

WHO IS JESUS?

A 7 Week Study and Prayer Guide in Colossians.

Spring 2023

Who Is Jesus

A 7 WEEK STUDY & PRAYER GUIDE IN COLOSSIANS.

By Jeff Jenkins

FOR LIVE DAILY TEACHING – VISIT

www.facebook.com/PastorJeffJenkins at 7AM Live - Daily

“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.”

MARK 4:24

“But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

HEBREWS 5:14

ANCHOR CHURCH

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COLOSSIANS: *Jesus Plus Nothing*

WEEK 1 *INTRO*

Day 01

Day 02

Day 03

Day 04

Day 05

Day 06

Day 07

Why "Who Is Jesus?" Matters

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

The Evidence You Can Trust

The Historical Physical Jesus

The Role of The Bible

The Present and Future Jesus

Jesus' Personal Claims

The Eschatological Claims

COLOSSIANS 1:1-6

WEEK 2 *INTRO*

Day 08

Day 09

Day 10

Day 11

Day 12

Day 13

Day 14

Who Is "The Son of Man"?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

The Messiah, The Christ.

The Lord, Jesus Christ.

Faith, Hope and Love.

The Gospel of Jesus.

Forgiveness and Redemption

The Kingdom of the Son

COLOSSIANS 1:7-16

WEEK 3 *INTRO*

Day 15

Day 16

Day 17

Day 18

Day 19

Day 20

Day 21

Who is This King of Glory?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

Qualified for the Kingdom

Don't Be Disqualified

The Image of the Invisible God.

The Firstborn Over All Creation.

Creator of All Things .

The Sustainer of All Things

COLOSSIANS 1:18-23

WEEK 4 *INTRO*

Day 22

Day 23

Day 24

Day 25

Day 26

Day 27

Day 28

What is "His Church"?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

Ecclesiology 101

Firstborn From the Dead.

Supreme Resurrection Existence

The Fullness of God in Christ.

The Blood of Jesus and Eternal Security

Servant of Christs Gospel

COLOSSIANS 1:24 – 2:9

WEEK 5 *INTRO*

Day 29

Day 30

Day 31

Day 32

Day 33

Day 34

Day 35

Who is Jesus IN YOU?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

Christ is Greater.

Perfect Wisdom and Knowledge

Continue what Stared This

Superior to All Philosophy.

Superior to All Religion and False Christ.

The Perfect Spirit and God Filled Body.

COLOSSIANS 2:10-19

WEEK 6 *INTRO*

Day 36

Day 37

Day 38

Day 39

Day 40

Day 41

Day 42

Who is Jesus in the Spirit Realm?

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

The Supreme Power of All Powers.

Your Spiritual Learning Curve.

Reality in Christ.

Keep Connection With Christ

Restraining Sensual Indulgences

Seated With Christ, Hidden In God

COLOSSIANS 2:20 – 4:12

WEEK 7 *INTRO*

Day 43

Day 44

Day 45

Day 46

Day 47

Day 48

Day 49

Christ is All and is In All

SUNDAY MESSAGE NOTES

Christ In Marriage

Parenting and Family

Christ in Your Work

Christ is Our Warfare

Finish the Ministry Christ Gave You

The Value of the Gospel of Christ

HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR DEVOTION TIME

SCHEDULE YOUR READING

Set aside a time and a place to meditate on God's word. Create a distraction free environment to dive deeper into the scripture.

LISTEN IN STILLNESS BEFORE YOU READ

Ask God to reveal his truths as you read. Pray for consistency and clarity.

READ WITH A BIBLE CONCORDANCE

A Bible concordance is a list of Biblical words sorted alphabetically, with any scriptures that include that word. We recommend "The New Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible". You can also use bible apps such as Blue Letter Bible, biblehub.com or other Bible apps.

READ WITH A FRIEND

Do your reading plan with someone that will hold you accountable to your daily reading. Get on track with someone else - and sharpen each other by knowing you're not doing this important deep work alone.

Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

SHARE WHAT YOU ARE LEARNING

Don't just read it! Share how God's word is speaking to you! Write. Post. Blog. Message others.

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

Items needed for each day:

Which verse stood out to you?

S — SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

What is God saying to you?

O — OBSERVATION

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

How can you apply it today?

A — APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

P — PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

ADVANCED DEVOTION PLANNING GUIDE

ADVANCED DEVOTIONAL PLANNING GUIDE	
QUESTION	ANSWER
How much daily time is reasonable for you to commit to during the Anchor 21 days of Prayer?	
How many days are you committing to completing?	
When is the best time of day for you to commit to for your devotion?	
What things do you benefit from during your personal devotion time? (<i>Reading, music, praying out loud, walking, sitting, eating, drinking, writing, typing, studying, memorizing verses, meditating, writing observations</i>)	
Where will you do your daily personal devotion time?	
Will you use music during your time? What kind? What device will you use?	
What will you use to read the Bible?	
Who comes to mind that you think would be beneficial to at least text each day to hold each other accountable for sticking with your plan?	

Colossians 3:1

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Colossians 1:15-17

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Intro to Colossians

Jesus Plus Nothing.

It appears that the gospel of Jesus reached Colossae during the same time that Paul was serving in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-10) through the work of his coworker Epaphras. Epaphras started a gathering of new believers in the city.

Paul most likely wrote Colossians around 50 AD from Rome, where he was in prison. Timothy was a fellow servant with Paul and could have been the scribe who wrote as Paul dictated. The letter was delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus (see Colossians 4:7-8)

Unfortunately, Paul discovered that a deceptive philosophy had taken root that could have severely hurt the churches stability and maturity in Christ. Some see this philosophy as being rooted in Jesus “Plus” Platonism or the worship of angels or special holy days, customs or rules. It severely threatened the very existence of Christianity.

Colossians was most likely founded by a fellow co-worker of Paul's named Epaphras. He is referenced in Colossians 4:12-13 and in regards to the gospel of Jesus, Paul states that the church “learned it from Epaphras, our fellow servant”.

The letter isn't nearly as severe as Galatians, but it is serious enough that anyone who reads it will see that Paul firmly advocated for absolutely nothing in the Christian faith except Jesus Christ is God and there cannot be anything added to Him and his supreme power, wisdom, knowledge and work.

Jesus is God. He is not a god or a son of God; he is the one and only Son of God. He is God and if there is any question regarding his deity, Paul addresses it in Colossians more strongly than He does in any other letter.

Read Colossians and you will have no room for doubt in the doctrine of Jesus' deity and supremacy over all things throughout all time and eternity. As you engage this sermon series and this daily devotional, may the fullness of Christ dwell in you richly and may you experience the fullness of His love in your own life and in your impact on those around you.

Best Ahead, Jeff Jenkins

WEEK ONE INTRO

Why “Who Is Jesus” Matters.

Colossians 1:15-20 says, “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers 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 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.”

Well, out of every human being in all of the world’s history – very few are worthy of your research. The reason Jesus is worthy is mostly found in these three things:

1. **UNDERSTANDING CULTURE TODAY.** After 2,000 years, every single major event in history has been filtered through the lens of Jesus and his followers. Wars, Art, Literature, traditions and even the most successful leadership principles are deeply connected to the person of Jesus. Understanding who Jesus is is critical for understanding our world today.
2. **UNDERSTANDING YOUR LIFE EXPERIENCE AND THE THINKING OF HALF OF THE WORLD TODAY.** Over 4 Billion people claim to follow at least some aspect of the Christian faith OR a religious perspective affiliated with Judeo/Christian Worldview. Even Islam is indirectly related to the Father of the Christian faith, Abraham. Jesus was before Abraham and the Islam faith. Knowing Jesus gives you access to being able to discern and connect with the core principles and values of over half of the World.
3. **UNDERSTANDING ETERNITY.** Jesus claimed to be the way to God the Father and excluded any other option as viable. Every person on earth ignores that statement at their own risk. The stakes are very high on getting who Jesus is and deciding the level of influence his identity will have on your personal life.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

SPEAKER:

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Weekday: Monday	Today's Scripture John 17:3
Time:	Today's Prayer Theme: The Evidence You Can Trust

THINK ABOUT HIM:

The Evidence You Can Trust

John 17:3 says, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

I John 2:3 says, "By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."

You will never trust a faith that you do not practice. No matter how much historical or critical or even scientific evidence there is, you'll never know a Jesus you don't follow. You will never understand who Jesus is until you hear what He says and trust it enough to put his ways into practice.

