

Jesus Christ: the Christian's Only Hope

Colossians 1-2

Paul is writing to the Christians in Colossae, who he had only heard of through others but had never met, to encourage them to remain focused on Jesus and His teachings and not get distracted or deceived by the teachings of men which leads to a self-made religion and away from the salvation found only in Jesus.

There and Then

Outline:

| Group ¹ | C | V | Description |
|--|---|-------|---|
| Thankfulness for Spiritual Attainments | 1 | 1 | Writers |
| | | 2 | Addressees; Salutation |
| | | 3-8 | Paul's Thanks For The Colossians For Their Faith And Love For The Saints |
| | | 9-12 | Paul's Earnest Prayer For The Colossians Spiritual Growth |
| The Incomparable Christ | 1 | 13-14 | God Rescued From Sin |
| | | 15-20 | Christ The Purpose And Sustainer Of All Things |
| | | 21-23 | Colossians Once Separated, Now Reconciled By Christ's Death |
| | | 24-29 | Paul's Willingness To Accept Sufferings For Being A Minister |
| You Are Built Up in Christ | 2 | 1-5 | Paul's Spiritual Struggle For The Faithful In Colossae And Laodicea, Even Having Never Met Them |
| | | 6-7 | So Walk ... |
| | | 8-15 | Be Careful Of Deceptive Teachers Who Lead Away From Christ |
| | | 16-19 | Don't Give Into Unnecessary Self-abasement "rules" |
| | | 20-23 | Practice Real Faith, Not Self-made Religion And Abatement |

People:

Paul, Jesus Christ, God, Timothy, saints, faithful brethren, God our Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Epaphras, fellow bond servant, faithful servant of Christ, Lord, Father, saints in Light, invisible God, firstborn of all creation, head of the body, the church, beginning, firstborn from the dead, Christ Jesus the Lord, rulers and authorities

Location:

Colossae, domain of darkness, kingdom of His beloved Son, Laodicea

Context²:

Written by Paul while imprisoned in Rome, around AD 60-62, to the church at Colossae, who he had never met but only heard about from Epaphras. It seems the letter was expected to be shared with other churches as well from the references to the church in Laodicea, both cities

1 (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

2 (Galan et al.; *The Holy Bible*; Fee and Stuart)

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were associated with another city, Hierapolis, as having medicinal pools or spas. Colossae was in a period of decline at the present.

It was written at a time when some human teachers were beginning to be teach the practices of self-abasement and denial of the deity of Jesus, His fully God—fully Man nature.

There were also challenges to Christians to return to Jewish legalism (in particular, food laws, following the Jewish calendar, and circumcision) and the onslaught of other human philosophies, all of which were mere man-made religion and not real faith as found rooted in the person and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Finally, Paul's emphasis in the letter on being apart of the church as a whole in spiritual growth as opposed to the individualism of these other philosophies is important to focus on while reading the book.

Key Words:

New Testament, Letters, Colossians, Christ, God, Things, Having, Body, According, Faith, Heard, Father, Jesus, Knowledge, One, Saints, Wisdom, World

Key Verse(s):

Colossians 1:15-16 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him, **7** having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Cross References³:

1:9—have not ceased

1 Samuel 12:23 "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you; but I will instruct you in the good and right way.

Acts 12:5 So Peter was kept in the prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God.

Romans 1:9-10 For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you, **10** always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

Ephesians 1:15-16 For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which *exists* among you and your love for all the saints, **16** do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention *of you* in my prayers;

Philippians 1:4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

³ (Smith 1379-1383)

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1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 16 Rejoice always; 17 pray without ceasing; 18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 1:3-4 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.

Philemon 1:4 I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

1:10—walk in a manner worthy

Genesis 5:22 Then Enoch walked with God three hundred years after he became the father of Methuselah, and he had *other* sons and daughters.

Psalms 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He will be like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Psalms 119:3 They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 21:36 "But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Romans 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

Ephesians 4:1-3 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Philippians 1:27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1:15—the image

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained *Him*.

John 14:9-11 Jesus *said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father?' 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

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2 Corinthians 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, **4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Philippians 2:5-7 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

Hebrews 1:3-4 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, **4** having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

1:20—having made peace through the blood

Leviticus 23:19 'You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering and two male lambs one year old for a sacrifice of peace offerings.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. **7** There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Ezekiel 16:62-63 "Thus I will establish My covenant with you, and you shall know that I am the LORD, **63** so that you may remember and be ashamed and never open your mouth anymore because of your humiliation, when I have forgiven you for all that you have done," the Lord GOD declares.

Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Too* little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

Zechariah 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout *in triumph*, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **10** I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim And the horse from Jerusalem; And the bow of war will be cut off. And He will speak peace to the nations; And His dominion will be from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

1 John 4:9-10 By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

Romans 3:23-26 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; **25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; **26** for the demonstration, *I say*, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the

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justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Ephesians 2:13-16 But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into* one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, **15** by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is* the Law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace, **16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.

Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

1:21—reconciled

Matthew 1:20-21 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Luke 1:68-69 "Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, **69** And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant

Luke 2:10-11 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; **11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 18:13-14 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' **14** "I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Hebrews 2:17-18 Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. **18** For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1:27—Christ in you

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Luke 17:20-21 Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; **21** nor will they say, 'Look, here *it is!*' or, 'There *it is!*' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

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John 6:56-58 "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58 "This is the bread which came down out of heaven; not as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever."

