

## Colossians Adult Learning Center (ALC)

Winter 2018-2019

### Course

*Some people's Christianity is a deep argument about certain truths rather than serving God with joy and with power. Other people see Christianity as nothing more than things you must do and things you must avoid doing rather than growing in dependent faith in Christ. Colossians demonstrates the sufficiency of Christ and His grace to live the Christian life.*

### Introduction to the book

Colossians was written between 60-62AD by the apostle Paul while in prison in Rome. He addressed a group of Christians he had never personally visited in a Turkish city called Colossae. He wrote it to correct a teaching error in the church. This error was an early form of what was later called Gnosticism, a heresy that suggested that some people had deeper knowledge as a result of visions and greater spiritual insight which gave them special authority.

### Anticipated Schedule

DATE	CLASS	SECTION	TITLE	MEMORY
<del>December 2</del>	<del>Week One</del>	<del>Colossians 1:1-12</del>	<del>Walk Worthy of Your Calling</del>	<del>1:10</del>
December 9	Week Two	Colossians 1:13-20	<i>First Place in Everything</i>	1:19
December 16	Week Three	Colossians 1:21-29	<i>Every Man Complete in Christ</i>	1:28

## Colossians ALC Winter 2018-2019

Class Two: December 9, 2019 // *First Place in Everything* // Colossians 1:13-20

### I. Colossians 1:13-14 – Transferred and Redeemed

#### A. *Delivered us from... the domain of darkness. (Col. 1:13a)*

Matthew 4:16 – The people who were sitting in darkness shall see a great light

John 1:5 – The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend

John 8:12 – He who follows me will not walk in darkness

Acts 26:17-18 – [I've appointed you a witness... and am sending you] to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God and receive forgiveness of their sins and an inheritance

Eph. 5:8 – You were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord

1 Thess. 5:5 – You are all sons of light/sons of day. We are not of the night/ darkness.

1 Peter 2:9 – That you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light

1 John 1:5 – God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all

#### B. *Transferred us into... the kingdom of his dearly beloved Son. (Col. 1:13b)*

Matthew 6:10 – Your kingdom come, your will be done

Matthew 16:19 – I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven

Luke 1:32-33 – ... the Lord **God will give Him the kingdom of His father David**, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end  
 Luke 22:29 – And just as my **heavenly Father has granted to me a kingdom**, I grant that you may eat and drink at my table in My kingdom  
 Luke 22:69 – But from now on the Son of Man will be **seated at the right hand**  
 Luke 23:42 – Jesus, remember me when you come in **your kingdom**.  
 Heb. 1:8 – But of the Son He says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is **the scepter of His kingdom....**”  
 Romans 6:8 & 6:4 – We have **died with Christ and we have been buried** with Christ  
 Ephesians 2:6 – ... raised us up with Him **and seated us with Him** in the heavenly places  
 Col. 3:1 – Therefore, if you **have been raised up with Christ**, keep seeking things above

- C. *In whom we have redemption, that is, the forgiveness of our sins. (Col. 1:14)*  
 Matt. 26:28 – This is My blood of the covenant, poured out... for the **forgiveness of sins**  
 Luke 1:77 – To give to His people the knowledge of salvation by **forgiveness of their sins**  
 Acts 10:43 – ... all the prophets bear witness that through His name, everyone who **believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins**  
 Rom. 3:24 – Being justified as a gift by His grace **through the redemption** in Christ Jesus  
 Eph. 1:7 – In Him we **have redemption through His blood**, the **forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace  
 Hebrews 10:10 – By this will we have been sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**.  
 Hebrews 10:17 – Their sins and **lawless deeds I will remember** no more.  
 Rev. 1:5 – To Him who loves us and **released us from our sins** by His blood
- D. *We who have hoped in Christ have been forgiven our sins and relocated from darkness into the kingdom of His Son. We are spiritually present with Him (Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1) but physically separated. The kingdom is in heaven now but will become an earthly kingdom.*

## II. Colossians 1:15-20 – All the Fullness Dwells Bodily

### A. Superior Relationship With God

(v. 15a)

This beloved Son is the **very image** (*eikon*) of God. (15) Jesus manifests the Father (e.g., Hebrews 1:3, *exact representation*). Jesus said in John 14:9, “If you’ve seen Me, you’ve seen the Father.” In contrast to the Law (which is “a shadow”), Jesus is the “very form” (*eikon*, Heb. 10:1) and that is what is in focus here. It is a focus His identity as superior revelation and on the “very God-ness” of the Son. Strong statement of deity.