When I first began to commit my seconds and minutes to following his voice and disciplining my desires according to who He is – everything changed. I truly never knew God personally until I submitted by daily moment by moment impulses and desires to Him and his love. Knowing His voice personally throughout my day became the rhythm of worship. In hearing him and obeying him, I knew Him and knew his voice.

Today, it's just as fresh. There's never more peace in life than in being at peace with Him. There's no greater joy in life than experiencing His delight over me in our relationship. There's no way I can possibly fail in anything that matters when I succeed in relationship with Him.

Once I surrendered to Him, all of my study, research and understanding went to a whole new dimension. I know Him. I seek His ways. I pursue devotion with him. I worship Him. He speaks to me and leads me.

The evidence of Jesus I can trust is the evidence of our personal relationship according to His word, his living voice alive in my ways.

EXPERIENCE HIM:

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture I Peter 1:20
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Historical Physical Jesus

THINK ABOUT HIM:

God Revealed Jesus to Followers and Haters

I Peter 1:20 says, “Jesus was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you”.

Tacitus, a Roman Senator (AD 56-120) was not a follower of Christ and did not like Christianity. In the early 2nd Century, he wrote in “The Annals – Book 15”, that Christians were the followers of an historical person named “Christus” (Latin for Christ). He said Christ “suffered the extreme penalty” which is in reference to his crucifixion. He said the crucifixion was carried out by Pontius Pilatus. He said Christianity was spreading in Judea and even in Rome.

Thallus (52 AD) verified the earthquake occurring at the time of the resurrection in (Julius Africanus, Chronography, 18:1).

Mara Bar-Serapion (70 AD) a Syrian Philosopher compared the life and death of Jesus with the death of Socrates. He referenced Jesus as a wise and influential man who died for his beliefs at the hands of the Jewish leadership.

Phlegon (80-140 AD) said, “in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full noon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour until the ninth hour. . . And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified, and the great earthquakes which took place.

You can research “Evidence for Christ Outside The Bible” and find hundreds of records of historians who reference Jesus as a real human being who was crucified by Pontus Pilate and followed by witnesses to His resurrection.

Today, when you read, I Peter 1:20 ask the Father to speak to you about all that He knew before the world began and ask him to reveal Jesus to you even more personally today. He will do that for you.

EXPERIENCE HIM:

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture John 21:25
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Role of the Bible

THINK ABOUT HIM

The Bible is a Miracle

John 21:25 says, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

The Bible has the most surviving copies of any ancient document ever examined or tested for reliability. There are around 24,000 manuscripts from all over the ancient world, some copies as early as the second century. There is no book on earth with this much credibility. Archaeologists and historians have repeatedly found thousands of evidences of every city, every governing ruler, every people group and even the timelines and significant events mentioned in the Bible.

Every book or letter in the 66 Books of the Bible were rigorously tested for three things, 1.) Origin 2.) Receptivity by God's People 3.) Cross Referenced for Accuracy with Other Books.

There's no other Book in History with 40 different authors over a period of 1,500 years and written in 3 different languages that has come even close to the criticism of the Bible. The most incredible evidence for the reliability of the Bible for knowing Jesus is found in what is known as Messianic Prophecies. Fulfilled prophecy is solid evidence that God is the divine author of the Bible.

The Virgin Birth was foretold 700 years before it happened. Bethlehem was the city the Messiah would be born in. The fact that Jesus was not even from Bethlehem, and was born in Bethlehem is indescribably supernatural. The odds of that just happening is 100 Quadrillion (10^{17}).

The Crucifixion of Jesus, the piercing of his body, the gambling for his clothes, the betrayal with a kiss, his unbroken bones, the hour of his death, his resurrection, and so much more was foretold by God many centuries before it all happened. He is trustworthy.

EXPERIENCE HIM:

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Acts 1:6-9
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Present and Future Jesus

THINK ABOUT HIM

Acts 1:6-9 says, Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: *"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."* After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Jesus stayed on earth for 40 days, appearing and teaching his disciples after the resurrection. This is truly the only way anyone can explain the radical conversion of who all abandoned Him at the cross. He empowered them with the Holy Spirit and commissioned them to go throughout the world, making disciples in his name (Matthew 28:19-20). He then ascended into heaven and two angels told his followers he would return in, "the same way that you have seen him going into heaven".