John 14:16-21 "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 17 *that is* the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, *but* you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also. 20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. 21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

John 15:2-4 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

John 17:22-26 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. 24 "Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 "O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; 26 and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

Romans 8:9-11 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. 10 If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. 11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 For even as the body is one and *yet* has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. 17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you. 18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

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Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, **20** having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*, **21** in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, **22** in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:14-19 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15** from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, **16** that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, **17** so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; *and* that you, being rooted and grounded in love, **18** may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19** and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

1 John 4:4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Revelation 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me.'

1:27—the hope of glory

Psalms 16:8-11 I have set the LORD continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. **9** Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely. **10** For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay. **11** You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Romans 8:18-21 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

1:28—complete in Christ

Colossians 2:9-12 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, **10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; **11** and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; **12** having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Matthew 5:48 "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

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Genesis 6:9 These are *the records of* the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.

Genesis 17:1 Now when Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; Walk before Me, and be blameless.

Leviticus 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, "You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

Deuteronomy 18:13 "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

1 Kings 8:61 "Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day."

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil.

Psalms 37:18 The LORD knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever.

Proverbs 21:3 To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice.

Proverbs 23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, But *live* in the fear of the LORD always.

Zephaniah 3:13 "The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths; For they will feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble."

Luke 6:36 "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher.

John 17:23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

1 Corinthians 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 13:9-11 For we rejoice when we ourselves are weak but you are strong; this we also pray for, that you be made complete. **10** For this reason I am writing these things while absent, so that when present I *need* not use severity, in accordance with the authority which the Lord gave me for building up and not for tearing down. **11** Finally, brethren, rejoice, be made complete, be comforted, be like-minded, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Ephesians 4:11-13 And He gave some *as* apostles, and some *as* prophets, and some *as* evangelists, and some *as* pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Philippians 3:12-16 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. **13** Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting

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what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, **14** I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; **16** however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

Hebrews 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

Hebrews 13:20-21 Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, *even* Jesus our Lord, **21** equip you in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

James 1:2-4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. **4** And let endurance have *its* perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many *ways*. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

1 Peter 5:10 After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen *and* establish you.

2 Peter 3:11-12 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, **12** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.

Jude 1:20-21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.

2:2—*knowledge of God's mystery*

Romans 16:25-27 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for long ages past, **26** but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations, *leading* to obedience of faith; **27** to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **19** For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Isaiah 53:11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His

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knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; **24** but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD.

Matthew 11:25-27 At that time Jesus said, "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. **26** "Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. **27** "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

Luke 10:21-24 At that very time He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight. **22** "All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*." **23** Turning to the disciples, He said privately, "Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things you see, **24** for I say to you, that many prophets and kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see *them*, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear *them*."

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 5:17 But He answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working."

John 5:19-27 Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. **20** "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and *the Father* will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel. **21** "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. **22** "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, **23** so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. **24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. **25** "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; **27** and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man."

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

John 10:37-38 "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; **38** but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."

John 14:9-11 Jesus *said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the

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Father? 10 "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. 11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.

John 17:20-23 "I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, *are* in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

1 Timothy 3:16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

2:6—so walk in Him

Isaiah 2:5 Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Micah 4:2-5 Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. 4 Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

John 14:6-7 Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. 7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight— 8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Ephesians 4:1-3 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

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Philippians 1:27-28 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; **28** in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

Hebrews 10:35-36 Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. **36** For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

James 3:13 Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.

1 John 2:4-6 The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

2:8—*no one takes you captive*

Deuteronomy 6:12-13 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. **13** "You shall fear *only* the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him and swear by His name.

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you.

Hebrews 3:12-13 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Acts 17:17-18, 30-32 So he was reasoning in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing *Gentiles*, and in the market place every day with those who happened to be present. **18** And also some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers were conversing with him. Some were saying, "What would this idle babbler wish to say?" Others, "He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities,"--because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ... **30** "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all *people* everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." **32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some *began* to sneer, but others said, "We shall hear you again concerning this."

Romans 1:21-23 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **23** and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

1 Corinthians 1:19-25 For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE

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CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." 20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

1 Corinthians 3:18-20 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you thinks that he is wise in this age, he must become foolish, so that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, "*He is* THE ONE WHO CATCHES THE WISE IN THEIR CRAFTINESS"; 20 and again, "THE LORD KNOWS THE REASONINGS of the wise, THAT THEY ARE USELESS."

1 Corinthians 15:34-37 Become sober-minded as you ought, and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame. 35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" 36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; 37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.

1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"-- 21 which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

2 Timothy 2:16-18 But avoid worldly *and* empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, 17 and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, 18 *men* who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some.

2 Timothy 3:13-17 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2:13—When you were dead

Ezekiel 37:1-10 The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, *there were* very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, *they were* very dry. 3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.'" 5 "Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. 6 'I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Come from the four

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winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life." 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

** Note: the music group "Casting Crowns" has a song about this passage: [Spirit Wind](#).

Luke 9:57-62 As they were going along the road, someone said to Him, "I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 And He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father." 60 But He said to him, "Allow the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim everywhere the kingdom of God." 61 Another also said, "I will follow You, Lord; but first permit me to say good-bye to those at home." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 15:22-24 "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; 23 and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate.

