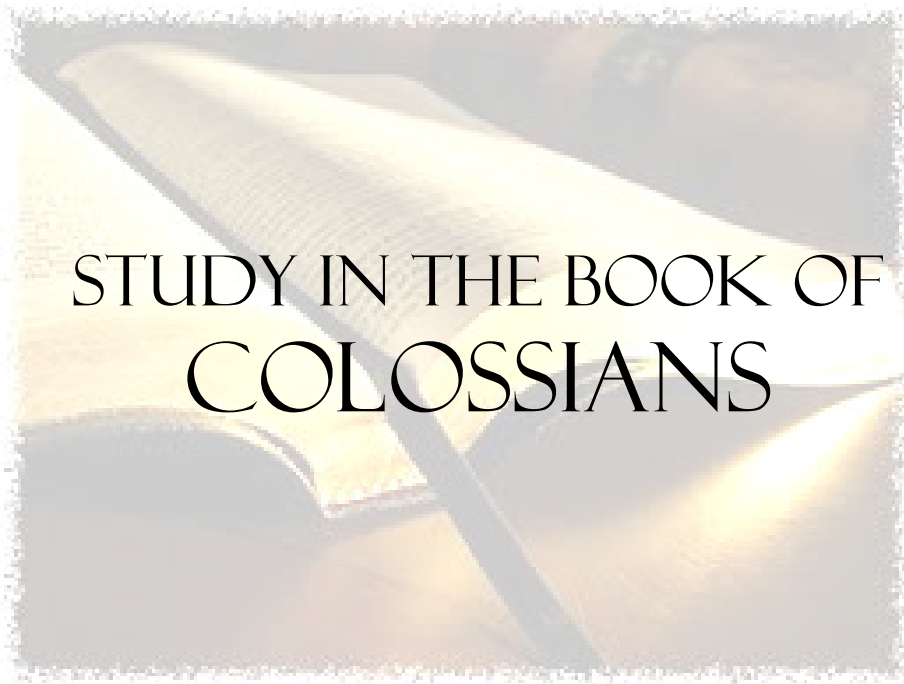


*Footprints*



CHRISTIAN RESOURCES



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Footprints into Africa

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 1**

**THE IMPORTANT POSITIONS**  
(Chapter 1:1-2)

**INTRODUCTION**

**1. CITY**

The city was located on a rocky ridge that overlooked the Lycus River. It was situated about 200 Km east of Ephesus and 22 Km south of Laodicea. During the 5<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Colosse was a very important city, but slowly it declined in importance. It was an important trade city because it produced glossy black wool, but sadly Colosse was destroyed by an earthquake during the reign of Nero in about 64 B.C.

**2. CHURCH**

There are two possibilities as to how the church started:

- A. By Timothy during Paul's stay in Ephesus
- B. The most likely suggestion is that three men from Colosse, Ephaphras, Philemon, and Nymphas went to Ephesus to listen to Paul preaching, during Paul's preaching these three men were converted, and went back to Colosse and started the church.

**3. PURPOSE**

Paul wrote this letter to the young enthusiastic Christians in Colosse because they were facing false teaching, this false teaching was known as the Colossian heresy and it had seven characteristics:

- A. The false teachers offered spiritual fullness that wasn't experienced previously
- B. The false teachers also spoke of spiritual freedom
- C. They claimed to have particular insight into the powers of evil and they offered the Christian protection.
- D. They were also known for their asceticism
- E. They offered deeper knowledge of God.
- F. They were very critical of other Christians
- G. The therefore caused division.

**1. AUTHOR (v.1)**

**v.1** tells us three things about the author:

- A. He was a Sent man  
'Paul an Apostle', remember an apostle is someone sent with Authority to preach the message of the gospel.. They have to have seen the resurrected Lord, to have received a direct commission and have a gift to perform miracles. (**Eph 2:20, Mk 16:17-20, Acts 26:16**)
- B. He was a Submissive one  
'By the will of God' (**Gal 1:15-16**) Paul never became an apostle through aspiration, or by nomination, but by the will of God, he was set apart and qualified by God to preach.

- C. He was a Supported one.  
'And Timothy our brother', Timothy was his son in the faith, a man who sought to honour God, Paul let him to Christ at Lystra and then took him on his missionary journeys, and trained him to take over.

2. **READERS** (v.2)

A. Their brotherhood

- i) The essence of it - In Christ  
In Christ we have salvation, acceptance, redemption, and forgiveness.  
(1Cor.12:13) - we are baptized by the Spirit into Christ (2 Cor 5:17)  
- we become a new person.
- ii) The evidence of it
  - a) Holiness
  - b) Faithfulness

B. Their background At Colosse  
Christians live in these two spheres

C. Their Blessing

- i) Grace - God supplies daily grace to meet the needs of the Christian, giving them undeserved provision.
- ii) Peace - Knowing that God is with us.

## COLOSSIANS

### STUDY 2

## THE GIVING OF THANKS

(Chapter 1:3-8)

### INTRODUCTION

Paul was in prison in Rome where he heard of the problems facing the church in Colosse and so he writes this letter, he is not pessimistic nor is he full of self-pity, but rather is full of thanksgiving. In this section, he gives thanks for three areas:

#### 1. FOR THE COLOSSIANS (v.3-4)

##### A. The expression of thanksgiving (v.3)

- i) Its meaning  
'We always thank God', Notice the word we, the verb to give thanks is based on an adverb, which means well or good. Paul is grateful for what God has done for them.
- ii) Its object  
'To the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ'. In his capacity as Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He is the Father of all mercy and comfort. Through Christ every spiritual blessing flows into our lives from the Father through Christ to us.
- iii) Its occasion  
'When we pray for you', his prayer generated a thankful heart.

