

The All Sufficiency of Christ
Colossians
Lesson #1 – Col. 1:1-2

- I. Introduction
 - A. Overview
 1. Key Theme: Jesus Christ is preeminent
 2. Key Verse: **Colossians 1:18**
¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
 - B. Outline
 1. Doctrine: Christ's Preeminence Declared – Chapter 1
 2. Doctrine: Christ's Preeminence Defenced – Chapter 2
 3. Duty: Christ's Preeminence Demonstrated – Chapters 3 & 4
- II. The Characteristics of Colossae
 - A. The City
 - B.
 1. Existed during time of Xeres, King of Persia – 486-465 during the time of Esther. An old city about 500 years before Christ.
 2. 100 miles east of Ephesus (modern Turkey)
 3. With Hieropolis and Laodicea, formed important trade route between East and West
 4. Laodicea was capital of the Roman district – banking center
 5. Hieropolis had mineral springs and was health resort
 6. Colossae became second class but had a church there
 - C. The Church
 1. Epaphras and Philemon came to saving faith
 2. Epaphras one of the founders of the church in Colossae (Colossians 4:12-13)
¹²Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. ¹³I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.
 3. Met in homes (Philemon 1:2) and made up of mostly Gentiles with some Jewish converts.
²to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home:
 - D.. The Condition (v.2)
 1. Holy – set apart ones
 2. Faithful – loyal and believing the Word
 3. Brothers – oneness of spiritual parentage and intimacy of fellowship
 4. In Christ – their spiritual position; continual affirmation of truth to the core group

III. The Cause for Concern

A. The Crisis

1. Jewish element – over emphasis on ritualism, dietary laws and holy day observances
2. Pagan element – over emphasis on philosophical knowledge including angel worship and mediating spirits
3. Christian element – a de-emphasis on the person and work of Christ

Colossians 1

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the holy and faithful^[a] brothers in Christ at Colosse:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.^[b]

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our^[c] behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you^[d] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption,^[e] the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[f] your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Paul's Labor for the Church

²⁴Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— ²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. ²⁷To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

²⁸We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.