



Same Problem



- Same Problem
  - Low View of Christ



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### Survey of First Century Colossae

Jesus is not enough: You need...

- Special Knowledge
   Traditions
- Rules and Regulations
   Worship of Angels

- Same Problem
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#### **Christianity Today Survey 2022**

53% of Christians reject the Divine Authority of the Bible



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Christianity Today Survey 2022

53% of Christians reject the Divine Authority of the Bible 73% of Christians believe that Jesus is a created being



## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD

<sup>1</sup>But know this: Hard times will come in the last days. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, proud, demeaning, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>unloving, irreconcilable, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, without love for what is good,

## 2 Timothy 3:1-5 DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD

<sup>4</sup>traitors, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>holding to the form of godliness but denying its power. Avoid these people.

#### **Romans 12:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

- Same Problem
  - Low View of Christ
- Same Symptom



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  - False Faith



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  - **Low View of Christ**
- Same Symptom
  - False Faith
- Legalism Liberalism



- Same Problem
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  - False Faith
- Same Cure

- Legalism Liberalism



- Same Problem
  - Low View of Christ
- Same Symptom
- Same Cure
  - See Jesus as He Truly Is
- False Faith
   Liberalism



## Colossians 1:9-23 PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

<sup>9</sup>For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, <sup>10</sup>so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

<sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

<sup>13</sup>He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. <sup>14</sup>In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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Christmas is a vital part of the greatest rescue story in history.

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#### **Protagonist**

Antagonist

**Victim** 



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#### Protagonist

#### Antagonist

**Victim** 

#### **Definition of Protagonist**

- the principal character in a literary work
- an active participant in an event
- a leader, proponent, or supporter of a cause: "CHAMPION" "HERO"
- a person who actively supports or favors a cause

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#### Protagonist

**Antagonist** 

**Victim** 

#### **Definition of Antagonist**

- one that contends with or opposes another:
  - "ADVERSARY" "OPPONENT" "ENEMY"

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#### **Protagonist**

#### Antagonist

**Victim** 

#### **Definition of Victim**

- one that is acted on and usually adversely affected by a force or agent
- a person harmed, lost, or destroyed
- a person subjected to oppression, hardship, or mistreatment
- one that is tricked or duped

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Protagonist Act 1-Separation

Antagonist Act 2-Pursuit/Incarnation

Victim Act 3-Confrontation

## IS YOUR PROTAGONIST ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM YOUR ANTAGONIST?



## IS YOUR PROTAGONIST ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM YOUR ANTAGONIST?

Paul's answer:

to point out the **Supremacy of Christ** 

Lord of Creation (15-16)



<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities all things have been created through him and for him.

## John 1:1-5 PROLOGUE

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>That light shines in the darkness, and yet the darkness did not overcome it.

## Hebrews 1:1-4 THE NATURE OF THE SON

<sup>1</sup>Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. <sup>2</sup>In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe, through him. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. 4So he became superior to the angels, just as the name he inherited is more excellent than theirs.

#### VIDEO TESTIMONY

## IS YOUR PROTAGONIST ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM YOUR ANTAGONIST?

Paul's answer:

to point out the **Supremacy of Christ** 

Lord of Creation (15-16)

Lord of the Cosmos and the Church (17-18a)



Colossians 1:9-23 <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is also the head of the body, the church;



## IS YOUR PROTAGONIST ABLE TO RESCUE YOU FROM YOUR ANTAGONIST?

Paul's answer:

to point out the **Supremacy of Christ** 

Lord of Creation (15-16)

Lord of the Cosmos and the Church (17-18a)

Lord of Reconciliation (18b -20)



... he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

<sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

## Romans 8:1-4 THE LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law could not do since it was weakened by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering,, 4in order that the law's requirement would be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

## FROM THE COSMOLOGICAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL

<sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him - <sup>23</sup>if (since) indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

# "by his physical body" — the Incarnation