##### B. The cause of thanksgiving (v.4)

- i) Because of their faith  
Christ must always be the goal, the sphere and the foundation of our faith.
- ii) Their love - for all the saints.

#### 2. FOR THE GOSPEL (v.5-6)

##### A. The Gospel brings hope (v.5)

- i) This hope is in heaven.  
'It is stored up for you in heaven'
- ii) This hope is in the Gospel  
'Which you have heard about in the gospel'  
Notice how Paul calls it truth, it is reserved for us in heaven.

##### B. The Gospel bears fruit (v.6)

- i) In all the world - all over the world
- ii) In you
- iii) Constantly - since the day you heard it.

#### 3. FOR EPAPHRAS (v.7-8)

##### A. His titles

- i) Servant - dear fellow servant
- ii) Minister - faithful minister

##### B. Deeds

- i) The church learned from him
- ii) He informed Paul -- of your love in the Spirit.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 3**

**PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS**  
(Chapter 1:9-11)

**INTRODUCTION.**

In these verses we read of Paul the great intercessor, it also teaches us that he was never content just to lead a soul to Christ, he longed for their growth and their maturity and these verses teach us how to pray for new Christians.

**1. INCENTIVE PRAYER (v.9)**

Paul has heard of their love in the Spirit, of their faith in Christ, of their brotherly love, of their hope for the future, and also of how they are bearing fruit. Because of these five things he prayed for them, he was never satisfied, he longed for higher ground.

**2. IMPORTUNATE PRAYER (v.9)**

'We have not stopped praying for you', it was constant and continual, he never gave up.

**3. INTERCESSORY PRAYER (v.9)**

'For you'

**4. INTELLIGENT PRAYER (v.9)**

Paul made specific requests to God, he wasn't content with generalization.

**A. He prays for their wisdom**

- i) The completeness of it.  
He prays that God will fill you with the knowledge of His will, this is above all practical because we need to know God's will
- ii) The character of it.  
Through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. These two words speak of what we should do (wisdom) and how to do it (understanding). In other words, Paul prays that they will know what to do and how to do it.

**B. He prays for their walk (v.10)**

- i) The Standard.  
'Live a life worthy of the Lord'
- ii) The Desire  
'That you may please Him in every way'
- iii) The Evidence.

‘Bearing fruit in every good work’. The evidence will be seen in two ways:

- a) Fruit
- b) Work
- iv) The effect  
‘Growing in the knowledge of God’. There will be constant growth

**3. HE PRAYS FOR THEIR WARFARE (v.11)**

**A. The Source of Strength**

‘Being strengthened’, in other words we don’t strengthen ourselves we allow the Lord to strengthen us.

**B. The Sphere of Strength**

‘With all power’. God strengthens us with all power

**C. The Standard of Strength**

‘According to His glorious might.’

**D. The Goal of Strength.**

‘So that you may have great endurance and patience.’

- i) Endurance  
This is grace to bear up under great pressure
- ii) Patience  
Waiting for the timing of God.

## COLOSSIANS

### STUDY 4

## MOTIVATION

(Chapter 1:12-14)

### 1. REHABILITATION (v.12)

#### A. 'Who has qualified you.'

Paul reminds us here that it was God who qualifies us to share in the blessings of the gospel, we who were sinners, guilty, have been qualified to share. This was made possible by the grace of God who gave His son for us and at our conversion he imputed to us God's righteousness.

#### B. 'To share in the inheritance'

We have been brought through Christ into a spiritual fellowship with God, we share in the inheritance, which includes forgiveness, justification, sanctification, and glory.

#### C. 'Of the saints'

The saints are those human individuals who having been brought out of darkness, have now been brought into the light, consecrated to God.

#### D. 'In the kingdom of light'

In the Bible light is used in connection with:

- i) Holiness (**Acts 20:32**)
- ii) Truth (**2 Cor 4:4**)
- iii) Love (**1 Jn 2:9-10**)
- iv) Glory (**Is 60:1-3**)
- v) Peace and Joy (**Is 9:1-7**)

In the sovereign grace of God we have been made worthy and competent to receive a share in the inheritance of the saints.

### 2. RESCUE (v.13)

Paul's heart was always in his writing and he moves from you to us.

#### A. 'He has rescued us'

This was total and a divine rescue, it refers back to our regeneration when we were delivered from our conditions of wretchedness (**Gal 4:4, 6:14**)

#### B. 'From the dominion of darkness'

We were under the dominion of darkness, sin held sway over our lives but we have been delivered now.

#### C. 'Brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.'

The grace of God has brought us out of the dark realms of false ideas and ideals into the kingdom of Jesus.

### 3. REDEMPTION (v.14)

#### A. 'Redemption.'

The definition is to set free at a great price.

- i) We have been freed from the curse of the law
- ii) We have been freed from our enslavement to sin.

#### B. 'Forgiveness of sins'

## CONCLUSION

Once we realize what God has done for us, there can be no greater motivation to serve Him.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 5**

**THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST**

(Chapter 1:14-18)

**INTRODUCTION**

At the background to Colossians was the Judaistic heresy which was seeking to reduce our Lord Jesus Christ to that of a creation, they said he was like God, but not the same as God.

