

An Introduction to the Book of Colossians (1:1-2)

1. The person writing
2. The partner of the writer
3. The people being written to
 - A. The saints
 - B. Faithful brethren
4. The purpose for writing.
To correct the doctrinal errors of
 - A. Adoration of angels
 - B. Beathing of the body
 - C. Commandment keeping

The Purpose for Paul's Praise (1:3-8)

(Updated after preaching it: Purpose 1 for Paul's Praise – God's Work Through His Word)

1. The proclamation of thanksgiving
2. The Person they were thankful to
3. The purpose for Paul's thankfulness
 - A. Because of their faith in Christ Jesus
 - 1) What does it mean to have faith in Christ Jesus?
 - 2) How was it that the Colossians came to have faith in Christ?
 - B. Because of their love for all saints
 - C. Because of their hope laid up in heaven
4. The properness of giving thanks to God for faith, love, and hope
 - A. The properness of thanking God for their faith in Christ
 - B. The properness of thanking God for their love of the brethren
 - C. The properness of thanking God for their "hope" (expectation) of heaven
5. What Paul's praise revealed about his priorities

The Priority of Paul's Prayer (1:9-12a)

1. Paul's prompting to pray
2. Paul's petition
 - A. Filled with the knowledge of God's will
How can we know the will of God?
 - 1) Go to the source—God's Word
 - 2) Do what God says
 - B. In all wisdom and spiritual understanding
3. The purpose for Paul's petition
4. The particulars of a God-pleasing life
 - A. Being fruitful in every good work
 - B. Increasing in the knowledge of God
 - C. Strengthened with His power to joyfully display patience and longsuffering
 - D. Giving thanks unto the Father

Purpose 2 for Paul's Praise – God's Work Through His Son (12b-14)

1. The meaning of salvation—making us qualified for heaven
 - A. The One who qualifies

- B. The ones who are made qualified
- C. The blessings of being made qualified
- 2. The manner in which we obtain salvation
 - A. By delivering us from the power of darkness
 - B. By translating us into the kingdom of His dear Son
 - C. By redeeming us through the blood of Christ

Christ's preeminence over creation (1:15-17)

- 1. Christ is the image of the invisible God (1:15a)
- 2. Christ is the firstborn of every creature (1:15b)
- 3. Christ created all visible things in heaven and earth (1:16)
- 4. Christ created all invisible things in heaven and earth (1:16)
- 5. All things were created for Christ (1:16)
- 6. Christ is before all things (1:17a)
- 7. By Christ, all things consist (are held together) (1:17b)

Christ's preeminence over the new creation (1:18-20)

- 1. Who Christ Is
 - A. Christ is the head of the body, the church
 - 1) The church is a body—not a building
 - 2) We are called out of the world into the church
 - 3) Christ—not man—is the head of the church
 - B. Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead
 - 1) Beginning
 - 2) Firstborn from the dead
 - C. Christ **became** the preeminent One in whom all fullness dwells
- 2. What Christ did
 - A. Christ died so that we could have peace with God
 - B. Christ's death reconciles all things to God

Our Response to the Reconciling Work of Christ (Colossians 1:21-23)

- 1. Their past alienation (21a)
- 2. Their present reconciliation (21b)
 - A. The meaning of reconciliation
 - B. The means of their reconciliation
 - C. The certainty of their reconciliation
- 3. Their future presentation (22)
- 4. Their expected continuation (23)
 - A. Continue in the faith, grounded and settled
 - B. Not moved away from the hope of the gospel

Paul's Commission—and Mission—from God (Colossians 1:24-25)

- 1. Paul was commissioned by God – “made a minister” (23, 25)
- 2. Paul's mission involved service – “minister” means service
- 3. Paul's mission involved suffering (24)
 - A. What “filling up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions” doesn't mean