His disciples asked him when He would "restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus didn't rebuke them. He didn't say, "I'm not going to". He didn't ignore them. He said, "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority".

This tells us three things about Jesus' nature and focus:

1. Jesus, the Son of Man is subject to the Father's authority and denied even himself the knowledge of things like this while in the flesh. (Mark 13:32).
2. Jesus revealed the surest route to the coming of the kingdom is the evangelization of the whole world as witnesses.
3. The more Jesus and His love for others is at the core of our witness, the more power of God will be available for that witnessing.

Jesus is the message.. His humility reflects oneness with the Father. We are witnesses of His love. We pursue knowing Him.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Revelation 1:8, 17-18
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Personal Claims

THINK ABOUT HIM

Who Did Jesus Say He Was

In **Revelation 1:8, 17-18** Jesus says, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty. ... "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*

Many ask, "What evidences are there outside of the Bible that verify or even state that Jesus died on the cross for our sins?" There are many sources outside the Bible that verify that Jesus was an historical figure who died on a cross and was buried and that many eye witnesses claimed to see him raised from the dead.

The most important issues, though are these:

1. What did Jesus actually claim about his life and death?
2. What did many prophesy about him before he was born?
3. What did He actually teach and prophesy about his life, death, burial, resurrection and the purpose of it all?
4. What was the truth about those who followed Him before his death and after His resurrection?

Jesus was buried by a Sadducee, Joseph of Arimathea along with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and other disciples of Jesus. There were multiple levels of protection over that tomb. A Roman Guard was appointed to watch over it. A huge stone covered the entry. A Roman seal was put on the stone. No one could have possibly stolen the body. Grave robbers would not have folded his linen blood-soaked garments and laid them in the tomb. He wasn't stolen from the tomb; he was raised from the dead and multitudes saw him resurrected in glory.

He is Alpha and Omega. He is God. He is the Way. He is King of all. He is the Almighty, who was and is and is to come. Not only because the Bible says so, but because there is so much evidence surrounding His life, His claims and His Story. Amen.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Revelation 22:12-21
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Eschatological Claims (Pr: Eh-skatoh-logical)

THINK ABOUT HIM

Water Baptism and The Trinity

Eschatology is “The Study of the End”. The Bible is loaded with teachings regarding the end of time or the last days. Those teachings and writings are referred to as “Eschatological”.

Revelation 21:12 says, *“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. ¹³ I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”*

Jesus claimed to His disciples that He was the Son of God and the one prophesied by Daniel to be the Son of Man, the Messiah. He claimed to be one with the Father. He claimed to have all authority in heaven and on earth. He claimed to be the one and only begotten Son of God.

After his resurrection He claimed to be the beginning of all things and the end of all things. He also claimed that He was coming in the end and was going to establish His kingdom and was going to reward people according to what they have done with their lives.

Jesus is seen here as the judge of all. He is also the standard. He is the one who is worthy of worship and all honor. He is the one to whom angels and spiritual beings give complete loyalty, worship, adoration, honor and praise.

In the end, there is only one thing that matters and that one thing is Jesus. Everything on earth today is moving toward him. Everything exists for Him. He is watching over the loyalties of our hearts and is completely powerful to fulfill everything He said.

As you reflect on “The End” and the claims of Jesus, fully receive Him and fill your mouth with praise and honor today. His claims are true. He is coming and it’s a bigger deal than words can state.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEK TWO INTRO

Who Is the Son of Man?

The most used phrase that Jesus use to refer to himself and reveal who he was is, “Son of Man”. It is a phrase used to refer to prophets and humans in the Old Testament. The most obvious messianic connection is from Daniel 7.

Daniel 7:13-14 says, *“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the **Ancient of Days** and was led into his presence.¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language **worshiped him**. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”*

Here are facts about what Daniel saw and prophesied about the “Son of Man”:

1. He will be seen coming with the clouds of heaven.
2. He is given authority, glory and sovereign power.
3. All people from every nation and language worship him.
4. His dominion is an eternal one.
5. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

Jesus is quoted as calling himself, “Son of Man” 69 times in the gospels and 88 times in the New Testament. Son of Man is the title used to refer to his humanity and humility. But because of Daniel 7 and other passages, Son of Man is a direct reference to His deity.

In **Matthew 26:63-64**, Pontus Pilate asked, *“Are you the Christ, the Son of the living God?”* Jesus said, *“You say I am, I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”* That is an open confession to His deity.