**1. THE PROOF OF PRE-EMINENCE (1:14-18)**

**A. He is Pre-eminent in Redemption (v.14)**

- i) Its sphere 'In whom'  
Everything is possible once we are in Christ, we must be in Christ.
- ii) Its Possession 'We have'  
The verb is a present possession.
- iii) Its meaning 'We have redemption'
  - a) Freed from the curse (**Gal 3:13**)
  - b) Set free from the bondage of sin (**Jn 8:34**)
  - c) We have been released from the power of sin (**Jn 8:36**)
- iv) It means 'Through His blood'  
Redemption is possible only through the blood of Christ, we are not redeemed by His birth or teaching.
- v) Its Result. 'Forgiveness of sins'

**B. He is Pre-Eminent in Revelation (v.15)**

'He is the image of the invisible God'

- i) God is invisible (**Jn 4:24, 1 Tim 6:16**)
- ii) Jesus is the image (**Jn 14:9, 10:30, Heb 1:3, 2 Cor 4:4**)  
Christ is the exact representation of the Father

**C. He is Pre-Eminent in Creation (15b-17)**

- i) His Title - 'The first borne over all creation'  
The phrase the first borne cannot mean that he was the first creature created, it rather is a title referring to his priority and sovereignty, he is highly exalted above every other creature.
- ii) His work
  - a) He is the sphere of creation - 'By Him'  
Both the plan to create and the power to create were in Christ, notice **ALL** things were made by him. Every locality, things in heaven and earth it includes every kind visible and invisible and it also includes every rank.
  - b) He is the agent of creation - 'By Him'
  - c) He is the purpose of creation - 'And for Him'
  - d) He is prior to creation - 'He is before all things'



e) He is the sustainer of creation - 'All things hold together'  
**D. He is Pre-Eminent in the Church (v.18)**

- i) He is the head.  
The absolute Lord over His church.
- ii) He is the beginning (**Rev 1:8, 21:6**)  
He originated both the natural and spiritual creation
- iii) He is the first born from among the dead (**Rev. 1:18**)  
Jesus is absolutely Pre-Eminent.

**2. THE PURPOSE OF PRE-EMINENCE (v.18b)**

'So that in everything he might have the supremacy', that means Jesus has first place. He is Lord of creation, Lord of his church, now he must be Lord in our lives with a sovereignty, which allows no rivals.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 6**

**RECONCILIATION**  
(Chapter 1:19-23)

**INTRODUCTION**

Having explained in great detail the supremacy of Christ, the apostle now shows us that Christ alone can achieve reconciliation.

**1. THE CHRIST (v.19)**

In these verses three truths of Jesus are stressed:

- A. The Fullness of God dwells IN HIM.  
It wasn't around him or upon him but rather In Him. No other creature, man or angel could qualify for that. All the powers and attributes of deity were in Christ (**Jn 1:16**)
- B. The Fullness of God DWELLS in Him.  
This means to take up residence, the fullness of God took up residence in Christ, this means that Jesus is and forever will be God equal to the Father.
- C. ALL His Fullness Dwells in Him  
As the eternal Son, Christ had all the divine fullness when he became a man.

**2. THE COST (v.20)**

- A. Violent death 'Through his blood'
- B. Sacrificial Death  
The blood speaks of a sacrifice offered which would achieve three things:
  - i) Satisfies God  
It is God's holiness and God's righteousness which demands that a sinless life be given for man.
  - ii) Satisfied Man  
Only the blood removes our guilt and cleanses our conscience.
  - iii) Overcame the Accuser
- C. Substitutionary  
Here we are again at the heart of the gospel, that Christ by the offering of Himself through death, accepted the curse that was due to us and so his death was the basis for sinful people to return into fellowship with a holy God.

**3. THE COMPREHENSIVENESS (v.20-21)**

Notice that the reconciliation is not limited to people, it applies to the whole order of created beings.

**A. Cosmos**

The object of reconciliation was the universe, it incorporates the scope of the created order. The world became unclean through human sin and the fall of angels (**Job 15:15, 25:5**), even the world of plants and animals suffered because of the fall (**Gen 3:17-18, Rom 8:19-22**), so through Christ the universe is restored to its proper relationship with God.

**B. Church**

**A.** All equally under the power of sin - 'you were'

**B.** Alienated from God - 'all were alienated from God'

**C.** 'Enemies in your minds'

**D.** 'Because of your evil behaviour'

**4. THE CONSEQUENCES (v.22-23)**

**A. The End**

i) To present you holy - this is the climax of sanctification.

ii) Without blemish

iii) Free from accusation - no charge of condemnation

**B. The Exhortation**

If you continue in your faith, Perseverance proves faiths' genuine character

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 7**

**PAUL'S READINESS**  
(Chapter 1:24-29)

**INTRODUCTION**

From this glorious picture of the work of Christ, Paul now moves to the work of man, to our responsibility, Christ is still the prevailing theme, but Paul unfolds our duty and our delight in serving Jesus.