Romans 6:11-13 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; 15 and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

Ephesians 5:14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

Hebrews 6:1-2 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

Hebrews 9:13-15 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse

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your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were *committed* under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

James 2:17-26 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself. 18 But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." 19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23 and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS," and he was called the friend of God. 24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. 25 In the same way, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way? 26 For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

2:13—having forgiven

Leviticus 5:5-6 'So it shall be when he becomes guilty in one of these, that he shall confess that in which he has sinned. 6 'He shall also bring his guilt offering to the LORD for his sin which he has committed, a female from the flock, a lamb or a goat as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement on his behalf for his sin.

Numbers 14:17-19 "But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, 18 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.' 19 "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

Psalms 25:6-11 Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old. 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; According to Your lovingkindness remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD. 8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way. 9 He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way. 10 All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth To those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. 11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it is great.

Psalms 32:1-6 How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered! 2 How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity, And in whose spirit there is no deceit! 3 When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away Through my groaning all day long. 4 For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was drained away *as* with the fever heat of summer. Selah. 5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah. 6 Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him.

Psalms 51:11-13 Do not cast me away from Your presence And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation And sustain me with a willing spirit. 13 *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

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Psalms 86:5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You.

Psalms 103:1-13 Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *ble*ss His holy name. **2** Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget none of His benefits; **3** Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; **4** Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; **5** Who satisfies your years with good things, *So that* your youth is renewed like the eagle. **6** The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. **7** He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. **8** The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness. **9** He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever. **10** He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. **12** As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. **13** Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him.

Psalms 130:1-5 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD. **2** Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. **3** If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? **4** But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. **5** I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

Isaiah 1:16-18 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, **17** Learn to do good; Seek justice, Reprove the ruthless, Defend the orphan, Plead for the widow. **18** "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Isaiah 44:21-22 "Remember these things, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. **22** "I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you."

Isaiah 55:6-7 Seek the LORD while He may be found; Call upon Him while He is near. **7** Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34** "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Zechariah 3:4 He spoke and said to those who were standing before him, saying, "Remove the filthy garments from him." Again he said to him, "See, I have taken your iniquity away from you and will clothe you with festal robes."

Mark 2:5-12 And Jesus seeing their faith **said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."* **6** But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, **7** "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?" **8** Immediately Jesus, aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves, **said to them, "Why are you reasoning about these things in your hearts? 9 "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven'; or to say, 'Get up, and pick up your pallet and walk? 10 "But so that*

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you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"--He *said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, get up, pick up your pallet and go home." 12 And he got up and immediately picked up the pallet and went out in the sight of everyone, so that they were all amazed and were glorifying God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Luke 7:40-50 And Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he replied, "Say it, Teacher." 41 "A moneylender had two debtors: one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 "When they were unable to repay, he graciously forgave them both. So which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have judged correctly." 44 Turning toward the woman, He said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has wet My feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 "You gave Me no kiss; but she, since the time I came in, has not ceased to kiss My feet. 46 "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she anointed My feet with perfume. 47 "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." 48 Then He said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven." 49 Those who were reclining at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this man who even forgives sins?" 50 And He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Acts 10:38-43 "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. 39 "We are witnesses of all the things He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They also put Him to death by hanging Him on a cross. 40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible, 41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. 42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead. 43 "Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins."

Acts 13:36-39 "For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay; 37 but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. 38 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses.

Acts 26:14-20 "And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 "And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 'But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' 19 "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

Romans 4:7-8 "BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED. 8 "BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO

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ACCOUNT."

Romans 5:20-21 The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 8:1-4 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and *as an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4** so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Romans 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? **32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? **33** Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; **34** who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. **35** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Ephesians 1:7-8a In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace **8** which He lavished on us.

Ephesians 4:31-32 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. **32** Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.

Hebrews 8:10-12 "FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS, AND I WILL WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE. **11** "AND THEY SHALL NOT TEACH EVERYONE HIS FELLOW CITIZEN, AND EVERYONE HIS BROTHER, SAYING, 'KNOW THE LORD,' FOR ALL WILL KNOW ME, FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST OF THEM. **12** "FOR I WILL BE MERCIFUL TO THEIR INIQUITIES, AND I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SINS NO MORE."

Hebrews 10:11-25 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; **12** but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, **13** waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET. **14** For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. **15** And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, **16** "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," *He then says*, **17** "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE." **18** Now where

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there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer *any* offering for sin. **19** Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, **21** and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; **24** and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

1 John 1:6-10 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; **7** but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. **8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. **10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 2:12 I am writing to you, little children, because your sins have been forgiven you for His name's sake.

2:23—*self-made religion*

James 1:26-27 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his *own* heart, this man's religion is worthless. **27** Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Difficulties:

Questions:

1. Paul's prayer for the Colossians is that they would be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." What are the seven things Paul says will be the result of this knowledge? 1:9-12
 - A. Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
 - B. please Him in all respects
 - C. bearing fruit in every good work
 - D. increasing in the knowledge of God
 - E. strengthened with all power
 - F. attaining all steadfastness and patience
 - G. joyously giving thanks to the Father
2. Paul urges the Colossians to not give into the empty philosophies of men but to remain faithful to the teachings of Jesus. What are the things Paul lists that the Christian should be aware of and to avoid those who teach them? 2:16-18, 21-22
 - A. Jewish dietary laws
 - B. Jewish calendar feast and ritual events
 - C. self-abasement
 - D. worship of angels
 - E. anyone basing his teaching on personal visions

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F. anyone who places himself above Jesus as the head of the church

Notes & Commentaries:

Barnes⁴

1:5 - For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven - That is, "I give thanks that there is such a hope laid up for you." The evidence which he had that this hope was theirs, was founded on the faith and love to the saints which he heard they had evinced. He fully believed that where there was such faith and love, there was a well-founded hope of heaven. The word "hope" here is used, as it often is, for the thing hoped for. The object of hope - to wit, eternal happiness, was reserved for them in heaven.