God planned that He would come in meekness, humility, born of flesh and blood. Subtle. Quiet. He was God in Flesh. He was given authority and power and He used it all to serve. If you read all of the other Messianic prophecies about his suffering, service, holiness, humility and beauty and pair them with Daniel 7 – then you can see the full beauty of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man. He’s worthy.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

SERMON TITLE:

SPEAKER:

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WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:1-2
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Messiah, The Christ

THINK ABOUT HIM

Who Jesus Is – Is The Purpose of the book of Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2 says, "Paul an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God . . . to God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ."

Here is one question we can't ignore when studying Colossians:
Why did Paul write this letter? Obviously, the Holy Spirit told him to; but, why them & why then?

The primary reason for and timing of the letter is likely surrounding what is known as "The Problem at Colossae". He cared deeply for the wellbeing of the church and evidently discovered that the church was under dangerous attack through false teaching about one thing: "The Christ".

If you want to see the apostle Paul get in an absolute frenzy, then stand in front of people whose entire life and eternity is at stake and teach them something that would cause them to forfeit their eternal life. Lead them to worship anything other than Jesus. Influence them to put traditions, human teachings and religious regulations into the mix with the pure and perfect work of Christ.

The term used the most in Paul's letter to refer to Jesus is "Christ". That is "The Anointed One" or "Messiah".

Christ is Paul's life passion and there is only one gospel truth about Christ and that will be unpacked in this series and in this letter. It is undeniably clear in Colossians that Paul preaches Jesus Christ as God in flesh and the supreme power over all throughout all eternity. "Christ" is the name given to the Son of God, God in Flesh, the eternal hero, founder, maker, sustainer, and source of all truth and wisdom. Paul makes it clear in this letter, root everything in Christ alone and every promise of God will manifest in your life.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

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-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:3
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Lord, Jesus Christ

Think About Him

Jesus Christ is Lord

Colossians 1:3 says, "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,".

John 20:28 says, "Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Acts 2:36 says, that Peter concluded his first sermon with, "Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ".

Romans 10:9 says, "if you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Bottom Line: "Lord" is in reference to having reign over something. It's very similar to "King". Jesus is Lord over all, meaning He reigns and rules over everything in the world and in our life. He is over both the living and the dead. He is over all. This is what "Lord" means.

One fairly popular saying today is, "If Jesus isn't Lord, then He isn't Savior". Another is, "Jesus is either Lord of all or He's not Lord at all". Both of these are ways of communicating the supremacy of Christ. Saying, "Jesus is Lord" is to say, "Jesus is God".

Satan peppers the church with false teachers and teachings that coddle Jesus followers into thinking and believing they can live with freedom to do what they want, live how they want and believe how they want and still claim the Lordship of Jesus Christ over their eternity.

True freedom is found only through knowing Jesus Christ as Lord personally through a deep loving submitted following of His lordship. Jesus is Lord. Open your mouth and declare the truth of Jesus Christ over every circumstance in your life. Agree with all He is and activate the blessings that are yours in Christ today.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:4
Time:	Prayer Theme: Faith, Hope & Love

Think About Him

Hope = "Best Ahead"

Colossians 1:4-6, 10 says, "...we have heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of the **love** you have for all God's people—the **faith** and **love** that spring from the **hope** stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you... live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work."

I Timothy 1:1 says, "The Lord Jesus Christ, our hope..."

I Peter 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

The three greatest things in the Christians life are faith, hope and love. I Corinthians 13 says, "The greatest of these is love." However, if you press a little further, you'll discover that the source of our faith and love is hope.

Hope is what we move by faith toward. Hope is also what we long for so powerfully that it compels us to love. I know for me – without hope, I have nothing to walk by faith toward and I am not very loving. Jesus doesn't only provide us a living hope beyond this life, He literally IS that living hope. He is resurrection and He is life. He is the fullness that we all long for.

Who is Jesus? He is our living hope. He is our only hope beyond the grave.

Hebrews 6:19 says, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure."

Today – confess Jesus as your hope. Tether the depths of your soul and your affections to his promises and watch the direction of your faith and the fullness of love grow alive in you. Hope = "Best Ahead!"

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:6-8
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Gospel of Jesus

THINK ABOUT HIM

The Gospel is Bearing Fruit

Anytime you see the word, “gospel” in the Bible just think this, “good news”. Then ask yourself, “what is the good news”?

