

# COLOSSIANS

FOR BEGINNERS

MIKE MAZZALONGO

## STUDENT WORKBOOK

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# Colossians for Beginners

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## Mike Mazzalongo

This 12 part series is an easy to understand explanation of Paul's epistle to the Colossian church. In it, the Apostle describes the many facets of Christ's pre-eminence (superiority) in both the physical and spiritual worlds thus establishing the reasons for His Lordship over all.



**[bibletalk.tv/colossians](https://bibletalk.tv/colossians)**

# 1. Introduction

Background information on the date and circumstance surrounding the writing of this epistle by Paul, the apostle.

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Intro - Each book of the Bible has a theme and general purpose.

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## I. Background - Author, Paul the Apostle - 32-67 AD.

32-34 AD \_\_\_\_\_

35 AD \_\_\_\_\_

36-42 AD \_\_\_\_\_

42-44 AD \_\_\_\_\_

44 AD \_\_\_\_\_

45-57 AD \_\_\_\_\_

58-60 AD \_\_\_\_\_

60-61 AD \_\_\_\_\_

61-63 AD \_\_\_\_\_

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63 AD \_\_\_\_\_

64-66 AD \_\_\_\_\_

67 AD \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Background Letter to Colossians

Letter written by Paul in 61-63 AD during first imprisonment. \_\_\_\_\_

Philemon vs. 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Paul writes three letters after Epaphroditus' departure:

Colossians \_\_\_\_\_

Philemon \_\_\_\_\_

Ephesians \_\_\_\_\_

*Letters sent by Tychicus and Onesimus.*

## III. Background - City of Colossae

## IV. Background - Letter Content

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The heresy at Colossae mixed several elements:

Greek philosophy \_\_\_\_\_

Oriental religion \_\_\_\_\_

Jewish law/tradition \_\_\_\_\_

Observation of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Superior \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Paul's response is \_\_\_\_\_

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## V. Outline - Colossians

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:1-2

\_\_\_\_\_ 1:3-29

\_\_\_\_\_ 2:1-3:4

\_\_\_\_\_ 3:5-4:1

\_\_\_\_\_ 4:2-18

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Colossians 1:1-2

Paul argues for the all sufficiency of Christ and His teachings over the false wisdom being touted by heretical teachers.

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Intro - Last week we reviewed the background against which this epistle was written.

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### I. Outline

Note the simple outline.

1. Salutation – vs. 1-2

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2. Christ: Preeminent in personal relationship – 1:3-29

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3. Christ: Preeminent in doctrine – 2:1-3:4

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4. Christ: Preeminent in ethics – 3:5-4:6

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5. Conclusion and Greetings – 4:7-18

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## II. Salutation - 1:1-2

Vs. 1 - Paul is careful to include his title of Apostle in his salutation.

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Vs. 2 - In the second verse he recognizes the brethren to whom the letter is sent.

1. Saints \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Faithful brethren \_\_\_\_\_

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He then offers a blessing that only God provides and one that is most precious.

Grace \_\_\_\_\_

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Peace \_\_\_\_\_

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Of course, these gifts (grace and peace) are in marked contrast with what these people have been experiencing with their new teachers and new doctrine.

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No religion can improve on the gospel of grace (God offering forgiveness and perfection based on faith in Jesus Christ expressed in repentance and baptism).

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The gospel of Christ declares three simple truths:

1. All are \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Romans 3:23; 6:23

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2. No one \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Galatians 2:16a

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3. The only \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Acts 4:12; Gal. 2:16b

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God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all men, but the \_\_\_\_\_ of His adopted children, Christians.

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### 3. Colossians 1:3-12

Paul offers a prayer which will serve as a bridge to the idea that Christ is pre-eminent in their relationship with God.

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Intro - Last week we reviewed Paul's introductory remarks.

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#### I. Christ: Preeminent in Relationship – 1:3 – 2:7

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##### 1. The History of the Colossian Church – vs. 3-8

Verses 3-8 are one long sentence with many sub-clauses.

Vs. 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 4-5a – Paul explains his reasons for thanksgiving.

A. Faith \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Love \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Hope \_\_\_\_\_

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“Metonymy” \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 5b-8 – Paul expands his comment on hope and its relationship to the gospel.