- B. What “filling up what is lacking of Christ’s afflictions” could mean
- C. What the Bible says about suffering persecution
 - 1) The reality of persecution
 - 2) The response we should have when persecuted
 - 3) The rewards for rejoicing when persecuted

The Mystery that is Made Manifest (Colossians 1:25-27)

- 1. The responsibility to fulfill God’s Word (25)
- 2. The recipients of the mystery (26)
- 3. The revelation of the mystery (26-27)
 - A. The meaning of mystery (26)
 - B. The mystery that was made manifest (27)
 - 1) Some suggest it refers to the Gentiles and Jews being one in Christ
 - 2) I hold to the view that it speaks of Christ in us through the person of the Holy Spirit
- 4. The riches of the glory of Christ in you
 - A. The promise of His presence
 - B. The promise of His power
 - C. The promise of His protection
 - D. The promise of being a partaker of His nature
 - E. The promise of perfection

How—and Why—Paul Preached Christ (Colossians 1:28-29)

- 1. The message Paul—and others—preached (28)
 - A. The priority of preaching Christ
 - B. The partners in preaching Christ
- 2. The methods of Paul’s preaching (28)
 - A. It involved warning
 - B. It involved teaching
 - C. It involved everyone
- 3. The motivation behind Paul’s preaching (28)
 - A. The future presentation
 - B. The present possibility of sanctification
- 4. The manner of Paul’s preaching (29)
 - A. He worked hard
 - B. He depended on God working in him

Paul’s Concern for the Colossians—and His Conviction Concerning Christ! (Colossians 2:1-3)

- 1. Paul’s conflict (1)
- 2. Paul’s commitment (2)
 - A. The meaning of comforted
 - B. The meaning of being knit together
 - C. The meaning of instructed in love
- 3. Paul’s conviction (2-3)
 - A. Riches of the full assurance of understanding
 - B. The result: true knowledge of God’s mystery—Christ!

How Not to Be Beguiled! (Colossians 2:4-7)

1. Paul's concern (4)
 - A. The people Paul is warning
 - B. The possibility of being deceived
 - C. The particulars of being deceived
 - 1) It involved enticing words
 - 2) It sought to pull them from Christ
 - 3) It promoted pride instead of humility
2. Paul's commendation (5)
 - A. Paul commends them for their order
 - B. Paul commends them for their steadfastness
3. Paul's command (6) – which is really God's command
4. The characteristics of a Christ-reflecting life (7)
 - A. It is a life that has been rooted in Christ
 - B. It is a life that is to be continually built up in Christ
 - C. It is a life that is to be continually established in the faith
 - D. It is a life that requires a reliance on God's Word
 - E. It is a life that is to be continually abounding in thanksgiving

DON'T CHOOSE CAPTIVITY OVER CONTENTEDNESS IN CHRIST (Colossians 2:8-10)

1. The danger of captivity (8)
 - A. The meaning of being "spoiled"
 - B. The means through which we can be spoiled
 - 1) The tradition of men
 - 2) The rudiments of the world
 - 3) Not after (according to) Christ
2. The doctrine of the deity of Christ (9)
3. The declaration regarding our identity (10)

COMPREHENDING OUR COMPLETENESS IN CHRIST – Part 1 (Colossians 2:11-12)

1. Spiritual surgery (11)
 - A. The physical explanation of the picture
 - B. The spiritual explanation of the picture
 - C. The spiritual application from the text
 - 1) What is cut away
 - 2) How our sin nature is "cut away"—and removed
 - 3) When our sin nature is "cut away" and disposed of
 - D. The practical application of the teaching
2. Waterless baptism (12)
 - A. The physical explanation of the picture
 - B. The spiritual explanation of the picture
 - C. The practical application of the teaching
 - 1) Don't feed the dragon!
 - 2) Live by the faith of the Son of God!
 - 3) Be thankful!