I Corinthians 15:1-4 says, “...I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **By this gospel you are saved**, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that **he was raised** on the third day according to the scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

Jesus is the power of the gospel. He is good news. He is good news to the poor. He is good news to the sinner. He is good news to the enslaved soul. He is good news to the hopeless. He is good news for all of the world who are enslaved by fear of death and the imprisonment of sin. He is the good news to the lost, the broken, the hurting, the spiritually blind, the morally bankrupt and everyone in need of hope.

He is the gospel. His life, death, burial and resurrection are the 4 elements of the gospel. The gospel works and is bearing fruit.

When you trust him as your Lord and Savior, your first steps in obedience to him are to “obey the gospel.” That is to accept his way of life and trust Him as savior. It is to repent – or - die to your sin. It is to be buried with him in the waters of baptism. It is to be raised to walk in the resurrection-spirit-filled power of new life.

The old has gone. The new has come. The gospel is the power of God for salvation. Jesus is the gospel. He is good news. Today – there’s good news over every shadow you’re facing. Activate the gospel of Christ in your life today. Live!

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:13
Time:	Prayer Theme: Forgiveness and Redemption

THINK ABOUT HIM

Forgiveness and Redemption

Colossians 1:13 says, *“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins”.*

Paul is laying the foundation for the redemptive work of Christ. He will unpack in much more depth later in this letter in 2:8-3:4. This language is also found in Paul's testimony to King Agrippa in Acts 26:15. He is laying out the point of the work of Christ, which is to rescue people from the dominion of darkness and to move us into light.

In **Acts 26:15-18**, Jesus told Paul, *“I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God and a place among those who are sanctified in me.”*

The word “redemption” belongs to the slave market. It involves the payment of a price to secure freedom for a slave. Paul clearly identifies the price for our slavery to sin as being the death of Christ.

Jesus, the Son of God is the payment for our sins. He is also the payment to release us from slavery to sin.

Jesus, the Son of God is the means for forgiveness. He is the vehicle for the grace of God to give what we do not deserve. He is also the vehicle for the mercy of God that forgives and covers over the penalty that we do deserve.

Forgiveness is yours. Receive it. Let it take root in you deeply. Redemption is yours. You will not be taken captive by anything stronger than the blood of Jesus. Let everything in your life that freedom come out of bondage today. You're free and redeemed.

EXPERIENCE HIM

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:13
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Kingdom of the Son

THINK ABOUT HIM

The Kingdom of the Son

Colossians 1:13 says, “. . . He has... brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves...”.

This is one of only two times the Bible mentions the “Kingdom of the Son”. The other time is in Paul’s letter to the Corinthians.

I Corinthians 15:24-25 says, *“Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.”*

There seems to be a difference between the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of Christ (the son He loves).

The Bible teaches that there will be a reign of Christ for 1,000 years on earth. It is known as “The Millennium”. Scripture teaches that this is a temporary kingdom or intermediate kingdom which will be ultimately handed over to the Father. This is what I Corinthians 15:24-25 teaches as well as Revelation 20:1-15, Daniel 2:44, Matthew 19:28, Daniel 7:27, Isaiah 65:25, Zechariah 14:16 and more.

The ultimate state of existence for the believer is in the Kingdom of God, but God planned for his Son, Christ and his kingdom to be the focus in the interval between the cross and the return of Christ. Most of the time when Paul refers to a kingdom, he is referring to the eternal Kingdom of God.

Right now – there is a very clear purpose for Jesus taking dominion over every power, every force of evil, every kingdom on earth and sin itself. He has given you power to no longer allow sin to reign in your body. Put into practice the things He has given you. Walk in the Spirit and live free in the Kingdom today. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEK THREE INTRO

Who Is This King of Glory?

Jesus is King.

John 18:36 says, *“My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”*

Some doctrines of premillennialism denies that Jesus is currently reigning as king and that he will not actually reign as king until he comes back to this earth to establish a physical kingdom over which he reigns and rules over for 1,000 years.

We know that one day He will return to earth physically and will rule over nations. On that day, He is described as riding on a white horse with eyes like a flame of fire and clothed in a robe dipped in blood. He is said to rule over nations with a rod of iron.

Also, I see at least three ways He rules over the nations.