**1. A READINESS TO SUFFER (v.24)**

- A. I rejoice in what was suffered (2 Cor 11:23-29)  
Paul does not merely accept his sufferings, he rejoices in them, the Christian goes beyond mere endurance because he sees his suffering as part of God's plan
- B. For You  
Paul went through his sufferings for the gospel and got the gentile converts, he was a prisoner because he preached the gospel of grace to uncircumcised gentiles.
- C. I fill up in my flesh what is lacking in regards to Christ's affliction  
We may take these sufferings as being those which Christ suffers in Paul because of the mystical union between Paul and Christ.

**2. A READINESS TO SERVE (v.25)**

- A. I have become its servant.  
Paul was always ready to serve Christ and his body, he gave them his life and so he established churches, trained teachers, prayed for them.
- B. By the commission God gave him.
- D. To present to you the Word of God in its fullness.  
His great passion was to present the Word of God. Some see this in a geographical sense, others in a spiritual sense, but he toiled and was burdened for nothing else.

**3. A READINESS TO REVEAL (v.26-27)**

- A.. The Mystery  
The gospel was for all people through faith in Christ alone
- B. Kept Hidden  
In the sense of not being clear
- C. Now disclosed to the saints
- D. Christ in you the hope of glory  
**William Henry "It is Christ in all His glorious riches actually living through His Sprit in the hearts and lives of the gentiles."**

**4. A READINESS TO PREACH (v.28-29)**

Here is the great goal of the apostle

- A. We Proclaim Him  
In contrast to the false teachers we preach Christ, He is our message.
- B. Admonishing and Teaching  
In all our preaching it must not soft peddle the demands or be shallow in its content and the object is so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. To this end I (Paul) labour (Kopiol). I struggle, but God gives him the strength.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 8**

**THE MARKS OF A GOOD TEACHER**

(Chapter 2:1-5)

**INTRODUCTION**

Spiritual teaching must always be warm and personal, it should never become cold, academic, and purely professional, it must be done with heart as well as the head, and so the teacher must love not only **what** he is teaching, but **whom** he is teaching. In these five verses we listen to Paul the teacher and we see how he excels not only in biblical content, but also he taught his heart.

**1. PAUL'S CONFLICT FOR THE SAINTS (v.1-3)**

- A. The Admission of the conflict  
'I want you to know', believers should be informed that other Christians are interested in their spiritual welfare.
- B. The Agony of the conflict.  
'How much I am struggling for you', E.g. At times against a weak and tired body, other occasions at the onslaughts of Satan, also against discouragement, and then against false teaching.
  - i) The Width - In Laodicea
  - ii) The Depth - How much I struggle  
**H.Carson "Such teaching involved steady toil and intense concentration of every fibre of his being."**
  - iii) It was constant - It never stopped
- C. The Aim of the conflict
  - i) To encourage them  
'My purpose is that they be encouraged in their heart'  
**William Henry "The heart of all true pastoral activity is to be an instrument in God's hand to bring hearts of those entrusted to ones care to the heart of Christ."**
  - ii) To unite them. - 'united in love.'  
Love is the blood stream of the church.
  - iii) To inform them.  
'So that they may have the full riches of complete understanding in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ.' The Colossians must not look to any other source for happiness or holiness outside of Christ. In Christ alone all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are to be found, genuine wisdom is centred on a person, not in facts or on paper.

2. **PAUL'S CONCERN FOR THE SAINTS** (v.4)

- A. False teachers deceive - 'So that no one may deceive you.' The word deceive involves faulty logic which is not based on the authoritative Word of God, it uses erroneous interpretations
- B. False teachers entice - 'They use fine sounding arguments.'

3. **PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN THE SAINTS** (v.5)

- A. Their order  
**Dick Lucas** "This is a very happy verse." I delight to see how orderly you are, this word carries the idea that they were all exercising their gifts and carrying out their responsibilities.
- B. Their steadfastness - 'How firm your faith in Christ is.' Notice that again, it is Christ who is at the very heart of their spiritual experience, they were steadfast.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 9**

**GROWING IN CHRIST**

(Chapter 2:6-7)

**INTRODUCTION**

In these verses Paul urges the Christians to grow in Christ unto maturity, he calls upon them to be satisfied with nothing less than a life free from the tyranny of sin. He points them to a lifestyle that will put to death all half-heartedness or complacency. These verses speak of the need to get out of the shallows and to pen the heart and mind to the deep things of God **v.6-7** deals with them growing in Chris. Three aspects are mentioned.

**1. THE SECRET**

‘As you received Christ Jesus as Lord’ this opening phrase takes us back to the initial experience when we became Christians.

**A. We were dead in sin**

This means that we were unable to save ourselves.

**B. Christ came to save us.**

He lived the perfect life for us and then offered the perfect sacrifice.

**C. Given the grace to receive Christ as Lord (Jn. 1:12)**

Here is the secret of a true conversion that Christ comes in as **Lord**

**William Henry “It is Christ in all his glorious riches actually dwelling through His Spirit in the hearts and lives of the gentiles.”**

**Dick Lucas “The application of this to evangelism is obviously important if we are to avoid spurious commitments to Christ and the phenomena of a large number of people dropping out of the Christian faith.”**

**2. THE STRENGTH**

**A. ‘Continue to live in Him.’**

We are to live in total dependence in Christ, it speaks of a steady process of a new Christian, patiently going on in the face of testing.

**B. Rooted in Him.**

**Andrew Murray. “This means close fellowship with Christ, in secret prayer.”**

**C. Built up in Him.**

This now speaks of the steady growth of the structure, which can only happen through the Word of God.