COMPREHENDING OUR COMPLETENESS IN CHRIST – Part 2 (Colossians 2:13-14)

1. Coming back to life—after being dead! (12-13)
 - A. The physical explanation of the picture
 - B. The spiritual explanation of the picture
 - 1) The “deadness” of their past condition
 - 2) The declaration regarding their present condition
 - C. The spiritual application of the picture
 - 1) The faith aspect
 - 2) The practical aspect
2. The blotting out of a debt (14)
 - A. The physical explanation of the picture
 - B. The spiritual explanation of the picture
 - C. The spiritual application of the picture
 - 1) Don’t take sin lightly!
 - 2) Enjoy—but be humbled by—the fact that you are forgiven
 - 3) Share Christ with others
 - 4) Surrender your life to God

COMPREHENDING OUR COMPLETENESS IN CHRIST – Part 3 (Colossians 2:14-15)

1. A second look at what was nailed to the cross (14)
 - A. The possibility of “ordinances” referring to the law
 - 1) The meaning of the word
 - 2) The context
 - 3) Other uses
 - B. The pronouncements that believers are no longer under the law
 - C. The practical and spiritual application of not being under the law
 - 1) The law is good
 - 2) The law is inspired by God and profitable
 - 3) We are under a higher law than the law of Moses
2. Triumphant over enemies (15)
 - A. The physical explanation of the picture
 - B. The spiritual explanation of the picture
 - 1) What power has been stripped from Satan?
 - 2) How was power stripped from Satan?
 - 3) When was Satan publicly shamed as a defeated enemy?
 - C. The spiritual application of the picture
 - 1) Don’t fear death!
 - 2) Don’t listen to Satan’s attempt to throw the book at you!
 - 3) Don’t be deceived by demonic forces—or false teachers—that promote the lie that Christ is not enough!

DON’T BE JUDGED—AND DON’T BE DISQUALIFIED FROM YOUR PRIZE (Colossians 2:16-19)

1. Resist being condemned by—and condemning others—regarding rule-keeping
 - A. The definition of legalism
 - B. A description of legalism
 - C. Declarations of legalism. Here are some attitudes that are underneath legalism:
 - 1) To promote legalism undermines the teaching that the law was nailed to the cross

- 2) To promote legalism puts manmade laws above God's law
 - 3) Legalism neglects the heart
 - 4) Legalism promotes pride
- D. Decision regarding legalism
- 2. Remain "reward-worthy" by rejecting false teaching
 - A. Remain "reward-worthy"
 - B. Reject the teachings of the false teachers
 - 1) They promoted a "voluntary" humility
 - 2) They worshipped angels
 - 3) They had "special" experiences
 - 4) They did not hold onto Christ
- 3. Remain "reward-worthy" by "holding unto" the Head
 - A. What holding unto Christ looks like
 - 1) We will be content in Him
 - 2) We will submit to Him
 - B. What holding unto Christ results in
 - 1) We will have "nourishment ministered"
 - 2) We will be knit together
 - 3) We will increase with the increase of God

SELF-INFLICTED SUFFERING DOES NOT SANCTIFY! (Colossian 2:20-23)

If you have died with Christ and are separated from the rule-keeping way that the world teaches to become righteous, why subject yourselves to those same man-made rules?

- 1. The doctrine behind the "if/why" question
 - A. True believers are considered dead—and risen—with Christ
 - B. True believers can be misled about the way to become holy
- 2. The dismay behind the "if/why" question
- 3. The description of the teaching that prompted the question
 - A. Their teaching was works-oriented instead of faith-based
 - B. Their commandments were man-made—not God-given
 - C. Their teaching promoted "showiness" on the outside—but no heart change on the inside!
- 4. The deficiency of what was being taught
 - A. It had no lasting value
 - B. It does not curtail our sin nature
- 5. The decisions we need to make when considering the question
 - A. Make sure you are dead with Christ!
 - B. Reject the teaching—and thinking—that you can become holy by keeping rules!
 - C. Reject the teaching—and thinking—that self-inflicted suffering will make you holy!
 - D. Work on your relationship with God!