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A. Where the information about hope comes from – vs. 5b \_\_\_\_\_

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B. What the gospel is doing – vs. 6 \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Who delivered the message? – vs. 7-8 \_\_\_\_\_

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**2. The Future of the Colossian Church – vs. 9-12**

Paul turns from discussing the past to a prayer request for their future. He asks God to bless them with very specific blessings.

A. Knowledge \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 9

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B. Ability \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 10

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C. Increased \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 11a

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D. Joyful \_\_\_\_\_ vs. 11b-12

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### **Lessons**

In our next lesson we'll move on to the central theme of the letter – the all-sufficiency of Christ. This section, however, contains some basic life lessons:

1. Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_

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2. We have \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Ask for Spiritual blessings \_\_\_\_\_

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## 4. Colossians 1:13-18a

This lesson continues to develop the thought that Christ is first and foremost as far as a relationship with God is concerned.

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### I. Christ: Preeminent in Personal Relationships - 1:3-2:7

Paul bridges his thoughts in prayer to his next main point by using the term “inheritance of the saints of light.”

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Vs. 13-14 – These verses include several important concepts:

A. Rescue \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Domain \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

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D. Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_

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E. Forgiveness/Redemption \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 15-17 – Keep in mind that Paul was addressing false “teachers” with his comments.  
Paul describes a chain of command where Christ is every link in the chain:

1. Image of the invisible God \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. First born of all creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Power of creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Purpose of creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Before creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Sustainer of creation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Head of the Church \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Summary

The basic argument of the false teachers was that in some way Christ was not enough to secure or maintain one's salvation with God.

Paul's answer in Christ's \_\_\_\_\_

The only thing that mattered was Christ Himself because:

- He was \_\_\_\_\_
- He was \_\_\_\_\_
- He was \_\_\_\_\_
- He \_\_\_\_\_
- He \_\_\_\_\_
- He uses \_\_\_\_\_
- He is \_\_\_\_\_

## Lessons

1. We must have a \_\_\_\_\_

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2. When we have Christ, \_\_\_\_\_

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3. When we pray, \_\_\_\_\_

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## 5. Colossians 1:18b-29

The third part of a series of lessons exploring the teaching on Jesus' preeminence in personal relationships.

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### I. Why Jesus is Preeminent – 1:18-23

Paul has already listed Jesus' credentials for preeminence and has done so from God's perspective.

- Image \_\_\_\_\_
- Firstborn \_\_\_\_\_
- Power \_\_\_\_\_
- Purpose \_\_\_\_\_
- Sustains \_\_\_\_\_
- Head \_\_\_\_\_

Paul now describes Jesus' position from a human perspective.

Vs. 18a – Jesus is head of the church based on \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 18b \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 19-20 \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul adds an important condition necessary for the relationship between ourselves and God to continue: \_\_\_\_\_.

Vs. 21 \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 22 \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 23 – The conditions:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## II. Why Paul is a Credible Minister – 1:24-29

The false teachers were attacking Paul’s credibility as an apostle of Christ.

Paul responds by pointing to his own credentials.

Vs. 24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 28-29 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Paul challenges his detractors to compare their credentials with his own in three specific areas:

- He shares \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- He is an appointed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- He ministers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Summary

Everything that exists, exists in relationship to Christ first – this is the basis of His preeminence.

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**Lessons**

1. The methods \_\_\_\_\_

A. \_\_\_\_\_

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B. \_\_\_\_\_

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Jude 3 \_\_\_\_\_

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2. The Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

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Ephesians 1:1-ff \_\_\_\_\_

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Colossians 1:28 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Suffering is \_\_\_\_\_

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## 6. Colossians 2:1-14

Paul transitions to a discussion concerning the preeminent position of Jesus' doctrine.

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Paul builds his case for the preeminence of Christ in order to refute the position and teaching of false teachers who would undermine this fact.

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### I. Christ: Preeminent in Doctrine - 2:1 - 3:4

Paul will move ahead to show that Jesus' teachings are preeminent when compared to other teachings on religion and morals.

Vs. 1

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Vs. 2

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If you believe in Christ, you have the key to all the teachings of the Apostles.

Vs. 3

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Vs. 4-5 - Paul states that he has established Jesus' teachings as revelation so that they will not be "persuaded" to abandon these teachings for some other form of doctrine.