**D. Strengthened in the faith**

This phrase in the faith speaks of one being consolidated in **the truth**, Body of spiritual doctrine.

**Dick Lucas “This speaks of an unquestionable thirst to learn.”**

**3. THE SONG. ‘Overflowing with thanksgiving.’**

The Greek word for overflowing speaks of abundance and of excelling and so, the growing Christian is bursting with thanksgiving for the goodness of God.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 10**

**FULLNESS IN CHRIST**  
(Chapter 2:8-15)

**INTRODUCTION**

We come now to the very heart of Colossians as Paul develops the theme of fullness in Christ.

**1. THE FALSE TEACHING (v.8)**

**A. Philosophy (v.8)**

‘See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow deceptive philosophy.’  
By philosophy we mean teaching that depends on human tradition, Paul’s theology is God centred, whereas human philosophy is humanistic and humanistic philosophy begins with man and it makes man the very reason for their existence.

**B. Hollow**

This means empty of real truth, empty of vital power and empty of hope.

**C. Deceptive**

It is deceitful because of its attractive presentation which seduces the mind of this, and is drawn away from it.

**D. Basic principles of this world.**

That ties in very much with point A it is man centred and of the world

**E. ‘Rather then on Christ.’**

**2. THE ANSWER (v.9-12)**

In these verses, Paul now gives the church at Colosse a unique summary of what it means to be in Christ.

**A. There is fullness in Christ (v.9-10)**

i) God’s fullness in Christ.

All God’s fullness is in Christ, notice the word all

**Gromacki “Christ always possessed the fullness of the God head”.**

ii) Our fullness in Him.

The passive voice of the verb shows that God completed believers through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we have been given fullness in Christ, and nothing can be added to fullness.

**B. There is Fellowship with Christ (v.11-12)**

Paul is anxious to show the new converts just what this means:

i) You were circumcised (**Php 3:3**)

The person who is in Christ has broken totally with his past, he has put off the body of the flesh



- ii) You were buried.  
That means that means that your former guilt laden self was buried with Christ. The old unregenerate man has been judged, condemned and sentenced.
- iii) Raised with Him.  
Now there is a gradual spiritual renewal, you have been raised with Christ.

### 3. **FREEDOM THROUGH CHRIST** (v.13-16)

#### A. You were made alive (v.13)

Notice how Paul describes our pre-conversion days, 'you were dead', it tells us we were dead in our sins, this means that we were guilty and also in the uncircumcision of our sinful nature, when God made us alive at that moment of being made alive he forgives us all our sins.

#### B. The Removal of the Law (v.14)

Viewed in its demanding and cursing pronouncing character as a way of salvation, 'Jesus' bore its curse fulfilling its shadows, its types, and its ceremonies, it was nailed to the cross of Jesus, it died when he died and now believers are no longer under law but under grace.

#### C. Triumph over powers (v.15)

JESUS DEALT WITH OUR SINS (POINT 1)

JESUS DEALT WITH THE LAW (POINT 2)

JESUS DEALT WITH SATAN AND HIS DEMONS AND HE TRIUMPHED OVER THEM (POINT 3)

- i) Disarmed the power and authorities  
He stripped them of their evil power, he crushed the head of Satan
- ii) Made a public spectacle of them
- iii) Triumphed over them.  
And so to be united with Christ is to be liberated from their power and to enjoy perfect freedom because Christ's victory is our victory.

### 4. **CONCLUSION**

In these verses Paul has stressed three key issues:

1. We have Fullness in Christ  
You cannot have anything extra. It is all in Jesus.
2. We have Fellowship with Christ  
Having been raised from the dead.
3. We now enjoy freedom in Christ.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 11**

**LIBERTY IN CHRIST CHALLENGED**  
(Chapter 2:16-23)

**INTRODUCTION.**

Chapter 2 has had one theme, our completeness in Christ, throughout the Chapter, three truths have been stressed:

1. We have fullness in Christ.
2. We have fellowship with Christ
3. We enjoy freedom in Christ.

As the chapter closes Paul deals with the challenge that comes to our liberty.

**1. LET NO MAN JUDGE YOU (v.16-17)**

The first word of **v.16** is important - THEREFORE let no one judge you.

**A. Areas of legalism (v.16)**

- i) By what you eat  
This is a reference to the Jewish dietary regulations with their Distinction between clean and unclean foods. The heretics were teaching that certain foods helped the mind to develop a spiritual sensitivity.
- ii) By what you drink  
Probably referring to the prohibition of wine and strong drink as was seen in the Levites and Nazarites (**Lev 10:10**)
- iii) By Festivals  
This is most likely referring to those special days in the Old Testament (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles).
- iv) New Moon.  
**Num. 10:10** - refers to the observance of the lunar calendar
- v) Sabbath.  
The Sabbath day is a creation ordinance, it is a day of rest and of worship. We are warned against becoming legalistic.

**B. Weakness of legalism (v.17)**

‘There is a shadow of what is to come’, the reality is in Christ.

**2. LET NO MAN BEGUILÉ YOU (disqualify you) (v.18-19)**

**William Henry: “Do not begin to feel inferior when these people try to put you to shame by drawing a contrast between himself and yourself.”**

**A. Promoted self (v.18)**

- i) Delighting in humility  
This is not sincere humility, it is insufferable pride (Uriah Heep)
- ii) The worship of angels

- iii) Taking a stand on things seen (experience)  
The person claimed to be right because of what they had seen in a vision, they elevated extra biblical revelation and based their beliefs on them.
- iv) Puffed up with idle notions.