THE REALITY OF, RESPONSE TO, AND REWARDS OF BEING RISEN WITH CHRIST (Colossian 3:1-4)

- 1. The reality of being risen with Christ
- 2. The response to being risen with Christ
 - A. Seek Christ
 - B. Set your affection (your mindset/thinking) on things above
 - 1) Recognize you are not your own
 - 2) Reject being pre-occupied with this life

- 3) Remember that Jesus could return at any time
- 4) Renew your mind by being in God's Word
- 5) Resolve to consider what pleases Christ when you make decisions

3. The rewards of being risen with Christ

- A. Christ shall appear
- B. We shall appear with Christ in glory. What does that mean?
 - 1) The place of glory (heaven)
 - 2) The perfection of glory (having a glorified body)
 - 3) Positions of glory (?) ("Kings and priests unto God")

MORTIFY YOUR MEMBERS (Colossian 3:5-7)

1. The command to mortify

- A. The meaning
- B. The members

2. The content of what we are to mortify

NOTE: I did not publicly discuss these "sexual sins" due to having young children in attendance, but the notes below were on the hand-out for the adults.

--"Fornication" (from "por-NAY-ah") refers to all kinds of sexual immorality. Similar lists: Mt 15:19; Rom 1:29-32; I Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:19

--"Uncleanness" (impurity) includes impurity of thought as well as deed

--"Inordinate affection" = strong lust/passion of a sexual nature (Pao)

--"Evil concupiscence" = evil desire to pursue that which is forbidden

- A. The sinfulness of covetousness
- B. The similarity between covetousness and idolatry

3. The consequences for failing to mortify

4. The conquering of our old lifestyle

- A. The example of those who had gotten victory
- B. The exhortations for having victory
 - 1) Become a child of God! Can't fight your sin nature w/o a new nature!
 - 2) Believe we can live a God-pleasing life (Col 1:10, 28)
 - 3) Be persuaded of all we have in Christ (Col 2:3, 11)
 - 4) Seek Christ and focus on Him and the things above (Col 3:1,2)
 - 5) Be radical, serious, & intentional about getting rid of sin in our life (Col 3:5)
 - 6) Yield your "members" (body parts) to God (Romans 6:13, 19).

WHICH MAN IS MANAGING YOUR MOUTH? (Colossian 3:8-10)

1. What we are to put off

- A. Internalized sins that **may not** be verbalized
 - 1) Anger
 - 2) Wrath
 - 3) Malice
- B. Internalized sins that are verbalized
 - 1) Blasphemy
 - 2) Filthy communication
 - 3) Lie not one to another

2. Why we are to put-off these sins

- A. Because we have put off the old man
- B. Because we have put on the new man
- C. Because we are members of a new family—the body of Christ (covered in next sermon)

YOUR NEW MAN PLACES YOU IN A NEW FAMILY WHERE CHRIST IS ALL—AND IN ALL (Colossians 3:11)

1. The members of the body
 - A. The variety of the members in the body
 - B. The priority of identity of members in the body
 - C. The equality of the members in the body
2. The Master of the body
 - A. Christ is all regarding our salvation
 - B. Christ is all regarding our sanctification
 - C. Christ should be all regarding our submission

OUR NEW “DRESS CODE” FOR CHURCH! (Colossians 3:12-13)

1. The command to “put-on”
 - A. The recipients
 - B. The reason: We are the elect, holy, and beloved
2. The characteristics of our “clothing”
 - A. Bowels of mercies = heart of compassion
 - B. Kindness
 - C. Humbleness of Mind = humility
 - D. Meekness = gentleness—and strength under control
 - E. Longsuffering = patience, the quality of being “long-tempered”
3. Carrying out the characteristics—in conflicts in the church!
 - A. Forbearing one another
 - B. Forgiving one another

