

“CHRIST ABOVE ALL”  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS  
Colossians 1:1-29  
“The Glorious Hope”

**Introduction:** Colossae was a city in Asia Minor in the Roman Province Phrygia. The seven churches mentioned in Revelations are in this area. The church at Colossae included one or more congregations that met in homes. Paul is reminding the Colossians of the benefits they have due to the redeeming and reconciling work of the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**SECTION I: APOSTOLIC PRAYER FOR THE SAINTS OF GOD (Colossians 1:1-13).**

- A. God chose to reveal Himself to us in Scripture using terms that describe members of a household or family. The titles Father and Son reflect positions of authority and submission. This structure is relevant for the understanding of the tri-unity of God. Colossians 1:3 proves that God the Father and God the Son are distinct Persons. Paul is identifying Jesus of Nazareth as Son of God, Lord, and Christ.
- B. Faith in Christ is the foundation of our salvation. Love for the saints is evidence of our salvation (John 13:35; 1 John 4:7). What is the hope laid up in heaven? (2 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Peter 1:3-5) The Gospel bears fruit in all the world. We are called to sow Gospel seeds in the hearts of people (Mark 4:14-15).
- C. Epaphras planted the church in Colossae and reported the progress to Paul.
- D. You can walk worthy of the Lord when you are filled with the knowledge of His will. As you live a life pleasing to Him being productive in good works you will increase in the knowledge of God. Some things you will learn about God as you seek His face and serve Him. Are you increasing in your knowledge of God? His glorious power will strengthen you for patience and longsuffering through hardships with joy.
- E. The Father qualified us to a portion of the inheritance of the saints. We are God’s inheritance (Deuteronomy 32:9; John 4:34-38). The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness (Acts 26:18). Do you see lost people as needing rescue from enemy control? We are in a new domain under a new authority – the kingdom of the Son of God!

**SECTION II: GOD THE SON-THE REDEEMING CREATOR (Colossians 1:14-20)**

- A. Redemption is the act of freeing someone from something. Sinners are slaves to sin (John 8:34). We are freed from sin slavery through Christ (Romans 6:15-18). The blood of Christ purchased forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22; Leviticus 17:11).
- B. Only Christ Jesus met the standard of a flawless sacrifice. This is why the divinity of Christ is necessary. No normal human is flawless but God the Son with a human body is.
- C. Lord Jesus is the image of the invisible God. God with a human body (John 1:14; 1 John 1:1). Firstborn is a position of authority. Authority and hierarchy is modeled in the family. Esau sold his birthright or the right of the firstborn (Genesis 25:29-34). First born status is not restricted to physical birth order (1 Chronicles 5:1-2).
- D. All things were created by God the Son. The creature is always inferior and subordinate to the Creator by default (Romans 1:25). God the Son is pre-existent and in Him all things are composed (Hebrews 1:3).
- E. Christ Jesus is the head (leader) of the body of Christ – the church. He is the beginning – the originator- the One who caused but does not have a cause Himself (Revelation 22:13). All the fullness of deity dwells in Christ. 100% God and 100% human.

- F. Reconciliation is restoration of a previous harmonious relationship. We are reconciled to God. Reconciliation is the result of the sacrifice of Christ. The sacrifice of Christ accomplished redemption and reconciliation.

### **SECTION III: THE MESSAGE AND THE MINISTRY (Colossians 1:21-29).**

- A. Sinners are reconciled to God because God took on a human body and became an atoning sacrifice. He wants to present reconciled people holy in His sight. This is describing sanctification.
- B. The power to patiently persevere in the faith is evidence of salvation (1 John 2:19). Continuing in the faith involves being grounded (foundation laid) and steady – not being moved away from the hope of the Gospel.
- C. How could Paul rejoice in sufferings? Paul is willingly and joyfully enduring the hardships and adversity associated with serving Christ. Paul is a minister of the body of Christ because of a stewardship received from God. Do you see your ministry as a stewardship from God?
- D. The message of redemption and reconciliation through Christ was a mystery in the past but revealed to us – progressive revelation. God wanted the saints to know the riches of the glory of the mystery of Christ in us (Jews and Gentiles).
- E. Paul mentioned earlier that the saints are in Christ, now He mentions that Christ is in the saints. It is impossible to be in Christ without Christ being in you (Romans 8:9-11). Why is Christ in us the hope of glory? Glorification is the final stage of eternity with God. It is the final step in our salvation process (Romans 8:29-30).
- F. Him we preach – we preach Christ – God the Son. The purpose is to help people grow to maturity in Christ. The goal of evangelism and discipleship is to help people move from unsaved to mature Christian. God worked in Paul to labor for this goal.

**HAVE YOU STUMBLER OVER THE TRUTH THAT CHRIST JESUS IS THE CREATOR AND SAVIOR? IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER, HAVE YOU LIVED INTO THE TRUTH THAT CHRIST IS IN YOU? ARE YOU LABORING IN THE POWER OF GOD TO HELP BRING PEOPLE TO MATURITY IN CHRIST?**

*Dr. Erin D. Bell  
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