**B. It demotes Christ (v.19)**

- i) Christ alone is head
- ii) Christ nourishes the whole body
- iii) Christ holds it together.
- iv) Christ causes it to grow

**3. LET NO MAN ENSLAVE YOU (v.20-23)**

**A. Its ignorance (v.20)**

‘Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belong to it, submit to its rules.’ Paul brings the Christians back to a reminder of how they have died with Christ to the principles of this world.

**B. Its description (v.21)**

‘Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!’, they emphasize the negative.

**C. Its weakness (v.22)**

‘These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings’, these things lack value and they cannot restrain sensual indulgences.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 12**

**NEW AIMS FOR NEW PEOPLE**  
(Chapter 3:1-4)

**INTRODUCTION**

As was Paul's custom having laid a doctrinal foundation, he now proceeds to erect an ethical super structure. Chapter 1 and 2 was doctrine. Now we move to the practical and so the Christian who has experienced such a radical change should find that his whole life is affected. He now moves in a new sphere, he has a new aim in life and his dominant theme is to live a life to the glory of God.

**1. SEEK HEAVENLY THINGS (v.1)**

**A. Its basis**

Since you have been raised with Christ. This reminds us that we were dead in our sins. But through the power of God we have now been raised from the dead. We now possess within ourselves the life of the resurrection.

**B. Its object**

Set your hearts on things above, the verb here implies a persevering effort, a constantly seeking things above - the truly converted person's heart is on things above. In summary this will be a life filled with the fruit of the Spirit, portrayed in (**Chapter 3:12-13**) where there will be kindness, lowliness, meekness, patience, and a forgiving spirit. If the believer's heart is filled with such things, there will be no room for fleshly indulgence. He closes off the verse by saying where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

**SUMMARY**

In summary then the Christian now longs to grow in holiness, to grow in depth of prayer, and to advance in spiritual power. Seek heavenly things.

**2. THINK HEAVENLY THINGS (v.2)**

The second imperative now deals with the mind.

**A. The command.**

Set your mind on things above, this means the Christian has a new attitude of mind.

**B. Its object.**

Things above, putting our minds on things above means we love them above earthly things. Our minds are not on the things of the earth.

**3. THE REASONS (v.3-4)**

**A. For you died (**Rom 6:6**)**

Your old self died, - this means that our old self, governed by sin has died.

- B. Your life is hidden with Christ in God.  
The values and motives of a believer are misunderstood by the world because we are now governed by Christ.  
**H. CARSON** “Now that the miracle of spiritual regeneration has taken place he is alive unto God but dead as far as the world is concerned.”
- C. Christ is our life  
This does not mean that our life is shared with Christ, but rather Christ is our life, the very essence of our Christian lives.
- D. We will appear with Him in glory (1Jn 3:2-3)  
Heaven is our home.

What we will see from **v.5-14** is how this works out practically, what we must put off and what we must put on.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 13**

**PUT OFF**  
(Chapter 3:5-11)

**INTRODUCTION**

Having laid down the principles in **v.1-4** the apostle now becomes practical - telling us what we must put off and explains what we must put on. If we don't there will be areas which will ruin our testimony.

**1. PUT TO DEATH (v.5-7) (Sexual sins)**

- A. The command  
'Put to death therefore what belongs to your earthly nature.' Do not play with sin.
- B. The list of sins
  - i) Sexual immorality  
This refers to sexual intercourse before marriage or adultery within marriage.
  - ii) Impurity  
This refers to moral impurity in all its forms, it will be seen in a filthy mind, expressed through pornographic literature, immoral videos or TV programmes.
  - iii) Lust. - This refers to depraved passion, uncontrollable desires.
  - iv) Evil desires. - Those motivated by the sinful nature.
  - v) Greed  
This literally means to have more, when godliness is rejected and the lust of the flesh encouraged it isn't long before sex is worshipped.
- C. Judgement for these sins.
  - i) Because of these judgement is coming
  - ii) It is a present reality

**2. RID YOURSELVES (v.8) (Personal attitude)**

- A. The command - Get rid of it
- B. List of sins
  - i) Anger  
This speaks of a settled feeling or hatred towards anybody.
  - ii) Rage.  
This is uncontrolled anger, is a settled attitude, rage is an uncontrolled anger.
  - iii) Malice  
Horrible, this refers to malicious gossip:

About someone else in order to express personal animosity when you speak to injure someone else's reputation, no swearing.

**3. DON'T LIE (v.9) (Fellow believers)**

**A.**     Part of the old life

**B.**     Contrary to the new life

**C.**     Positive newness

Now you are being renewed in knowledge in the image of Creator

i)       No racial barriers     - Greek or Jew

ii)       No religious barriers - circumcised or uncircumcised.

iii)      No cultural barriers - Barbarian, Scythian.

iv)      No social barriers     - slave of free

Christ is all, and in all.

