

Christ Revealed through Colossians

Colossians chapter 1

Opening: Paul wrote this letter while in prison in Rome (See Colossians 4:18). It is thought that Paul wrote Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon during his first Roman Imprisonment (these 4 letters are known as the “Prison Epistles” of Paul). That being the case, the date for this “epistle” or letter of Paul would be at A.D. 60 or 61. He would have sent this letter with Tychicus, a companion of his (mentioned in Col. 4:7-9), to Colosse.

1. Addressing the church and giving thanks for changed lives (v.1-6)

- a. Paul and Timothy often worked together since they had met up earlier in Paul’s ministry (see Acts 16:1-3). Timothy was the young minister to whom Paul wrote the letters of 1st and 2nd Timothy.
- b. (v.3,4) “Praying always for you...” (See also 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Pray for others, give thanks and rejoice for God’s working in each other’s lives.
- c. “Love...to all the saints...and bringing forth fruit” (v.4,6). **The Practical work of the Gospel—bringing forth fruit!!—THE EVIDENCE OF CHANGED LIVES!!!** (This Spiritual fruit get’s manifest in the lives of true believers everywhere; Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22, 23).

2. Thankful for the Love of God, Praying for Continued Growth (v.7-14)

- a. (v.9) Do not cease to pray for each other. We can **grow and desire growth** for each other. “...filled with the knowledge of His will”—we can and should know the will of God.
- b. (v.10)—Walking worthily!! “being **fruitful** in every good work, and **increasing in the knowledge of God**”—we need this Spiritual knowledge. **Knowing God saves (John 17:3), and knowing God leads us to follow God’s commands (1 John 2:3,5)**
- c. (v.11)—Christ gives us strength to deliver us from our weaknesses (Philippians 4:13).
- d. (v.13)—There are currently **two Kingdoms at war** (Revelation 12:7-9,12). The Kingdom of righteousness and the kingdom of sin and evil. We must choose which side we’ll be on—there is no neutral! By default we’d be on the wrong side (**Ephesians 2:2—“prince of the power of the air...”**)

3. Christ Jesus the Creator and sustainer of all things (v.15-18)

- a. (v.15) Jesus is the “image of the invisible God”—Physical manifestation, The word.
- b. (v.16) “By Him **all things** were created...” VISIBLE and INVISIBLE (even the Atoms, which obey His voice).—*things in Heaven and things on earth.* “by him”-designer; “**for Him**”-**PURPOSE**.-to know, love, and serve Him...to experience His gift of life and love.
- c. “**all things** consist” or **hold together in Him** (v.17)(*life forms, universe, Marriage&family*)
- d. **Christ is the Head of the church (v.18).**—*That’s Christian teaching!! NO man can ever have that responsibility. Jesus is the head, NOT SOME Pope!! (follow God’s Laws!!)*

4. Christ Jesus the Redeemer of all (v.19-23)

- a. (v.20)—Christ brings Peace, atonement for sin by His blood. **He “reconciles” us to God.** “in earth...things in heaven.” Christ brings every mind and heart to know His justice and

truth. *The great challenge is met, to justify a sinner, and yet be just (Romans 3:24-27; Revelation 15:3; Prov. 17:15). Through Christ we have “Peace with God” (Romans 5:1).*

- b. (v.21)—“...you, that were...enemies in your mind”—Christ reconciles; that is, Christ restores a right relationship with God.
 - c. (v.23)—“**If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...**” (the Devil always works to MOVE us away from the grace of God if he can...do not allow such a thing.—don’t let any wedges of sin, or bad relationships, or worldly pleasures, or devilish lies come in to “move you away”—*Don’t nibble yourself away from the fold like a blind and simple sheep*). *Keep your connection with Christ pure, strong, and stable!*
5. **“Christ in you, the hope of Glory” (v.24-29)**
- a. (v.24)—Paul was suffering for the gospel’s sake to preserve the “body” of Christ which is the church.
 - b. (v.26)—the Revelation of Messiah, the Savior of the world had been hidden from the ages.—“the Mystery”—the One who was to save corrupted man from sin!!
 - c. (v.27)—“...**the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...**” (A LIVING FAITH IN GOD!!!). *It’s a mystery how the presence of Christ works within us, to make us born again...so that we begin to love the things we once hated, and we start to HATE the things we once loved!—It’s such a strange work, and yet a glorious work that Christ does in us! “The mystery” of conversion!!—A DIVINE WORK—It’s a power and a help that comes from outside of ourselves to deliver us from sin’s penalty and power.*
 - d. (v.28)—“warning every man and teaching every man...” “I also labor, striving according to HIS working, which works in me mightily” (as Paul had tasted and seen the working of God’s Spirit in His own life...THIS, he desired to share with every soul!!).

Words for My Heart:

Would you like to experience more of the real, saving power of Jesus in your life? _____