1:6 - As it is in all the world - It is confined to no place or people, but is designed to be a universal religion. It offers the same blessedness in heaven to all; compare the notes at [Col 1:23](#).

1:11 - Strengthened with all might - This was also an object of Paul's earnest prayer. He desired that they might be strengthened for the performance of duty; to meet temptations; and to bear up under the various trials of life.

According to his glorious power - Not by any human means, but by the power of God. There is a manifestation of power in the spirit with which Christians are enabled to bear up under trials, which shows that it is not of human origin. It is the power which God gives them in the day of trial. This power is "glorious," or, as it is in the Greek, it is the "power of his glory." It is manifestly the power of the great and glorious God, and it tends to promote his glory, and to show forth his praise.

1:13 - Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness - The power exerted over us in that dark kingdom to which we formerly belonged - the kingdom of Satan. The characteristic of this empire is darkness - the emblem of:

- (1) Sin;
- (2) Error;
- (3) Misery and death.

Over us, by nature, these things had uncontrollable power; but now we are delivered from them, and brought to the enjoyment of the privileges of those who are connected with the kingdom of light. Darkness is often used to represent the state in which men are by nature; compare [Luk 1:79](#); [Act 26:18](#); [Rom 13:12](#); [1Pe 2:9](#); [1Jo 2:8](#).

1:17 - And he is before all things - As he must be, if he created all things. Those who regard this as referring to a moral creation, interpret it as meaning that he has the pre-eminence over all things; not as referring to his pre-existence. But the fair and proper meaning of the word "before" ([πρὸ](#) pro) is, that he was before all things in the order of existence; compare [Mat 8:29](#); [Joh 11:55](#); [Joh 13:1](#); [Act 5:36](#); [Act 21:38](#); [2Co 12:2](#). It is equivalent to saying that he was eternal - for he that had an existence before any thing was created, must be eternal. Thus, it is equivalent to the phrase, "In the beginning;" [Gen 1:1](#); compare the notes at [Joh 1:1](#).

1:21 - In your mind - It was not merely by wicked works, or by an evil life; it was alienation seated in the mind, and leading to wicked works. It was deliberate and purposed enmity. It was not the result of passion and excitement; it had a deeper seat, and took hold of the intellectual powers. The understanding was perverse and alienated from God, and all the

4 (Barnes) on Colossians 1-2.

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powers of the soul were enlisted against him. It is this fact which renders reconciliation with God so difficult. Sin has corrupted and perverted alike the moral and the intellectual powers, and thus the whole man is arrayed against his Creator; compare the notes at [Eph 4:18](#).

Yet now hath he reconciled - Harmony has been secured between you and God, and you are brought to friendship and love. Such a change has been produced in you as to bring your minds into friendship with that of God. All the change in producing this is on the part of man, for God cannot change, and there is no reason why he should, if he could. In the work of reconciliation man lays aside his hostility to his Maker, and thus becomes his friend; see the notes at [2Co 5:18](#).

1:26 - Even the mystery - To make that mystery fully known. See this explained in the notes at [Eph 3:2-9](#). The great doctrine that salvation was to be proclaimed to all mankind, Paul says, had been concealed for many generations. Hence, it was called a mystery, or a hidden truth.

But now is made manifest to his saints - It was communicated especially to the apostles who were appointed to proclaim it, and through them to all the saints. Paul says that he regarded himself as specially called to make this truth known, as far as possible, to mankind.

1:27 - Which is Christ in you, the hope of glory - Or, Christ among you. Margin. The meaning is, that the whole of that truth, so full of glory, and so rich and elevated in its effect, is summed up in this - that Christ is revealed among you as the source of the hope of glory in a better world. This was the great truth which so animated the heart and fired the zeal of the apostle Paul. The wonderful announcement had burst on his mind like a flood of day, that the offer of salvation was not to be confined, as he had once supposed, to the Jewish people, but that all men were now placed on a level; that they had a common Saviour; that the same heaven was now opened for all, and that there were none so degraded and vile that they might not have the offer of life as well as others. This great truth Paul burned to communicate to the whole world; and for holding it, and in making it known, he had involved himself in all the difficulties which he had with his own countrymen; had suffered from want, and peril, and toil; and had finally been made a captive, and was expecting to be put to death. It was just such a truth as was fitted to fire such a mind as that of Paul, and to make it; known as worth all the sacrifices and toils which he endured. Life is well sacrificed in making known such a doctrine to the world.

1:28 - That we may present every man - When we come to appear before God; Notes, [2Co 11:2](#). Paul was anxious that no one to whom this gospel was preached should be lost. He believed it to be adapted to save every man; and as he expected to meet all his hearers at the bar of God, his aim was to present them made perfect by means of that gospel which he preached.