**COLOSSIANS**  
STUDY 14

**PUT ON**  
(Chapter 3:12-15)

**1. DESCRIPTION OF BELIEVERS (v.12)**

- A. God's chosen people (**Eph 1:4, Jn 6:44**)
- B. Holy  
You have been cleansed by the blood of Christ, are being renewed by the Holy Spirit, we are set apart from the world by the Word of God.
- C. Dearly loved

**2. WHAT IS TO BE PUT ON (v.12- 14)**

- A. Treatment of others
  - i) Compassion  
This means we don't become emotionally involved with other people, it implies softness and vulnerability, deep feeling and concern for other people.
  - ii) Kindness.
- B. Our estimate of ourselves.
  - i) Humility  
Acknowledge what you are by the grace of God.
  - ii) Gentleness  
Power under control
- C. Reaction to ill treatment
  - i) Patience
  - ii) Bear with one another
  - iii) Forgive
- D. Principle of true discipleship
  - i) Love  
Love is intelligent, and purposeful, self giving



**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 15**

**THE CONTROL OF THE NEW LIFE**  
(Chapter 3:15-17)

**INTRODUCTION**

The apostle Paul has exhorted the believers to put off in **v.5-11** and then in **v.12-14** what ought to put on, but now in **v.15-17** there are four controls.

**1. PEACE (v.15)**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.

**A. It is divine.**

It is called the peace of Christ, its character stems from its source the Lord Jesus, it is divine. In the midst of circumstances which normally would cause anxiety and worry, here is the peace of Christ surpassing all human understanding.

**William Henry “It is that inner calmness of emotions and thoughts which rests on the assurance that God is too good to be unkind and too wise to make any mistakes.”**

**B. It is ruling**

This verb means act as an umpire, divine peace always overrule dissension.

**C. It is a peace of unity**

Since as members of one body, we are never called to make unity, but to maintain it.

**2. THANKSGIVING (v.15)**

Gratitude always makes for peace and excellent public relations, gratitude promotes peace always, always be thankful, primary to God for His mercy and goodness to you, but also to each other for what we can learn from one another.

**3. WORD OF CHRIST**

**A. Command**

i) The Word of Christ

It points us to the revealed, the Word of the gospel (Bible)

ii) Dwells in you.

“To be at home”

iii) Richly

**William Henry “Appropriated in its fullness and translated into action.”**

**B. Consequences**

- i) As you teach. - The passion to teach the Bible
- ii) Admonish. - Speak harshly, warning and correction.
- iii) As we sing - Whether they are Psalms. Hymns, spiritual songs.
- iv) How
  - a) Gratitude in your heart
  - b) Sing to God.
  - d) Words must be biblical

**4. TO THE GLORY OF GOD.**

**A. The Scope in inclusive**

Whether in Word or in deed.

**B. The activities**

Do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, this means that we live and act as those who carry His Name.

**C. Being Thankful**

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 16**

**GOD'S ORDER FOR WIVES**  
(Chapter 3:18)

**INTRODUCTION**

The Word of God gives us a clear pattern for family living, it is totally at variance with what the world is teaching us. If we obey God's Word there will be blessing in our home, but if we disobey we will have tears.

**1. SUBMISSION**

**A. What it is not.**

This does not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband, it does not mean that all her gifts and talents lie dormant, it also does not mean that she can never give advice or disagree with her husband.

**B. What it does mean.**

It means that very willingly she submits herself to the leadership of the man in the home, and she places all her gifts and all her talents into her family. In doing this it gives her a wonderful security.

**2. SHE BECOMES HIS HELP-MATE**

- A. Making the home a safe place.**
- B. Being trustworthy and dependable - Husband trusts her 100%**
- C. Maintain a good attitude.**
- D. Discuss things lovingly.**
- E. Be satisfied with your position, possessions, tasks**
- F. Patient, forgiving.**
- G. Showing interest in his problems and concerns.**
- H. Being industrious, diligent.**
- I. Offering suggestions**
- J. Keeping yourself beautiful**
- K. Maintaining a good spiritual life.**
- L. Co-operating in raising the children**
- M. Building up loyalty to the children in the husband**
- N. Grateful**
- O. Showing competence in his decisions.**

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 17**

**GOD'S PATTERN FOR HUSBANDS**  
**(Chapter 3:19)**

**1. BE CONSIDERATE**

- A. In words
- B. Provide for her needs
- C. Protect her
- D. Assist her to fulfill her responsibilities
- E. Sacrifice for her.
- F. Share your life with her
- G. Don't compare her unfavourably with any other person
- H. Tell her she has first place in your life
- I. Show her much tenderness and courtesy
- J. Express appreciation and praise.

**2. HE RESPECTS HIS WIFE.**

**3. SHARE EQUAL SPIRITUAL RIGHTS.**

**COLOSSIANS**  
**STUDY 18**

**GOD'S ORDER FOR CHILDREN**

**INTRODUCTION**

Only when an individual gives his life to God, when the Lord Jesus moves into a family, and the family is filled with the Holy Spirit does that family function to God's principles.

**1. OBEY YOUR PARENTS (Eph. 6:1)**

The idea here is that anyone who is still under the control of their parents, is to obey them, and the word obey is a simple Greek word which means 'Get under the authority of your parents and listen to them.' Which is totally opposite to what the world is saying. If your children are still living in your home, they are to obey you.

**A. Reasons**

- i) Children lack wisdom (**Prov 1:8, 2:1-2, 3:1, 4:1-4, 5:1-2, 7:1-2, 8:32- 38, 12:1, 13:1.**)
- ii) Children lack stature.  
They are weak and unable to sustain themselves.
- iii) Children lack favour with God - they are sinners.
- iv) Children lack favour with men.  
The dominant trait of any child who comes into this world is his total selfishness.