FORGIVE AS YOU’VE BEEN FORGIVEN—AND PUT ON LOVE ABOVE ALL ELSE! (Colossians 3:13b-14)

1. Forgive as you’ve been forgiven
 - A. The necessity of forgiveness
 - B. The meaning of forgiveness (Mt 18:21-27)
 - 1) How many times do we forgive?
 - 2) What does forgiveness mean?
 - 3) Forgiveness is both an event and a process
 - 4) Does forgiving mean forgetting?
 - C. The model of forgiveness
 - 1) Forgiveness is underserved
 - 2) Forgiveness is free to the forgiven—but not for the forgiver!
 - 3) Jesus had a forgiving spirit—before there was repentance!
2. Put on love above all these things
 - A. The priority of love
 - B. The power of love
 - C. The practice of love
 - 1) Help with physical needs. (I John 3:17; James 2:15-16)
 - 2) Do “good” when we have the opportunity. (Galatians 6:10)
 - 3) Bear one another’s burdens. (Romans 12:15; 15:1; I Cor 12:26; Galatians 6:3)
 - 4) Warn one another about sin! (Hebrews 3:12-13)
 - 5) “Stir up” one another to love and to good works. (Hebrews 10:24)
 - 6) Speak that which is edifying. (Ephesians 4:29; Romans 14:19)
 - 7) Esteem others better than ourselves. (Philippians 2:3; Rom 12:10)

- 8) Restore those overtaken in sin. (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20).
- 9) Don't put a stumbling block in your brother's way! (Romans 14:13; I Corinthians 8:13; I Corinthians 10:32-33)
- 10) Pray for one another. (Ephesians 6:18; James 5:16)

RULED BY PEACE, FILLED WITH GOD'S WORD, AND DOING ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS (Colossians 3:15-17)

1. Be ruled by peace in yourselves—and in the church (15)
 - A. Be ruled by peace as an individual (15a)
 - B. Be reminded of your call to peace in one body (15b)
 - C. Be resolved to be thankful (15c)
2. Be filled with the word of Christ (16)
 - A. The meaning of the word of Christ dwelling in us (16a)
 - B. The manner in which Christ's word is to dwell in us (16a)
 - C. The manifestation of Christ's word dwelling richly in us (16b-c)
 - 1) We will teach and admonish one another
 - 2) We will sing joyfully to the Lord!
3. Do all in the name of Jesus (17)
 - A. Actions (17a)
 - B. Attitudes (giving thanks) (17b)

WIVES, SUBMIT! (Colossians 3:18)

1. The mandate to submit
2. The meaning of submit
 - A. Has the command expired?
 - B. Are there exceptions?
3. The model of submission
4. The motive for submission
5. The manner of submission (Eph 5:22-24)
 - A. Attitude
 - 1) Respect
 - 2) Trust
 - B. Actions
 - 1) The "don'ts"
 - 2) The "do's"
 - C. Acquiescence
 - D. Acceptable exceptions
 - E. Acknowledgement of the need for God's help

HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES! (Colossians 3:19a)

1. The husband's mandate to love his wife
2. The meaning of love
3. The manifestation of God's love to the unsaved
4. The model of love toward our wives
5. The motive for loving our wives
 - A. Baxter on reading and friendships
 - B. Baxter on praying together—and in secret
6. The manner of loving our wives

- A. Sacrificially
- B. Unconditionally
- C. Patiently and tenderly

HUSBANDS, BE NOT BITTER AGAINST YOUR WIVES! (Colossians 3:19b)

1. The pronouncement to “be not bitter”
2. The problems that can lead husbands to be bitter against their wives
 - A. Unfulfilled desires
 - 1) Practical
 - 2) Emotional
 - 3) Spiritual
 - B. Unrealistic demands
 - C. Unresolved differences
 - D. Unforeseen difficulties
3. The prevention—or resolution—of bitterness
 - A. Have fair expectations of others
 - B. Have a forgiving spirit
 - C. Have faith in God

