

We are **starting** today – a **Vs-by-Vs study**
of the **Book of Colossians**

Have you ever **Really Considered**
or **Wrestled with** - **These Questions**

- 1) What **MAKES** **True Christianity** **DIFFERENT**
Than **Every** other **Religion**, **Philosophy**
or **Spiritual Belief System** in the **World**?
- 2) What **SETS** **True Christianity** **APART**
from **Every** other **Religion**, **Philosophy**
or **Spiritual Belief System** in the **World**?
- 3) Why can we **NOT begin** to **COMPARE** **True Christianity**
with **ANY** & other **Religion**, **Philosophy**
or **Spiritual Belief System** in the **World**?

The Answer to ALL three questions is

Because of **WHO Jesus Christ** - **TRULY IS**
WHAT Jesus Christ has - **TRULY DONE**

The THING that **Places** **True Christianity** in **HEAVEN**
& **ALL** other **Philosophies** & **Ideologies** on **EARTH**

Is **WHO Jesus Christ** **Truly IS**
WHAT Jesus Christ has **Truly DONE**

**THAT is what – The Letter to the Colossians
Makes Perfectly, Divinely, & Powerfully - CLEAR**

Let's PRAY

**Jesus Christ is Supremely Preeminent - Over ALL of Creation
He is the Only One of His KIND**

And He is the ONLY One - who has the ABILITY
to REDEEM us to God – Because – He IS God

**THIS is the Single Story of the Bible
It is the Scarlett Thread - that runs from Genesis to Revelation**

**& if MAN – OR the Enemy – can REMOVE
JUST this ONE PIECE – of the TRUTH of The Bible**

**THEN Christianity can be LUMPED IN
with every other Religious Philosophy in the World**

BUUTTT – We CANNOT REMOVE IT

**Because the MSG of the BIBLE
is the MSG of REDEMPTION & SALVATION**

**That Centers on – & Hinges on –
& is IN & THRU - the Person & the Work of Jesus Christ**

In Colossians - God speaks thru Paul – to WARN US

that REMOVING

the Supreme Preeminence of Jesus Christ

IS REMOVING - the One on whom the Entire Plan
of Redemption and Salvation - HINGES

Because The Bible Says - ONLY Faith in Jesus Christ
Can SAVE US - & REDEEM US to God – For Eternity

Does that Give you an IDEA of where we're going?

Ok – Here is the ENTIRE OUTLINE of COLOSSIANS

1. Who Jesus Christ IS and what He has DONE
2. What Christ-Followers SHOULD DO in Response

THAT is the Outline for the BOOK
& THAT is an AWESOME OUTLINE for our Entire Life

The Letter to the Colossians
was written BY PAUL – FROM House Arrest in ROME

to try to SAVE the church
from a Philosophical Belief System

that emphasized – Higher Spiritual KNOWLEDGE
IN PLACE of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ

& **WE live** in a **Culture**
that is **SWIMMING** in **similar Philosophical Belief Systems**

The **False Teaching** being **addressed** in **Colossians** –
became known (by the **2nd Century**) as **GNOSTICISM**

Which comes the **Greek** Word - **GNOSIS**
Meaning **KNOWLEDGE**

It was a **blend** of **RELIGIOUS RITUAL** & **MYSTICISM**
with the **goal** of **attaining** a **Higher Spiritual Knowledge**

& Most Dangerously
it **Minimized or Removed the Person & Work of Jesus Christ**

& **again** - We have **plenty** of these **same TYPE**
of **Spiritual Philosophies** in our **Culture today**

& **so** we **NEED Colossians** AS **MUCH Today**
As the **church needed it** in the **1st Century**

Colossians 1:1–2 (NLT)

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

2 We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

faithful brothers and sisters is an unusual greeting for Paul

The word "faithful" here MEANS – "steadfast, unswerving"

& so – Right Up Front - Paul is Preparing the Faithful Believers
to be "Steadfast & Unswerving" in their commitment to Christ

Colossians 1:3–5(a) (NLT)

3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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4 For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people,

5 which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven . . .

NOTICE - They're FAITH in Jesus - & their LOVE for God's people

Is BECAUSE OF the Confident HOPE they have
in what God has reserved for them in Heaven

THAT is an AWESOME Reason – to Keep our
FAITH in Christ STRONG – AND to KEEP Loving God's People

BECAUSE OF *our Confident Hope*
in What God has reserved for us in Heaven

THAT is the Greatest Reason –
to keep our FAITH - & our LOVE - STRONG

& then - Colossians 1:5(b) (NLT)

. . . You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

You have had this Confident Expectation – since you first heard the truth of the good news of Jesus Christ

HOLD ON to it FIRMLY

& don't be DUPED - by the Philosophies of this World

Colossians 1:6 (NLT)

6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

It is the **GOOD NEWS** - of **Faith** in **Jesus Christ**

That is **BEARING FRUIT** – **AND Changing Lives**
everywhere it goes

JUST LIKE it Changed Your Life - the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace

Write ROM 1:16-17 in your Margin

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes . . .

THIS is the **“Good News”** that is **being attacked**
by the **Worlds Philosophies** of **“Higher Spiritual Knowledge”**

The only Eternal, Guaranteed hope – that God Offers
is in The Truth of the Good News of Jesus Christ

If there were any other way
for God to give us this eternal hope - He would have done it
in order to spare Jesus Christ
from having to take on the sin of the World

But there was no other way – to offer us Eternal Hope
Not then, & Not now

The Gospel Message is the Truth from God about the only way
sinful man can be redeemed to a Holy God for eternity

& that is why the Spiritual Power of Darkness
WORKS so hard to REMOVE Jesus Christ

from the World's Spiritual Philosophies

(cont'g) Colossians 1:7–8 (NLT)

7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.

8 He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. (THAT is a great compliment)

**Epaphras was probably the Pastor at Colosse
& probably the one who brought the gospel to them**

& **Epaphras** went to **Rome** himself (*an incredible journey*)
to bring his **concerns** about **this false teaching** to Paul

So - after hearing from **Epaphras**

Paul **did the only 2 things** he was able to do for this church in danger
He wrote them this **letter** - & He **prayed** for them

Colossians 1:9 (NLT)

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Paul **begins his DEFENSE** of the Truth of Jesus Christ
by praying that God would **Give the believers**

complete knowledge of God's will –
AND true spiritual wisdom and understanding

The Gnostics claimed – they had
“Special Spiritual Knowledge”

& so here **Paul** uses a “play on words” - & says
“We ask God to give you Complete Knowledge”

This **GK word** for knowledge = **epignosis**
“Complete knowledge, Divine knowledge”

Instead of man-made “**special knowledge**” -
Paul prays **we would have - Complete, Divine** knowledge

**& NOT JUST – Complete Knowledge
BUT – Complete Knowledge - of God's Will**

**& NOT JUST - Complete Knowledge of God's Will
But With - Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding**

"Spiritual" means – "Of or By the Holy Spirit"

"Wisdom" means – "The Right Application of Knowledge"

& so **"Spiritual Wisdom"** is

The Right Application of Knowledge - By the Holy Spirit

LEADING to Understanding

Which is ***the ability to comprehend the truth***

So – Paul Prays – We would have
***Complete Knowledge of God's Will
With the Right Application of Knowledge by the Holy Spirit
Leading to the ability to comprehend THE TRUTH***

THAT is a Good Prayer

We should JUST PRAY THAT – RIGHT NOW

But Wait . . . There's MORE

**Knowledge – only Becomes WISDOM
When you **Rightly APPLY IT****

SO – V.10 takes that Complete Knowledge of God’s Will
& RIGHTLY APPLIES IT

Colossians 1:10 (NLT)

10 Then (when you apply this complete knowledge) the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

The **purpose** of this **Complete Knowledge of God’s Will - IS**

that our **LIVES** may - **HONOR & PLEASE The LORD**

that our **LIVES** may - **Produce Good FRUIT**

that we may **LEARN** to - **KNOW God Better & Better**

True knowledge of God’s Will

Will **cause** us to **GROW** in **these 3 areas**

LIVING TO: Honor & Please God – Producing Good Fruit
& Knowing God Better & Better

Paul **continues his petitions** for the **church** (& us)

by **praying** we would be **strengthened** by **God’s power**

Colossians 1:11-12(a) (NLT) → →

Colossians 1:11-12(a) (NLT)

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, 12 always thanking the Father . . .