2:6 - As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord - Have received him by faith as your Saviour, or as you were instructed respecting his rank, character, and work. The object here is to induce them not to swerve from the views which they had of Christ when he was made known to them. They had at first probably received their ideas of the Saviour from the apostle himself (see the Introduction); and, at any rate, the apostle designs to assure them that the views which they had when they "received him," were founded in truth.

So walk in him - Continue in those views of Christ; live in the maintenance of them; let them regulate your whole conduct. The word walk, in the Scriptures, is used to denote the manner of life; and the sense here is, that they should live and act wholly under the influence of the conceptions which they had of the Saviour when they first embraced him. The particle "so" is supplied by our translators, and rather weakens the sense. No stress should be laid on it, as is

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often done. The meaning is, simply, "Since you have received Christ as your Lord, as he was preached to you, hold fast the doctrine which you have received, and do not permit yourselves to be turned aside by any Jewish teachers, or teachers of philosophy."

2:10 - And ye are complete in him - Having no need, for the purposes of salvation, of any aid to be derived from the philosophy of the Greeks, or the traditions of the Jews. All that is necessary to secure your salvation is to be found in the Lord Jesus. There is a completion, or a filling up, in him, so as to leave nothing wanting. This is true in respect:

- (1) To the wisdom which is needful to guide us;
- (2) The atonement to be made for sin;
- (3) The merit by which a sinner can be justified; and,
- (4) The grace which is needful to sustain us in the trials, and to aid us in the duties, of life; compare the notes at [1Co 1:30](#).

There is no necessity, therefore, that we should look to the aid of philosophy, as if there was a defect in the teachings of the Saviour; or to human strength, as if he were unable to save us; or to the merits of the saints, as if those of the Redeemer were not sufficient to meet all our wants. The sentiment advanced in this verse would overthrow the whole papal doctrine of the merits of the saints, and, of course, the whole doctrine of papal "indulgences."

2:14 - Blotting out the handwriting - The word rendered handwriting means something written by the hand, a manuscript; and here, probably, the writings of the Mosaic law, or the law appointing many ordinances or observances in religion. The allusion is probably to a written contract, in which we bind ourselves to do any work, or to make a payment, and which remains in force against us until the bond is cancelled. That might be done, either by blotting out the names, or by drawing lines through it, or, as appears to have been practiced in the East, by driving a nail through it. The Jewish ceremonial law is here represented as such a contract, binding those under it to its observance, until it was nailed to the cross. The meaning here is, that the burdensome requirements of the Mosaic law are abolished, and that its necessity is superseded by the death of Christ. His death had the same effect, in reference to those ordinances, as if they had been blotted from the statute-book. This it did by fulfilling them, by introducing a more perfect system, and by rendering their observance no longer necessary, since all that they were designed to typify had been now accomplished in a better way; compare the notes at [Eph 2:15](#).

Nailing it to his cross - As if he had nailed it to his cross, so that it would be entirely removed out of our way. The death of Jesus had the same effect, in regard to the rites and institutions of the Mosaic religion, as if they had been affixed to his cross. It is said that there is an allusion here to the ancient method by which a bond or obligation was cancelled, by driving a nail through it, and affixing it to a post. This was practiced, says Grotius, in Asia. In a somewhat similar manner, in our banks now, a sharp instrument like the blade of a knife is driven through a check, making a hole through it, and furnishing to the teller of the bank a sign or evidence that it has been paid. If this be the meaning, then the expression here denotes that the obligation of the Jewish institutions ceased on the death of Jesus, as if he had taken them and nailed them to his own cross, in the manner in which a bond was cancelled.

2:15 - Triumphing over them in it - Margin, or, "himself." Either "by the cross," or "by himself." Or, it may mean, as Rosenmuller suggests, that "God [Col 2:12](#) triumphed over these foes in him; i. e., in Christ. The sense is substantially the same, that this triumph was effected by the atonement made for sin by the Redeemer. See the word "triumph" explained in the Notes on [2Co 2:14](#). The meaning of all this is, that since Christ has achieved for us such a victory, and has subdued all the foes of man, we should not be led captive, but should regard

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ourselves as freemen. We should not be made again the slaves of custom, or habit, or ritual observances, or superstitious rites, or anything whatever that has its origin in the kingdom of darkness. We are bound to assert and to use our freedom, and should not allow any hostile power in the form of philosophy or false teaching of any kind, to plunder or “spoil” us; [Col 2:8](#). The Christian is a freeman. His great Captain has subdued all his enemies, and we should not allow them again to set up their dark empire over our souls. The argument of the apostle in these verses [Col 2:13-15](#) is derived from what Christ has done for us. He mentions four things:

- (1) He has given us spiritual life.
- (2) He has forgiven all our trespasses.
- (3) He has blotted out or abolished the “ordinances” that were against us.
- (4) He has triumphed over all our foes. From all this he infers ([Col 2:16 ff](#)) that we should not be made captive or subdued by any of the rites of superstition, or any of the influences of the kingdom of darkness.

2:17 - Which are a shadow of things to come - See the notes at [Heb 8:5](#); [Heb 10:1](#), note. They were only a dim outline of future things, not the reality.

