

Series "Fixed On 66"
"Colossians"
Book-51

Key Passage: Colossians 1:18

The book of Colossians is Spiritual food! **Colossians 1:5** (The Gospel Truth)

The book of Colossians has been referred to as **"The Most Christ-centered book in the Bible."** Its message is built around the theme of the **"Supremacy of Christ."** It has been called the **"Twin Epistle" of Ephesians:**

Ephesians & **Colossians** both were written about the same time.

Ephesians magnifies the Church of Christ, while **Colossians** - magnifies the Christ of the Church.

Ephesians focuses on the Body, and **Colossians** focuses on the Head.

The Author: The Apostle Paul. **Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle

Though his name only appears three times (1:1, 23; 4:18), first-person pronouns are used 25 times.

Paul wrote the post-script with his own hand **Colossians 4:18**

When Written: Probably written in late 61 AD or early 62 AD.

Where it was Written: Written together **Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians** & **Philemon**, It is called a **"Prison Epistle."** from Rome while Paul was awaiting trial before Caesar (3:1; 4:1; Acts 28:30).

Written To: The Church of **Colossae**. The City of **Colossae** is located on a hill overlooking Turkey's Lycos River Valley. 100 miles east of Ephesus, the major trade route to the Orient. **Colossae** was famous for the black wool produced there.

The Church at **Colossae** (1:2) has no Biblical record of its establishment. It probably started during the time of Paul's 3-year ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10)

- **Epaphras**, the assumed Pastor at the time of writing (4:12-13)
 - **Philemon**, in whose house the Church also met (Philemon 1-2)
- Mostly Gentiles (2:13)

Background: The Crisis—Greek philosophy mixed with Oriental mysticism and Jewish legalism. (Man-centered) countered with Jesus Christ's preeminence. (Christ-centered) Jesus is the head of the Church. He is to be first in all things—the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

Gnostic Gnosticism – This term comes from the Greek word *gnosis*, which means "to know." (An *agnostic* is one who does not know.) The Gnostics were the people who were "in the know" about the deep things of God.

Purpose: To magnify Christ above all else (1:18)

1. As God - (2:9)

2. As Creator (1:15-17)

- He is the sphere of creation - "in Him" (1:19)
- He is the agent of creation - "by Him" (1:16)
- He is the goal of creation - "for Him" (1:16)
- He is the priority of creation - "before all things" (1:17)
- He is the sustainer of creation - "by Him all things consist" (1:19)

3. As Redeemer - (1:13-14)

To warn against a variety of false doctrines (Ch. 2)

To encourage godly living (Ch. 3)

To express appreciation to fellow laborers (Ch. 4)

Theme: Colossians – "*Preeminence of Jesus Christ*" Jesus is to be first in all things. The Supremacy of Christ.

Key Words: God 41 times, all things 19 times, everything 14 times, in Christ 13 times, Wisdom 9 times.

Key Chapter: Colossians 3 This chapter links the three themes together.

1. The believer has risen with Christ
2. The believer has put off the old man and has put on the new
3. The result is holiness in all relationships

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Outline:

Colossians 1 Preeminence Declared

Colossians 2 Preeminence Defined

Colossians 3-4:1 Preeminence Demonstrated

Colossians 4 Preeminence Displayed

Colossians 1 Preeminence Declared:

Colossians 1:1-12 Preeminence In the Gospel: Colossians 1:1-5

The gospel message is a message of hope.

Colossians 1:6-7 Epaphras - "*lovely.*" It appears that he was the pastor of the fellowship. He is singled out, working hard, and praying for the fellowship.

Colossians 4:12-13

Colossians 1:8-9 There is nothing deeper than knowing Jesus.

Colossians 1:10

What good is a big head if it does not also include a big heart with loving action?

Colossians 1:11-12

Colossians 1:13-14 Preeminence In Redemption: Colossians 1:13-14

He purchased us out of the slave market of sin and has forgiven us of the debt of all our sins.

Colossians 1:15-17 Preeminence In the Creation: Colossians 1:15

Image – Greek word *eikon* – by which we get our word *Icon*, which means "image or representation." It is the idea of a picture or portrait. It even goes deeper to say it also reveals the character of God.

