

*Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible*

## Scriptures for Today: Colossians 1:1-11 – *The Introduction and Context of the book*

Today's Message:

### ***"The Preeminence of Jesus Christ"***



## INTRODUCTION

Today, we begin a new book – *Colossians* – with an overview and introduction. The Holy Spirit through Paul identified the person of Jesus Christ as the Creator, the Divine Head of the universe and makes it very clear that we are **COMPLETE** in Him. Amen. The false teachings dealt with in this letter are still in operation today. This book will equip us to rest in Christ's sufficiency and stand up for His glory! This letter is unique and written prophetically to **OUR** time in church history. This is God's message to you...

## FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

### Overview of Colossians

**Title Means:** People of Colosse; a form of colossal – huge. **Time:** 62 to 64 AD  
**The Numbers:** Chapter(s): 4 | Verses: 95 | Words: 1,998 **Ps 12:6-7; Prov 30:5**  
**Author:** Paul Timothy was with him (not in prison); one of 4 prison epistles.

*KJV footnote: Written from Rome by Tychicus and Onesimus.*

**Theme:** **Jesus Christ is our all in all.** He is Lord over all, and we are complete in Him!

**Context:** Colosse was 1 of 3 close cities (4:13: Hierapolis & Laodicea) located ~100 miles east of Ephesus. It was rich in mineral wealth, active in international trade; it was a very wealthy materialistic culture with a large population of both Jews and Gentiles. There was heresy in the church coming from a mixture of Legalism, Oriental Mysticism, and Gnosticism. These dealt with legalistic rituals and observations, the worship of angels, and the preoccupation with mystic religious experiences – all denying that "we are complete in Christ" ... just like our time!

## THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. **Historical** Paul writes to encourage them of their completeness in Christ. He confronts the false doctrine of human self-sufficiency. (They said... *Christ is not sufficient for every need.*)
2. **Doctrinal** Colossians is directed to our time in church history just prior to the rapture. 5 times "Laodiceans" are mentioned, and Paul commands this epistle be read to them (us).
3. **Devotional** As true born-again believers, indwelt by Jesus Christ, we cannot substitute man's philosophies or traditions for the words and work of Jesus Christ. We must guard against popular trends to be directed by the wisdom and rudiments of the world.

## OUTLINE STRUCTURE

**Chapters 1** Christ's preeminence is **declared**. It teaches us **DOCTRINE**.  
**Chapters 2** Christ's preeminence is **defended**. It warns us of **DANGER**.  
**Chapters 3-4** Christ's preeminence is **displayed**. It focuses on our **DUTY**.

***"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (1:17)***  
*Jesus Christ is our all in all. We are complete in Him. Amen.*

## LEARNING TOGETHER

## ❖ The Text Colossians 1:1-11; Revelation 3:14-22

## A. Church Beginnings – this church was planted from multiplication of disciples.

**Hebrews 11:1**

Now FAITH is  
the **substance** of  
things hoped for,  
the **evidence** of  
things not seen.

**John 13:35**

By this shall all  
men know that ye  
are my disciples,  
**if ye have love**  
one to another.

**Romans 10:17**

So then faith  
cometh by  
hearing, and  
**hearing by the**  
**word of God.**

**Acts 19:10**

And this continued...  
so that all they  
which dwelt in Asia  
**heard the word of**  
**the Lord Jesus....**

- The **faith** of the believers at Colosse was **HEARD** and known by Paul and others.
  - **Colossians 1:2** – To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ... at Colosse...
  - **Colossians 1:3** – We give thanks to God... **praying always for you...**
  - **Colossians 1:4** – **Since we heard** of YOUR FAITH in Christ Jesus...
  - Their salvation testimony was known by others; they did not hide it!
- The **love** of the believers at Colosse was **EXPERIENCED** by **all** the saints.
  - **Colossians 1:4** – ... and of THE LOVE which ye have to all the saints.
  - **Colossians 1:8** – Who also **delcared unto us** your love in the Spirit.
  - All the saints knew they were disciples of Jesus Christ by their love for others!
- The **hope** of the believers at Colosse came from the **GOSPEL** of Jesus Christ!
  - **Colossians 1:5** – For the **hope** which is laid up for you in heaven,  
whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;
  - **Colossians 1:6** – Which is come unto you, as it is in all THE WORLD;  
and **bringeth forth fruit,** as it doth also IN YOU,  
**since the day** ye HEARD of it, and KNEW the **grace of God IN TRUTH:**
  - Their hope was eternal, fixed, guaranteed, and already in Heaven!
  - They heard because someone preached the Gospel to them. Who will go now?
  - The Gospel of Jesus Christ bears fruit, and Jesus Christ changes lives! Amen?
- The **learning** of the believers at Colosse came from Epaphras and faithful believers.
  - **Colossians 1:7** – As ye also LEARNED of **Epaphras** our dear fellow servant,  
who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;
  - **Colossians 1:8** – Who also **delcared unto us** your love in the Spirit.
  - God moved people to plant and lead the church in Colosse; He is still doing this!

## B. Prayer Requests – Paul prayed these things without ceasing for believers.

- The prayer for the believers at Colosse was **SPIRITUAL** growth and **FRUIT** in their life.
  - **Colossians 1:9** – For this cause we also, since the day we heard it,  
**do not cease to pray for you and to desire that** ye might be FILLED with the  
KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL in all WISDOM and SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING:
  - **Colossians 1:10** – That ye might WALK WORTHY of the Lord unto all pleasing,  
BEING FRUITFUL in every GOOD WORK,  
and INCREASING in the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD;
  - **Colossians 1:11** – STRENGTHENED with all might, according to his glorious power,  
unto all PATIENCE and LONGSUFFERING **with joyfulness;**
  - What is your life like? These same things must be our prayer request and focus.

**Prayer List**

Knowledge of His will  
Wisdom  
Spiritual Understanding  
Walk worthy of the Lord  
Please the Lord  
Be fruitful  
In every good work  
Knowledge of God  
Spiritual strength  
Patience  
Longsuffering  
Joyfulness

**“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing...”**

Our life and church mission is to glorify God! We were created for His pleasure.  
Ask God to give you a burden to be closer to Him, to please Him, and to bring Him more glory.