First is in his sovereign reign and rule now. Psalm 103:19 says the lord has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.” That’s true right now.

Psalm 47:2 says “The Lord... is ... a great king over all the earth.” That’s now.

Second, God placed Jesus on the throne of the universe at his right hand and with all authority in heaven and on earth.

Acts 2:36 says, “God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” As Lord, Jesus states in Matthew 28:18 that “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me...”. Today he is sovereign but he is using his sovereignty to gather the saved from the nations. This is how he is operating in his reign. It is by salvation and sanctification.

Third, the stage of God’s rule over the nations that is coming will be through Christ as the one who activates the power of providence and will of God to defeat all forces of darkness, even death. He is king, He is reigning and He shall reign. All glory to Christ the King.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY ' S S C R I P T U R E :

SPEAKER:

[illegible]

WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:12-13
Time:	Prayer Theme: Qualified for the Kingdom

Think About Him

Read **Colossians 1:12-13** again. It says, *"The Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,..."*

It would be a shame if you disqualified yourself and others from the things the Father has qualified you to inherit. It is a horrible mistake, also – to think that the kingdom of light that the Father has qualified you for is in the next age or in heaven.

Here's the truth: by the blood of Jesus, you have been rescued out of darkness and brought into the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of light. Total forgiveness is yours. Total paid-for in advance deliverance from all dominion is yours. Healing is yours. Restoration is yours. Wholeness is yours. Freedom and a sound mind is yours. The fruit of the Spirit is yours. Divine strength and power over darkness is yours.

You're already qualified to partake in every spiritual blessing in Christ. You're also qualified to walk in every spiritual gift and spiritual blessing available in Christ.

You are qualified by the Father, through the work of the son. The full inheritance belongs to you.

My friend, whatever sin you have committed or whatever addiction you are currently feeding, whatever mistakes keep on hindering you – today, stop disqualifying yourself. There's nothing you can do to remove the finished qualifying work of Jesus from your life.

Today, you can fight the good fight. You can keep the faith. You can finish your race for this day. You can be whole today. You're qualified by the Father, through the finished work of Jesus. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:18
Time:	Prayer Theme: Don't Be Disqualified

Think About Him

Don't Let Anyone Disqualify You

DISQUALIFY is a word only used one time in the whole New Testament. It's right here in Colossians. It's written as a plea and warning to a church whom the Father has already qualified to enter the Kingdom of the Son He loves.

There is a massive problem in Colossae. There is trouble in the waters because of anti-Christ false teachers.

You must get this one thing clear, with Paul – the Kingdom is Jesus' way plus nothing. You can't add another doctrine to the teachings of Christ. You can't add anything to knowing Christ. You can't put any knowledge on the same playing field with Knowing Christ and the power of His only true gospel.

Colossians 2:18 says, *"Let no one **disqualify** you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind."*

This will be addressed later, but it's important here because I want you to see that the kingdom the Father qualified you for is done by Jesus' redemptive work on the cross. Nothing else.

This warning in **Colossians 2:18** is a very clear cry from Paul, "Please do not let anyone come in and teach you that you need Jesus plus some ritual, tradition, sabbath, festival, religious work . . . to qualify you.

Bottom Line: Jesus plus NOTHING = qualified.
And
Jesus plus ANYTHING ELSE = disqualified.

Romans 14:17 says, *"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,"*

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:15
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Image of the Invisible God

Think About Him

Jesus is the Image of the Invisible God.

Colossians 1:15 says, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”*

This is the beginning line of a hymn to Christ. It is a hymn that is absolutely loaded with deep rich and very challenging theological gems.

This is arguably the first stanza: Colossians 1:15-16

*“He is the image of the invisible God
The first-born over all creation.
For by him all things were created
things in heaven and on earth
visible and invisible
whether thrones or powers
or rulers or authorities
all things are created by him and for him.”*

In the Greek world, Image meant “representation” or to symbolize what the object pictured. It was used for images on a coin or reflection in a mirror. This is not what Paul means here. If so, He would say, “He is the symbol of God”.

Image also meant “manifestation”. This means that Jesus brought God into the human sphere of understanding. In other words, wherever Christ is present, God is present. God was everywhere Jesus was. Jesus was the personal manifestation of deity.