But the body is of Christ - The reality, the substance. All that they signified is of or in Christ. Between those things themselves which are in Christ, and those which only represented or prefigured them, there is as much difference as there is between a body and a shadow; a solid substance and a mere outline. Having now, therefore, the thing itself the shadow can be to us of no value; and that having come which was prefigured, that which was designed merely to represent it, is no longer binding.

2:19 - And not holding the Head - Not holding the true doctrine respecting the Great Head of the church, the Lord Jesus Christ; Notes, [Eph 1:22](#). This is regarded here as essential to the maintenance of all the other doctrines of religion. He who has just views of the Redeemer will not be in much danger of erring respecting the other points of religious belief.

2:22 - Which all are to perish with the using - This is commonly marked as a part of the parenthesis, or the quotation; and there is considerable difficulty in ascertaining its true meaning. It seems most probable that these are the words of the apostle himself, thrown in in the rapidity of composition, and that they are not to be connected with the phrase “touch not,” etc. If so, the idea is, that it cannot be of so much consequence as the Jewish teachers supposed, to mark distinctly the difference between meats and drinks. They were all to perish with the use of them. Nothing was permanent about them. It could really then be of no great importance what was eaten, or what was drunk, provided it was not in itself injurious. These ordinances had a value among the Hebrews when it was designed to keep them as a distinct people; but they had no value in themselves, so as to make them binding on all mankind. To suppose this, was the common error of the Jews; and hence, the apostle so frequently labored to show that the Jewish rites had no permanent value; see the [Rom 14:1-6](#) notes; [1Co 8:1-13](#), note; compare the notes at [Mat 15:17-18](#). According to this interpretation, [Col 2:21](#) should be regarded as expressing the common maxim of the Jewish teachers, and the clause before us as the words of the apostle, and should be marked as a parenthesis. So it is marked in Hahn’s Ed. of the New Testament.

2:23 - Not in any honour - That is, there is no real honor in these things; there is nothing to ennoble and elevate the soul; nothing that is to be commended.

To the satisfying of the flesh - The only effect is, to satisfy or please the flesh; that is, the carnal and corrupt nature, for so the word “flesh” is often used in the Scriptures. The effect of these observances, on which so much stress is laid as if they would promote piety, is merely to

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gratify pride, self-righteousness, the love of distinction, and the other carnal propensities of our nature. There seems to be a great deal of humility and piety in them; there is really little else than pride, selfishness, and ambition.

Wiersbe⁵

Note: I'll only include these couple of quotes from Wiersbe as they give a pretty clear picture of why the focus of our faith is to be rooted and grounded on Jesus and the work He has already done and to not let ourselves be led astray by wrong doctrine that sounds pious but is merely man-made religion.

“Do we have any of this heresy today? Yes, we do; and it is just as deceptive and dangerous! When we make Jesus Christ and the Christian revelation only *part* of a total religious system or philosophy, we cease to give Him preeminence. When we strive for 'spiritual perfection' or 'spiritual fullness' by means of formulas, disciplines, or rituals, we go backward instead of forward. Christian believers must beware of mixing their Christian faith with such alluring things as yoga, transcendental meditation, Oriental mysticism and the like. We must also beware of 'deeper life' teachers who offer a system for victory and fullness that bypasses devotion to Jesus Christ. In all things He must have the preeminence!”

“Wrong doctrine always leads to wrong living. Right doctrine should lead to right living.”

“This is an age of 'syncretism.' People are trying to harmonize and unite many different schools of thought and come up with a superior religion. Our evangelical churches are in danger of diluting the faith in their loving attempt to understand the beliefs of others. Mysticism, legalism, Eastern religions, asceticism, and man-made philosophies are secretly creeping into churches. They are not denying Christ, but they are dethroning Him and robbing Him of His rightful place of preeminence.”

Here and Now

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this study⁶: *my LOG vs others SPECK*

S – Are there *sins* to avoid or confess?

•

P – Are there *promises* from God to claim?

- Through faith in Jesus, I have been brought near to God through Christ and His shed blood.

E – Are there *examples* to follow?

- The Colossians who came to faith in Christ through the efforts of Epaphras, who came to believe through Paul.
- Paul's steadfast commitment to proclaiming the gospel and making sure that it doesn't become diluted by man-made philosophies and religions.
- Paul's encouragement to a group of believer's he has never met but heard great things about

⁵ (Wiersbe 101-132) on Colossians 1-2.

⁶ (*The Navigators*) [with additions] & Matthew 7:1-5.

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from the person who he presented the gospel to and went to tell them about Jesus.

C – Are there *commands* to obey?

- Remain faithful to the gospel
- Don't get sidetracked by “new” doctrines or special visions.

K – How can this passage increase my *knowledge* about God / Jesus Christ / Holy Spirit?

