

Colossians Review

Paul's message to the church at Colossae was clear. Christ must always come first in **Christianity**. If we have lost sight of Christ then we are far off the right path and are in serious danger. We begin with Christ and we continue with Christ. Christ is our life. Any self-denial, human philosophy, human rules and traditions or so-called "spiritual" experiences do not produce growth in the Christian life if they are not rooted in Christ. Just as we are not justified by works we are not sanctified by works of the flesh. God by his grace has saved us and God by his grace will conform us to the image of his beloved Son, Jesus.

Who Christ is

- 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God
- 1:15 He is supreme over (the firstborn of) all creation
- 1:17 He is before all things
- 1:18 He is the head of the body, the church
- 1:18 He is the beginning
- 1:18 He is firstborn from the dead
- 1:18 He is preeminent
- 1:19 All the fullness of God was pleased to dwell in him
- 2:3 In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
- 2:9 In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily
- 2:10 He is the head of all rule and authority
- 2:17 He is the substance as compared to the shadow of Old Testament ceremonial law
- 3:1 He is seated at the right hand of God
- 3:11 He is all and in all

Christ's Work

- 1:16 All things were created by him, through him and for him
- 1:17 In him all things are held together
- 1:20 All things are reconciled to himself through him
- 1:20 He made peace by the blood of his cross
- 1:22 He has reconciled us in his body by his death
- 1:22 He will present us holy, blameless and above reproach

- 2:17 He has made the Old Testament ceremonial law no longer binding since he is the substance who fulfilled the meaning of the shadows, the ceremonial law
- 2:19 He nourishes, holds together and grows the church
- 3:4 He will appear in glory at his second coming

In Christ

- 1:14 we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins
- 2:10 we have been filled
- 2:11 we were circumcised with a circumcision made without human hands

With Christ

- 2:12 we were buried
- 2:12 we were raised
- 2:13 we were made alive
- 2:20 we died to the elemental spirits of the world
- 3:1 we have been raised
- 3:3 our lives are hidden in God
- 3:4 we will appear in glory

The Father has

- 1:12 qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints
- 1:13 delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son
- 2:12 raised Christ from the dead
- 2:13 made us alive
- 2:13 forgave us all our trespasses
- 2:14 canceled the record of debt that stood against us
- 2:15 disarmed rulers and authorities, putting them to shame and triumphing over them

Life before Christ

- 1:21 alienated from God, hostile in mind, doing evil deeds
- 2:13 dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of the flesh
- 3:7 lived and walked in evil ways

Life With Christ

- 1:2 saints
- 1:2 faithful brothers
- 1:4 love for all the saints
- 1:5 have a hope laid up in heaven
- 1:12 share in the inheritance of the saints
- 1:13 delivered from the dominion of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of his beloved Son
- 1:14 redeemed and forgiven
- 1:22 reconciled
- 1:22 will be presented holy, blameless and above reproach
- 2:10 filled in Christ
- 3:9 have put off the old self (man)
- 3:10 have put on the new self (man)

The False Teachers

- 2:4 They tried to deceive the Colossians with arguments that sounded true but were actually false
- 2:8 They tried to take the Colossians captive through philosophy and empty deceit
- 2:8 The source of their teaching was based on human tradition and was not according to Christ
- 2:16 They passed judgment on the Colossians if they did not observe Jewish food and drink regulations, feasts and the Sabbath.
- 2:18 They tried to disqualify the Colossians by insisting on asceticism and worship of angels
- 2:21 They were pushing human regulations which were summarized by “do not handle, do not taste, do not touch”
- 2:23 The “self help” and “self denial” methods they were pushing appeared to be good but were not successful in combating the old sinful nature. You can’t fight a spiritual battle with earthly weapons.

Commands and Exhortations

- 1:23 Continue in the faith
- 2:6 Walk in Christ as you received Christ

- 2:7 Be rooted and built up in Christ
- 2:7 Be established in the faith
- 2:7, 3:15-17, 4:2 Abound in thanksgiving
- 2:8 Don't be taken captive by philosophy and empty deceit
- 2:16 Don't let anyone pass judgment on you for not following the Old Testament ceremonial law
- 2:18 Don't let anyone disqualify you through asceticism or worship of angels
- 2:20-22 Do not submit to regulations based on human precepts and teachings which are not from God
- 3:1 Seek the things that are above
- 3:2 Set your mind on things that are above
- 3:5 Put to death what is earthly in you
- 3:8 Put the old manner of life away
- 3:12 Put on the new self (man)
- 3:14 Put on love
- 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
- 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
- 3:17 Do everything in the name of Jesus
- 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands
- 3:19 Husbands, love your wives
- 3:20 Children, obey your parents
- 3:21 Slaves, obey your masters
- 4:1 Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly
- 4:2-3 Continue steadfastly in prayer
- 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, make the most of the time
- 4:6 Let your speech be gracious