Paul knows the church at Colosse - is under attack

By this DIMINISHING of the Person & Work of Christ

So **he prays** the **believers would be strengthened**

NOT with their **own** strength

BUT – **With the glorious power of GOD**

The **Life Changing - Truth of the Gospel**

can **only be accomplished** by God's Glorious Power

We **cannot** **conquer** the **effects of SIN** on our own

We **cannot** **conquer DEATH** on our own

We **cannot** **REACH GOD** on our own

ONLY **God's Glorious Power** - **can do these things** on our behalf

& **ONLY** **God's Glorious Power** can **strengthen** us

to stand for the **Truth of the Gospel**

with all **Endurance**, & **Patience**, & **Joy** & **Thankfulness to God**

God Gives Us His Glorious Power

thru our **FAITH in Jesus Christ**

& thru **HIS LIFE in us**

& Then – LOOK closely at Colossians 1:12(b) (NLT)

12 . . . He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

God has **ENABLED US**

THRU Faith in the **Person** & **Work** of **Jesus Christ**

To **SHARE** in the **INHERITANCE**

that **belongs** to **ALL God's People** – **Who Live in** the **LIGHT**

What does that **MEAN?** – **What** does that **INVOLVE?**

To share in the inheritance that belongs to God's people

Heb 1:14 = we are “heirs of **salvation**”

Titus 3:7 = we are “heirs of **eternal life**”

Gal 3:29 = we are “heirs to the **promises** made to Abraham”

1Cor 15 = we are “heirs of an immortal **heavenly body**”

1Pet 3:7 = we are “heirs of the **grace of life**”

Rom 8:17 = we are “**joint heirs with Christ**”

Eph 1:14 = The Holy Spirit is **the Guarantee of our inheritance**

THAT IS a SMALL PART – of what it means

To share in the inheritance that belongs to God's people

The Inheritance God has reserved for us

is more than we could ever imagine

& it **comes Solely** thru

the **Person & the Work of Jesus Christ**

& it just keeps getting better & better & better

Colossians 1:13-14 (NLT)

13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, 14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Thru FAITH – in the **Person & Work of Jesus Christ**

God has - **rescued us from the kingdom of darkness**

& he has **TRANSFERRED US**
INTO the **KINGDOM** of His **DEAR SON** – Jesus

We have **been TRANSFERRED**
By God's **Grace** - & **Thru** our **Faith** in **Christ alone**

OUT of the **Kingdom of Darkness**
& **INTO** the **Eternal Kingdom of Jesus Christ**

who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins (v.14 says).

We are **TRANSFERRED OUT** of the **Kingdom of DARKNESS**
& **INTO** the **Kingdom of God**

because of **one thing** - & one thing **only**

The REDEMPTION we have IN the Person of Jesus Christ !!

That's what Colossians 1:14 says (NLT)

14 [Jesus Christ] purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

The Phrase **purchased our freedom** – is **LITERALLY**
“To have full redemption”

REDEMPTION (Easton's Bible Dictionary) = **To purchase back something that had been lost, by the payment of a ransom**

- 1) **You were lost** in your sin
& a **Prisoner** in the **Kingdom of Darkness**
- 2) **Jesus Christ purchased you back**
by the payment of A Ransom – **Which was His Own Life**
- 3) & **Now - SOLELY By FAITH** in **Jesus Christ** - You **can become**
a **son/daughter** of God - & **Joint Heir** with Jesus

There is NO Higher Knowledge – **NO Special Knowledge**,
There is **NO Anything else** - **that could ever DO THAT**

THAT – is the **TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL**

Because There is NO OTHER WAY

that can **overcome the separation**
that **our sin** has **caused** - **between us & God**

IT IS ONLY – By **Jesus Christ**

purchasing our freedom and forgiving our sins

That we can **Live for Eternity**

in the presence of the **Perfectly Holy & Just God**

THAT is the **TRUTH of The Gospel**

Of **Forgiveness & Salvation** – in **Jesus Christ ALONE**

PLEASE – DON'T MISS IT

If you **Emphasize human knowledge**

You will **MISS God's wisdom**

If you **Focus on human philosophy**

You will **NEVER understand God**

If you combine **various spiritual viewpoints**

You **WILL lose sight of Jesus Christ**

DON'T MISS – God's Wisdom & God's Understanding

DON'T LOSE SIGHT of The Supreme Preeminence of Jesus Christ

Let's Pray