CHILDREN OBEY; FATHER’S PROVOKE NOT! (Colossians 3:20-21)

1. Children, obey your parents in all things
 - A. The meaning of obey
 - B. The manner children are to obey
 - 1) In actions
 - 2) In attitude
 - 3) “In all things”
 - C. The model of obedience
 - D. The motivation to obey
 - 1) Because obedience pleases God
 - 2) Because obedience brings blessing from God
 - 3) Because disobedience brings trouble from God
2. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger
 - A. The meaning of “provoke not”
 - B. The manner in which fathers can provoke
 - 1) Criticism without praise
 - 2) Hypocrisy
 - 3) Outer conformity—but neglect of the heart
 - C. The model for “provoking not”
 - 1) God the Father does not constantly “nit-pick”
 - 2) God the Father gives us countless encouragements
 - 3) God the Father welcomes the prodigal son—or daughter—home
 - D. The motivation to “provoke not”

WHO IS THE MASTER OF YOUR WORKPLACE? (Colossians 3:22-4:1)

1. Our new Master
2. Our new mindset
 - A. Acknowledge your new “Boss”!

- B. Your old boss is still your boss!
 - C. Serve your old boss as if serving your new “Boss.”
 - 1) In singleness of heart
 - 2) With our whole heart
- 3. Our new motivation
 - A. Reverence for the Lord
 - B. Rewards from the Lord
- 4. Our new mission field

PRAY PERSISTENTLY, WALK IN WISDOM, AND WEIGH OUR WORDS (Colossians 4:2-6)

- 1. Pray persistently—for the spread of the gospel
 - A. Who is to pray
 - B. The way to pray
 - 1) Persistently
 - 2) Watchfully
 - 3) Thankfully
 - C. The “what” to pray for
 - 1) Pray for laborers who share the gospel
 - 2) Pray for open doors to share the gospel
 - 3) Pray for clarity in sharing the gospel
- 2. Walk in wisdom for the spread of the gospel
 - A. The meaning of walk
 - B. The manner of their walk—in wisdom
 - 1) Where does wisdom come from?
 - 2) What does walking in wisdom look like?
 - 3) What will a walk of wisdom result in?
- 3. Weigh our words
 - A. Always with grace
 - B. Seasoned with salt
 - C. Tailored to each person

PAUL’S PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE COLOSSIAN BELIEVERS (Colossians 4:7-11)

- 1. The mission of the messengers
 - A. The men
 - 1) Tychicus
 - 2) Onesimus
 - B. The mission
 - 1) Declare Paul’s state to them
 - 2) Determine their state and “comfort” their hearts
- 2. The comfort of the co-workers
 - A. The co-workers of Paul
 - 1) Aristarchus
 - 2) Marcus
 - 3) Jesus, called Justus
 - B. Their comfort to Paul

What does “comfort” mean? **Here it means** “to speak or counsel in a soothing way”—like medicine that takes away pain and discomfort” (HELPS Word-studies; Biblehub.com; Strong’s 3931). Observations:

- 1) Leaders need encouragement
- 2) Our lives can be an encouragement to others
- 3) You don't need to be a leader to be a "comforter"
- 4) Any of us can be fellow-workers in the kingdom of God

PAUL'S PASTORAL PRIORITIES (Colossians 4:12-18)

1. Praying for God's people (vs 12a)
 - A. The example of Epaphras
 - B. The example of Paul
 2. Promoters of God's will (vs 12b)
 - A. An explanation of "perfect and complete in all the will of God"
 - B. The example of Paul
 3. Passionate about God's Word (vs 16)
 - A. Because of Who they were from
 - B. Because of why it was given
 4. Purposeful in doing God's work (vs 17)
 - A. The man
 - B. The ministry
 - C. The mandate
-