- The Jesus Christ is to be held in highest esteem and honored with the authority he deserves as the one who saved us through His blood.
- Names⁷ of God, Jesus, & Holy Spirit used in these chapters
 - **Jesus:** G2424 Ἰησοῦς *lēsous ee-ay-sooce'*; Hebrew origin—Jesus (Jehoshua): proper name
 - **Christ:** G5547 Χριστός *Christos khris-tos'*; anointed, Messiah: *Jesus Christ*
 - **Jesus Christ:** Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
 - **God:** G2316 θεός *theos theh'-os*; a deity, especially the supreme Divinity: God
 - **Father:** G3962 πατήρ *patēr pat-ayr'*; a primary word; a “father”: father, parent; generally of men and in a special circumstances refers to God as the creator, preserver and governor of all things, watching over them with parental love.
 - **God our Father:** Θεοῦ πατρός
 - **God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:** Θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ
 - **Lord:** G2962 κύριος *kurios koo'-ree-os*; supremacy; supreme in authority: God, Lord, master
 - **Christ Jesus the Lord:** Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν τὸν Κύριον
 - **Spirit:** G4151 πνεῦμα *pneuma pnyoo'-mah*; a current of air or breath; Holy Spirit; **Complete Word Study Dictionary:** “ ... The Holy Spirit is everywhere represented as being in intimate union with God the Father and God the Son. The passages with this meaning in the NT may be divided into two classes: those in which being, intelligence, and agency are predicated of the Spirit; and, metonymically, those in which the effects and consequences of this agency are spoken about.”
 - **Image of the Invisible God:** εἰκὼν τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου; refers to Jesus being the physical representation of God
 - **Firstborn of all creation:** πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως; While Jesus was Mary's literal firstborn son, this title refers to Jesus' preeminence over all of creation, having all authority over it. - G4416 πρωτοτόκος *prōtotokos pro-tot-ok'-os*; G3956 πᾶς *pas pas*; G2937 κτίσις *ktisis ktis'-is*;
 - **Head of the Body, the Church:** κεφαλὴ τοῦ σώματος, τῆς ἐκκλησίας; refers to Christ being the head of the church. - G2776 κεφαλὴ *kephalē kef-al-ay'*; G4983 σῶμα *sōma so'-mah*; G1577 ἐκκλησία *ekklēsia ek-klay-see'-ah*
 - **the beginning, the firstborn of the dead:** ὃς ἐστὶν ἀρχή, πρωτότοκος ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν; refers to Christ's victory over death and all of Satan's devices.

⁷ (NASB+; Strong; NASEC; Zhodiatas, Baker, and Carpenter)

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Other Application Questions

Are there principles to guide?

Are there warnings to heed?

Are there attitudes to adopt?

Are there actions to take?

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Words Used in Colossians 1-2

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|
| CHRIST | 15 | FIRMLY | 2 | APPEARANCE | 1 | DISPLAY | 1 | INDULGENCE | 1 |
| GOD | 12 | FIRSTBORN | 2 | ARGUMENT | 1 | DOMAIN | 1 | INFLATED | 1 |
| THINGS | 9 | FRUIT | 2 | ASK | 1 | DOMINIONS | 1 | INFORMED | 1 |
| HAVING | 8 | FULLNESS | 2 | ASSURANCE | 1 | DRINK | 1 | INHERITANCE | 1 |
| BODY | 7 | GLORY | 2 | AUTHORITIES | 2 | DWELL | 1 | INSTRUCTED | 1 |
| ACCORDING | 6 | GOPEL | 2 | AUTHORITY | 1 | DWELLS | 1 | JOINTS | 1 |
| FAITH | 5 | GRACE | 2 | AWAY | 1 | EMPTY | 1 | JOYOUSLY | 1 |
| HEARD | 5 | HIDDEN | 2 | BAPTISM | 1 | ENCOURAGED | 1 | JUDGE | 1 |
| FATHER | 4 | HOSTILE | 2 | BEGINNING | 1 | ENGAGED | 1 | KEEP | 1 |
| JESUS | 4 | INCREASING | 2 | BELONGS | 1 | ENTIRE | 1 | KINGDOM | 1 |
| KNOWLEDGE | 4 | INVISIBLE | 2 | BENEFIT | 1 | EPAPHRAS | 1 | KNIT | 1 |
| ONE | 4 | MIGHT | 2 | BESTOWED | 1 | EVERYTHING | 1 | KNOW | 1 |
| SAINTS | 4 | MIND | 2 | BEYOND | 1 | EVIL | 1 | KNOWN | 1 |
| WISDOM | 4 | MINISTER | 2 | BLAMELESS | 1 | FACE | 1 | LABOR | 1 |
| WORLD | 4 | PAUL | 2 | BLOOD | 1 | FAST | 1 | LACKING | 1 |
| BEHALF | 3 | PEACE | 2 | BODILY | 1 | FELLOW | 1 | LAID | 1 |
| CHURCH | 3 | POWER | 2 | BOND-SERVANT | 1 | FESTIVAL | 1 | LAODICEA | 1 |
| DAY | 3 | PRESENT | 2 | BRETHREN | 1 | FILLED | 1 | LEARNED | 1 |
| DEAD | 3 | PRINCIPLES | 2 | BROTHER | 1 | FILLING | 1 | LIGAMENTS | 1 |
| FLESH | 3 | RAISED | 2 | BUILT | 1 | FIRST | 1 | LIGHT | 1 |
| FLESHLY | 3 | RULERS | 2 | BURIED | 1 | FOOD | 1 | LIVING | 1 |
| GOOD | 3 | SEEN | 2 | CANCELED | 1 | FORGIVEN | 1 | MANIFESTED | 1 |
| HEAD | 3 | SELF-ABASEMENT | 2 | CAPTIVE | 1 | FORGIVENESS | 1 | MANNER | 1 |
| HEAVEN | 3 | SHARE | 2 | CARRY | 1 | FORM | 1 | MATTERS | 1 |
| HIMSELF | 3 | SPIRIT | 2 | CAUSE | 1 | FORMERLY | 1 | MERE | 1 |
| HOPE | 3 | THANKS | 2 | CEASED | 1 | FULL | 1 | MIGHTILY | 1 |
| JUST | 3 | THEREFORE | 2 | CERTIFICATE | 1 | FULLY | 1 | MOON | 1 |
| LORD | 3 | TRANSGRESSIONS | 2 | CIRCUMCISED | 1 | GENERATIONS | 1 | MOVED | 1 |
| LOVE | 3 | TRUTH | 2 | COLOSSAE | 1 | GENTILES | 1 | NAILED | 1 |
| MYSTERY | 3 | UNDERSTANDING | 2 | COMMANDMENTS | 1 | GIVE | 1 | NEVERTHELESS | 1 |
| SINCE | 3 | WALK | 2 | CONSISTING | 1 | GIVING | 1 | NEW | 1 |
| AM | 2 | WHETHER | 2 | CONSTANTLY | 1 | GLORIOUS | 1 | ORDER | 1 |
| ATTAINING | 2 | WITHOUT | 2 | CONTINUE | 1 | GRATITUDE | 1 | OVERFLOWING | 1 |
| BEARING | 2 | WORD | 2 | DARKNESS | 1 | GREAT | 1 | PAST | 1 |
| BEING | 2 | ABSENT | 1 | DEATH | 1 | GROWS | 1 | PATIENCE | 1 |
| BELOVED | 2 | ACCORDANCE | 1 | DEBT | 1 | GROWTH | 1 | PERISH | 1 |
| CIRCUMCISION | 2 | ACT | 1 | DECEPTION | 1 | HANDLE | 1 | PERSONALLY | 1 |
| COMPLETE | 2 | ADMONISHING | 1 | DEEDS | 1 | HANDS | 1 | PERSUASIVE | 1 |
| CREATED | 2 | AFFLICTIONS | 1 | DEFRAUDING | 1 | HEARTS | 1 | PHILOSOPHY | 1 |
| CREATION | 2 | AGES | 1 | DEITY | 1 | HEAVENS | 1 | PLACE | 1 |
| CROSS | 2 | ALIENATED | 1 | DELIGHTING | 1 | HELD | 1 | PLEASURE | 1 |
| DECREES | 2 | ALIVE | 1 | DELUDE | 1 | HOLD | 1 | PRAY | 1 |
| EARTH | 2 | ALTHOUGH | 1 | DESTINED | 1 | HOLDING | 1 | PRAYING | 1 |
| ELEMENTARY | 2 | ALWAYS | 1 | DIED | 1 | HOLY | 1 | PREACHING | 1 |
| ESTABLISHED | 2 | ANGELS | 1 | DISARMED | 1 | IMAGE | 1 | PREVIOUSLY | 1 |
| FAITHFUL | 2 | APOSTLE | 1 | DISCIPLINE | 1 | INDEED | 1 | PRIZE | 1 |