Jesus is the revelation of what God is really like, not a cold plaster cast but the character and portrait of God. **Hebrews 1:3**

exact representation – the impression left by a die on a coin or a seal on wax. Jesus is the exact impress of the essence of God.

the firstborn of all creation. Now, some would say that means that Jesus is a creature! No! **Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created,** If He was part of creation, how can He be the author of all creation?

first-born - *It has nothing to do with chronology but everything to do with rank and honor. Priority is the key.*

The term "**first-born**" means the *heir or the chief - the principal one, the owner.*

This phrase, "**the first-born of all creation,**" means that the Lord Jesus stands in relationship to creation just as an heir stands in relationship to his father's property. He is not part of it, but rather, he is the owner of it, the heir.

Colossians 1:16-17 and in Him all things hold together. The word "together" means cohesion. Jesus is holding the whole universe together.

Colossians 1:18-23 Preeminence In the Church: Colossians 1:18

Jesus is first in the church.

Colossians 1:19-20 The redemption of Jesus is all-inclusive.

Romans 8:20-22

Colossians 1:21-23

Colossians 1:24-29 Preeminence In Paul's Ministry: Colossians 1:24-29

Colossians 2 Preeminence Defined:

Colossians 2:1-10 Against Philosophies: Colossians 2:1

The teacher should not only love what he is teaching but also who he is teaching.

Colossians 2:2-3

**Paul Is Concerned About The Smooth Talkers In The Church!
Colossians 2:4-7**

Spoil You! Colossians 2:8

Colossians 2:9-10 There is nothing deeper than Jesus.

Colossians 2:11-17 Against Legalism: Colossians 2:11-13

Circumcision was an outward sign of God's inward work.

Colossians 2:14-17

Paul says no one is to be our judge regarding non-essentials

Colossians 2:18-19 Against Mysticism: Colossians 2:18

Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement - Harsh treatment of the body. Depriving the body, the beating, and neglecting the body.

taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, - This **Jesse Duplantis** has a series, "**Jesus Talks To Jesse.**"

Colossians 2:19

Colossians 2:20-23 Against Asceticism: Colossians 2:20-23

All this depravation and strict discipline of the body does not make one holier or more like Jesus. All it does is produce pride and self-righteousness.

Colossians 3-4:1 Preeminence Demonstrated:

Colossians 3:1-4 Preeminence In Our Affection: Colossians 3:1-4

The practical section of the book is about loving Jesus. Since Jesus is preeminent in salvation, church, ministry, and creation, we should give Him first place in our lives.

Colossians 3:5-11 Preeminence In Our Walk: Colossians 3:5-11

We are to put off and then put on.

Colossians 3:12-14 Preeminence In our Love: Colossians 3:12-14

Colossians 3:15-17 Preeminence In Our Praise: Colossians 3:15-17

Worship and the Word go together. This description of the Word is almost identical to **Ephesians 5:19-21** About the filling of the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 3:18-25 Preeminence In Our Home:

Colossians 3:18 Wives: Colossians 3:18 Wives,

Colossians 3:19 Husbands: Colossians 3:19 Husbands,

Colossians 3:20 Children: Colossians 3:20 Children,

Colossians 3:21 Parents: Colossians 3:21 Fathers,

Colossians 3:22-4:1 Employee's And Employers: Colossians 3:22-4:1

Colossians 4 Preeminence Displayed:

Colossians 4:2-4 Preeminence Through Prayer: Colossians 4:2-4

A praying church is a church that is trusting in God, not the self.

Colossians 4:5-6 Preeminence Thru Wisdom: Colossians 4:5-6

We are being watched 24/7, and we need to be aware that people are watching us.

Colossians 4:7-18 Preeminence Through Fellowship: Colossians 4:7-18

Application:

- 1.** Colossians Presents The Preeminence Of Jesus Christ As The Creator. He Is The **Range of Creation** - He Is The **Agent of Creation** - He Is The **Goal of Creation** - He Is The **Priority of Creation** - He Is The **Sustainer of Creation**.
- 2.** Religious Asceticism With Its Depravation, Strict Discipline Of The Body Does Not Make One Holier Or More Like Jesus. What It Produces Is Pride And Self-righteousness.
- 3.** Preeminence Of Jesus Christ Is Witnessed In Our Affection, Our Walk, Our Love, Our Praise, Our Home, Our Prayer, Our Wisdom, And Our Fellowship.