### B. Superior Over Creation

(v. 15b)

Jesus is “prototokos” – He is the firstborn **over** creation. Emphasis here is not that He was created, but that He is the head, the **first place** over creation. He precedes creation and is sovereign over all creation. The Nicene Creed puts it this way, “*eternally begotten of the Father* (Heb. 1:5)... *begotten not made... one in being with the Father*.” It was through Jesus that the Father created the world (Hebrews 12:2), so Jesus was before all creation, and that is the meaning here. (“Jehovah’s Witnesses” try to make him part of creation) (**Ps. 89:19-29** is a rich portrayal of this *firstborn as ruler*, especially **verse 27**) **Hebrews 1:6** is also good here, as we see this “firstborn” is worshipped by angels, something God would only allow for Himself, for God.

- C. *By Him all things were created* (vv. 16-17)  
That is, visible and invisible, thrones, powers, rulers, and authorities. This includes the world and all that is in it, but emphasizes the spiritual (unseen) world. They were created by Him and for Him. All that is came into being by His hand for His pleasure and purpose. This is important because of something Paul will address later in chapter 2. He is before all things, and in Him, all things hold together (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:10). Nothing is outside Him, His authority and His control. Another statement of deity.
- D. *He is the head of the Body, the Church* (v. 18a)  
This speaks of His pre-eminence and His authority. The church exists for Him and by Him, and He is its head, its ruler. This will also figure into some things Paul will address later in chapters 2-3. As He is the heir of all things (Heb. 1:2), the church is part of what He is heir to. Ephesians 1:22 says that “He put all things under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church....” Another statement of deity.
- E. *He is the Beginning, the Firstborn From the Dead* (v. 18b)  
Since He is the firstborn from the dead (1 Cor. 15:20), all those who populate the church will be following that lead (Rom. 6:5). Revelation 1:5 uses this title (firstborn of the dead) to characterize Him who is the ruler of the kings of the earth. He is exalted as the name above every name (Phil. 2:9), and that is the idea here.
- F. *All of God’s fullness dwells* (v. 19)  
*For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form* (Col. 2:9). He is the *radiance of the glory of God and the exact representation of His nature* (Heb. 1:3). That is, He is fully God. Fullness (*pleroma*) means “filled up” as in **complete**. Again, deity....
- G. *And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself* (v. 20)  
He (God) reconciles all things on earth and in heaven to Himself through the blood of the cross of Christ. Bringing the blood here (and body of flesh in 22), God the Holy Spirit is subtly pointing to the reality of the body of Christ – this is no “spiritual” death. P.S. What are **all things**? He limits to “all things on the earth and in heaven.” (Phil. 2:10)

### III. Discussion

1. Share with a seatmate your memory verse from last week, Colossians 1:10.
2. How are we helped by being reminded we used to be part of a kingdom of darkness?
3. You’ve been transferred to the kingdom of His Son. What are some implications?
4. Redemption = forgiveness of sin. “Redemption” means to buy back something for a good purpose. What are some good purposes of His forgiveness of you?
5. “Image of the invisible God” reminds us that when we see Jesus, we’ve seen the Father (John 14:9). How does your vision of Jesus affect your view of what the Father is like?
6. All things in heaven and on earth were created by Him, and He established all thrones, authorities, principalities – spiritual authorities. What does knowing that do for you?
7. God was pleased for His fullness to dwell in Jesus and to reconcile everything on earth and heaven that will be reconciled, through Him only. How does that impact you?

### IV. Homework to share next week

1. Memorize Colossians 1:19
2. Read Colossians 1 and 2 on three separate days. Highlight a favorite verse each time.
3. Jot down times this week you see Jesus’ authority & position being dishonored.