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| | |
|---------------|---|
| PROCLAIM | 1 |
| PROCLAIMED | 1 |
| PUBLIC | 1 |
| PURPOSE | 1 |
| QUALIFIED | 1 |
| RATHER | 1 |
| REASON | 1 |
| RECEIVED | 1 |
| RECONCILE | 1 |
| RECONCILED | 1 |
| REDEMPTION | 1 |
| REFER | 1 |
| REGARD | 1 |
| REJOICE | 1 |
| REJOICING | 1 |
| RELIGION | 1 |
| REMOVAL | 1 |
| REPROACH | 1 |
| RESCUED | 1 |
| RESPECT | 1 |
| RESPECTS | 1 |
| RESULTING | 1 |
| RICHES | 1 |
| ROOTED | 1 |
| RULE | 1 |
| SABBATH | 1 |
| SAKE | 1 |
| SELF-MADE | 1 |
| SERVANT | 1 |
| SEVERE | 1 |
| SHADOW | 1 |
| SINS | 1 |
| SON | 1 |
| SPIRITUAL | 1 |
| STABILITY | 1 |
| STAND | 1 |
| STEADFAST | 1 |
| STEADFASTNESS | 1 |
| STEWARDSHIP | 1 |
| STRENGTHENED | 1 |
| STRIVING | 1 |
| STRUGGLE | 1 |
| SUBMIT | 1 |
| SUBSTANCE | 1 |
| SUFFERINGS | 1 |
| SUPPLIED | 1 |
| SURE | 1 |
| TAKEN | 1 |

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|-----------|---|-------------|---|----------------|---|---------|---|----------|---|
| TAKES | 1 | TOUCH | 1 | UNCIRCUMCISION | 1 | WAY | 1 | WORSHIP | 1 |
| TAKING | 1 | TRADITION | 1 | UNDERSTOOD | 1 | WEALTH | 1 | WORTHY | 1 |
| TASTE | 1 | TRANSFERRED | 1 | USE | 1 | WILLED | 1 | YOURSELF | 1 |
| TEACHING | 1 | TREASURES | 1 | VALUE | 1 | WITHIN | 1 | | |
| TEACHINGS | 1 | TREATMENT | 1 | VISIBLE | 1 | WORK | 1 | | |
| THRONES | 1 | TRIUMPHED | 1 | VISIONS | 1 | WORKING | 1 | | |
| TIMOTHY | 1 | TRUE | 1 | WANT | 1 | WORKS | 1 | | |