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Vs. 6-7 – The best way to prove doctrine is to live it. \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 8 \_\_\_\_\_

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Their tactics are the teaching of ideas and concepts from a variety of sources other than Christ.

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Vs. 9-15 – Paul gives four reasons why the Colossians should not be held responsible to any teaching that does not have its base in Christ’s teachings.

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. 9

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2. They are complete \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. 10a

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3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. 10b

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4. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Vs. 11



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Vs. 11-12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 13-14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We go into the water as sinners condemned by the Law that accuses and condemns us of sins – and two things happen in that watery grave:

A. The bill is **paid** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. The old nature is cut away.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Colossians 2:15-23

In this lesson the Apostle delves into the heart of the gospel message by listing the blessings accomplished by the cross of Christ. He also encourages the church not to be pulled away from the core doctrine of the cross.

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Paul responds to the false teachers:

1. Only \_\_\_\_\_ links us to \_\_\_\_\_.

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2. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ to all \_\_\_\_\_.

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3. Spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is superior.

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Paul will continue explaining some of the other things Jesus accomplished at the cross.

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### I. Victories of the Cross - vs. 15

Verse 15 is the summary statement for all that is said from verse 8.

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Paul uses the imagery of Gentile soldiers and how they treated their enemies.

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His reference is directed towards the false teachers and their doctrines.

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## **II. The Traps of False Teachers / Teachings**

Paul warns the Colossians of the traps laid by false teachers and their teachings.

1. The trap of \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 16-17

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The false teachers were trying to convince the gentile Christians that the “shadow” was more important than the actual substance of the shadow – Jesus Christ.

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2. The Trap of \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 18-19

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Our “prize” is freedom from condemnation and eternal damnation.



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The false teachers were claiming the prize on a false basis.

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### III. Summary Statement - vs. 20-23

Paul asks his readers a question.

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You can't manipulate, improve, or destroy spiritual things with physical things.

### Lessons

1. Be Careful

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2. Be Confident

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## 8. Colossians 3:1-11

Paul begins to explore another area where Christ is first or preeminent and that is in the determination of what is ultimately right or wrong.

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### I. Christ: Preeminent in Ethics – 3:1-4:6

Paul begins chapter 3 by summarizing everything he has already said and presenting it as the basis for the rest of the section.

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#### The Standard for Christian Living – 3:1-4

Vs. 1a \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 1b \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Vs. 3-4 \_\_\_\_\_

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## II. Elements of the Christian standard – 3:5-4:6

The details of this spiritual/heavenly/Christian standard fall into several categories.

Personal Holiness – vs. 5-11

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Vs. 5a – Paul explains how to arrive at the heavenly standard of holiness.

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Vs. 5b – Paul mentions five things that we are to be “dead” to.

Four of these are sexual in nature and one is greed:

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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5. 

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Vs. 6-7

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Vs. 8 – The first group of sins mentioned bring harm to ourselves, the next group harm others.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 9-11 – Paul also emphasizes the need for honesty in relationships.

Vs. 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 10 \_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 11 \_\_\_\_\_

**Summary**

Today we reviewed the first element in the heavenly standard for living, purity of life. Next week we'll continue with the second element \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 9. Colossians 3:12-17

This lesson continues the discussion on Christian ethics and how various elements come together to establish a Christian "Standard" for life and morality.

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### I. Elements of the Christian Standard (continued)

In verses 12-17, Paul will describe several individual things that are trademarks of Christian attitude and conduct.

3:12a \_\_\_\_\_

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Paul describes their true identity:

A. Chosen \_\_\_\_\_

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B. Holy \_\_\_\_\_

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C. Beloved \_\_\_\_\_

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Once he's reminded them of their true standing with God on account of Christ, Paul sets forth the second element in the true standard for Christian conduct and life.

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## II. A Loving \_\_\_\_\_ . Vs. 12b-14

Some things do not come naturally; we have to make an effort:

- Compassion \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Kindness \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Humility \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Meekness \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Patience \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Longsuffering \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## III. A Thankful \_\_\_\_\_ . Vs. 15-17

Personal holiness is our standard for conduct in \_\_\_\_\_.

A loving attitude is our standard for conduct in \_\_\_\_\_.

