

**The Supremacy of Christ**  
*A Study of Colossians*  
Week 01: Intro, Thanksgiving, and Prayer

## Scripture

Colossians 1:1-14

## Review (Where We Are)

*Here's where we are in history...*

Author: Paul

- ✓ Written AD 62/63 from Roman captivity (for preaching the Gospel)
- ✓ Never met its recipients, church at Colossae (empowered as God's representative)

Recipient: Church at Colossae

- ✓ Started by Paul's co-worker, Epaphras (native of that city)
- ✓ Mostly Gentiles, but also a healthy Jewish population
- ✓ Epaphras visited Paul in captivity and delivered a report about the church at Colossae, who was facing cultural pressures

Circumstances

- ✓ Corruption of Christianity
- ✓ "Religious systems" were being mixed with Christianity

Theme (Big Idea)

Drawing their attention to the **supremacy of Christ** through increasing knowledge of Him, which leads to a practical living out of faith

## Motivation (Why They Need to Know It)

Supreme – the highest rank, power, and authority in an organization or system

**Colossians 1:15 (NLT)** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, **16** for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see — such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. **17** He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

- Christ is God in flesh
- Christ is Creator and therefore supreme over all things
- Christ holds all things together

*Why is this important?* If Christ is Creator and Sustainer, He deserves our devotion

## Information (What They Need to Know)

Before Paul begins to speak concerning the supremacy of Christ, his writing strikes a positive tone concerning the “state of the Colossian church.”

Paul offers thanksgiving for their obedience and a prayer for their continual maturity in faith.

Hopefully, what is commended (by Paul) is continued (in the Colossian church).

### *Paul thanks God for the Colossians’...*

#### ▪ Faith in Christ (v.4a)

**Colossians 1:1 (ESV)** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **2** To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. **3** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** since **we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus...**

#### ▪ Love for others (v.4b)

**Colossians 1:3 (ESV)** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** since **we heard** of your faith in Christ Jesus and **of the love that you have for all the saints...**

#### ▪ Hope for the future (vv.5-8)

**Colossians 1:5 (ESV)** ...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, **6** which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, **7** just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf **8** and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

✓ The gospel had been received by them (and had spread beyond them)

✓ The gospel resulted in bearing fruit

#### ▪ Redemption in Christ (vv.12-14)

**Colossians 1:12 (ESV)** ...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### ***Paul prays that the Colossians'...***

- **Be filled with the knowledge of God's will (v.9)**

**Colossians 1:9 (ESV)** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking **that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...**

“If you read this epistle through, you will observe that Paul frequently alludes to knowledge and wisdom. To the point in which he judged the church to be deficient... He would not have them ignorant. He knew that spiritual ignorance is the constant source of error, instability, and sorrow; and therefore he desired that they might be soundly taught in the things of God.” – Charles Spurgeon

- **Live a life pleasing to God (v.10)**

**Colossians 1:10 (ESV)** ...so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

- **Be strengthened with God's power (v.11)**

**Colossians 1:11 (ESV)** ...being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy

### **Application (What They Need to Do)**

If Paul commends these characteristics in the church of Colossae, we should be striving for the same things in our own church.