**B. How?**

- i) In the Lord  
Out of honouring and worshipping the Lord.
- ii) In everything.
- iii) For this pleases the Lord

**2. HONOUR YOUR PARENTS**

Honour is the proper attitude behind the act of obedience

**A. The idea of reverence.**

This means whenever we speak to or of our parents we honour them.

**B. Financial support (1 Tim 5:17)**

**3. PARENT AND CHILD RELATIONSHIP**

**A. Children**

- i) Obey
  - a) because it is right
  - b) because it is commanded in the Bible
  - c) because it is pleasing to the Lord.
- ii) Respect

**B. Parents**

- i) Teach
  - a) Instruct. - Instruct them especially in the Bible.
  - b) Rules  
They thrive under discipline.
- ii) Example.  
Parents must be an example
- iii) Discipline.  
Sometimes there is a need for discipline
- iv) Love them  
In this way you will never embitter them

## COLOSSIANS

### STUDY 20

## OUR DUTY TO THE WORLD

(Chapter 4:2-6)

### 1. PRAYER (v.2-4)

Prayer is the very breath of spirituality, where there is no prayer, it is due to deadness or coldness.

#### A. Pray for ourselves (v.2)

- i) Devote yourselves to prayer.  
That means time, attention and diligence.
- ii) Be watchful that you are not becoming cold  
This speaks of mental alertness and spiritual vigilance.
- iii) Be thankful.

#### B. Pray for workers

- i) Pray for an opportunity for witness.  
Open door for message.
- ii) Pray for an effective witness.  
Proclaim it as clearly as I should.

### 2. WITNESS (v.5-6)

#### A. Through our lifestyle

Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders.

- i) Consistent - Walk
- ii) With wisdom
- iii) Towards outsiders - people who are unsaved.
- iv) Make the most of every opportunity

#### B. Speech

- i) Consistent - always
- ii) Full of grace.
- iii) Seasoned with salt.  
That means no impurity of motive, no uncleanness.
- iv) So that you may know how to answer everyone.

**COLOSSIANS**  
STUDY 21

**THE FRIENDS OF PAUL**  
(Chapter 4:7-14)

**INTRODUCTION.**

As Paul now concludes this letter, he is careful to mention several dedicated friends and co-labourers. We realize the worth of Paul's friendship.

**1. TYCHICUS - the man with a message (v.78)**

**A. His name**

The name means fortunate, five times mentioned in the New Testament. Was with Paul on his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey, was with Paul during his 1<sup>st</sup> Roman imprisonment. Was given rest to deliver five letters of Paul, Philippians, Ephesians, and Colossians. Spent time in Ephesus, Paul sent him to Colossae

**B. His character**

Three positive comments:

- i) A dear brother - not only of Paul but also of the Colossian Church.
- ii) A faithful minister.
- iii) A fellow servant - a loveable man, and a true servant

**C. His purpose**

Paul sent Tychicus to Colossae for three reasons:

- i) So that they might know about his circumstances
- ii) Paul could hear about them
- iii) Tychicus may encourage them

**2. ONESIMUS - The man with the past (v.9)**

**A. His life**

He occurs only twice in the Bible (**Col4:9b, Phil v.10**).

In the past was an unconverted slave working for Philemon,

He wronged him and ran to Rome, he met Paul in prison and was converted there, and Paul then sent him back.

**B. His character**

- i) A brother
- ii) Faithful (**1 Cor 4:2**)
- iii) Dearly loved
- iv) One of you - member of the church at Colossae.

**C. His purpose**

Onesimus' purpose was to inform the church at Colossae about Paul's circumstances

3. **ARISTARCHUS - the man with a heart** (v.10)

He was a great comfort to Paul. (Acts 19:29) where he stood alongside Paul in a fierce riot in Ephesus, Paul escaped, but he was caught and together with Gaius were martyred by the silversmith.

Went with Paul to Asia now in prison with Paul.

4. **MARK - the man with a future** (v.11)

He joined Paul and Barnabas on the 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey (Acts 15:5). When sadly Mark left the team, Paul and Barnabas were divided at the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary Journey, his uncle Barnabas took and restored him and so later even Paul wanted him back (2Tim 4:11). During this Mark had the privilege of being influenced by three men:

1. Barnabas - encouragement
2. Paul - discipline
3. Peter, now he wrote the gospel.

5. **JESUS JUSIUS - the man with a name** (v.11)

We know nothing about him except he was a Jew and one of the men who greatly comforted Paul, his name means the Lord is salvation.

6. **EPAPHRAS - the man with a passion** (v.12)

- A. He is one of you - probably a founder certainly did become a pastor teacher.
- B. A servant of Christ Jesus
- C. Always wrestling for you.
- D. Working hard for you.

7. **LUKE - the man with a gift** (v.14)

He was a doctor, twice mentioned in the New Testament (Col.4:14, 2 Tim 4:11, Phil v.24.) He joined the missionary team of Paul, Silas, Timothy at Troas, went to Philippi, became Paul's constant companion. Remained with him to the end. Wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts.

8. **DOMAS - the man with a bias** (v.14)

Sadly Domas was a man with a bias, who later grew cold and went away (2 Tim 1:4)

v.15-18 - Paul sends his file of greetings.

**CONCLUSION:**

As we survey these verses, we are given a picture of Paul's character:

1. A great capacity for people – knew their needs
2. A great capacity for sharing his ministry