A thankful heart is our standard for our \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul mentions 3 ways we can experience and express gratitude as Christians before God:

A. Thankfulness for \_\_\_\_\_. Vs. 15

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B. A worship of \_\_\_\_\_. Vs. 16

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C. A life of motivated \_\_\_\_\_. Vs. 17

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### **Summary**

Paul teaches the true standard for Christian life established by Christ, as opposed to the false one established by the false teachers. The true one has, so far, three elements:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Colossians 3:18-21

In this lesson Paul will add the two final elements included in the Christian standard/ethic established by Jesus.

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Intro - Jesus' preeminent position in creation is the basis for the preeminence of His teachings.

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His teachings detail the elements that make up the Christian's "Standard" for living.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### I. Elements of the Christian Standard (continued)

#### 1. An ordered \_\_\_\_\_ . vs. 18-21

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Paul establishes the basis for an orderly family according to the words of Christ.

Vs. 18 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:16; Matthew 19:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



The submission of the wife to her husband is an easy concept to understand but a difficult one to accomplish for various reasons:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_

Whatever the situation, women need to understand several important things about this teaching.

- It is not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- It is not \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- It is something \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 19 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The commands to men concerning marriage remain the same:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ your wives.

Ephesians 5:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ toward your wives.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Keep in mind who the wife is:

Proverbs 18:22 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 2:24 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 20-21 - Paul summarizes the responsibilities of children as well.

1. Obedience to parents in \_\_\_\_\_ things.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Remember the promise \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

There is also a caution to fathers.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Summary

Paul says that the fourth element in the Christian standard of living

is an \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

He goes on to explain that an ordered family requires:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 11. Colossians 3:22-4:18

Paul continues describing the standard of living that flows from Jesus' teaching and adds a final feature of that design - an ordered society.

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The standard for Christian living has several features:

1. Holy \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. A loving \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. A thankful \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. An ordered \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This week we look at the final element Paul mentions.

## I. Features of the Christian Standard for living

### 1. An ordered \_\_\_\_\_ . 3:22-4:1

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#### A. Slaves - vs. 22-25

Three things to guide their Christian lives.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Masters (Free) – 4:1**

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**II. Conclusion and Greetings – 4:2-18**

If they accept Christ, their lives will show it by living according to these standards.

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Vs. 2-4 – He encourages them to pray for him.

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Vs. 5-6 – He encourages them to be careful how they communicate with non-Christians.

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Vs. 7-9 – He ends with greetings and commendations.

Tychicus

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Onesimus

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Vs. 12-13 – He mentions many Jewish Christians who, unlike the false teachers, remain faithful to teaching.

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Epaphras \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Luke \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Demas \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 15-18 - The final greetings and instructions come in rapid succession.

Vs. 15 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 16 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 17 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Vs. 18 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

With this last blessing Paul puts forth, and again, Christ as pre-eminent and the basis upon which:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 12. Conclusion

Final review lesson on the Colossian letter focusing on the idea that only Jesus is preeminent in every area of life, history, and the created world.

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Intro - The “supremacy” of Christ is the main point of this letter.

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### I. The Supremacy/Preeminence of Christ - Colossians 1:15-20

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Paul puts forth two main ideas in response to their false teaching.

#### A. It is Jesus Who is Supreme - vs. 15-18

In stating this fact Paul describes 7 areas in which Jesus is supreme:

1. He is supreme in \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 15a

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2. He holds the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 15b

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3. He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 16a

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4. He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ for existence. - vs. 16b

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5. He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 17

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6. He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of organized religion. - vs. 18a

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7. He is the supreme \_\_\_\_\_ of the eternal kingdom of heaven. - vs. 18b

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Paul adds a second important fact that his readers need to know about Jesus:

**B. Jesus, the supreme Lord, sacrificed Himself for them. Vs. 19-20**

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**II. Paul's Exhortation. Vs. 21-23**

If they accept Paul's letter as true, then they need to remember three important things:

Remember \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 21-22

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Remember \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 23a

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Colossians 2:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

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Acts 2:37-38 – The Pilgrim Gate

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- Remember \_\_\_\_\_ . - vs. 23b

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**Summary**

We also need Paul’s encouragement:

1. Hold on to \_\_\_\_\_ .

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2. Hold on to \_\_\_\_\_ .

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3. Hold on to \_\_\_\_\_ .

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Hold on to \_\_\_\_\_ .

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