II Corinthians 3:18 says, *“We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the SAME IMAGE from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”*

Today, you are new creation. You reflect the glory of God. You not only were created in his image; you are born again into his likeness and are being transformed into his image more and more by the Spirit. This is your reality. Claim it and live it out.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:15
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Firstborn Over All Creation

Think About Him

Firstborn Means Much More

Colossians 1:15-16 says, *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ **For by** (in) him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”*

Paul clarifies the meaning of “Firstborn over all Creation” by stating Jesus is the creator of all things in heaven and on earth.

The meaning is literally before anything in creation was birthed, Jesus was God and created everything in heaven and on earth and in the visible or invisible realms.

Jesus is God in flesh, the firstborn or origin of all things and creator or all things. All things were made by him and for him. This is the supremacy of Christ Jesus, our Lord. He is God.

As the firstborn or the origin of all things, Paul introduces the complexity of Christ's work in Creation.

“By Him” is better understood as “In Him”. In the Greek language this means that Creation was His idea. Jesus is the cornerstone from which the whole building of all creation gets it's founding. He's not only the source but the carrier of the original thought and plan of creation.

The Father, of course, has a significant relationship to creation. He is the architect; he determined to bring creation into existence.

God the Son, actually brought the plans into existence. By his creative imagination and power, the created order we know exists. Today – he is activating new creation in you. Can you see it? What is he doing in you today. He is renewing you. Receive it.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P – Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:16
Time:	Prayer Theme: Creator of All Things

Think About Him

John 1:3 says, “All things came into being through Him, and apart from him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

I Corinthians 8:6 says, “For us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and exist through Him.”

John 1:10 says, “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know him.”

Have you ever thought about all the things that were in the eternally creative mind of God, the Son? All science. All laws of nature. All galaxies. All authority. All angels. All powers. Every longing, emotional wiring, quantum physics, chemistry and the deepest elements of DNA all came from the creative mind of God the Son.

Colossians 1:16 says, “For IN HIM all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Some translations have, “by him”. It can mean “by” or “In”. Either way, the point Paul is making is that everything in all existence started off in the Son. The Son, Jesus Christ is the source of design and the source of sustaining all things that exist. He is life.

Paul leaves no doubt in this young struggling church that to follow Jesus means – do not worship or put anything on any pedestal anywhere near him. If you worship anything BUT Jesus, then you’re practicing idolatry; you are worshiping the created instead of the creator.

Jesus plus nothing. He is before all and creator of all. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:17
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Sustainer of All Things

THINK ABOUT HIM

Jesus is transcendent. He is above all and over all. This is so important in order to understand and experience healthy worship.

Jesus is also imminent. He is near. Not in a Pantheism way where He IS the wind, the trees, the water and all material of life. Jesus is way more personally involved, knowable, relatable and at the same time, the very personal force that holds all things together.

Colossians 1:17 says, "And He is before all things and in Him all things hold together."

Hebrews 1:3 says, "*He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.*"

Jesus is so involved in the world that his very words are currently holding it all together. That means the voice of Jesus IS gravity. His voice is the molecular structure. His voice is the power of God that sustains the whole world.

Jeremiah 10:12 says, "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

Today, the Word of God is Jesus. His voice is living and active. His voice is sharper than any two-edged sword. His word is quick, powerful and able to keep you and strengthen you.

The universe and all that is in it was created by the word of God, Jesus. Everything that is made and has been made is from his word, both visible and invisible. And His voice is holding you and keeping you together. Get every word in your thoughts and in your mouth into agreement with his word. That's where the power is.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEK FOUR INTRO

What is His Church?

Paul used a few different metaphors to reference the followers of Jesus. Here he is simply

Colossians 1:18 says, "And he is the head of **the body, the church**. He is the **beginning**, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to **dwell**, ²⁰ and through him to **reconcile to himself** all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross."

In those three verses you can see very deep vision of the church. The church isn't just the followers of Jesus who gather together in His Name. According to these verses alone, the following are true:

1. The church is the living, functioning active work of Jesus flowing from and orchestrated by him, the head.
2. The church is made up of all who have been raised from death to life through the blood of Jesus, the firstborn from the dead.
3. The church is the dwelling place of God, we are the temple of God. This is modeled by Jesus having the fullness of God dwell in Him.
4. The church is all who are reconciled to God.
5. The church is all who are at peace with God by the blood of his cross.

In **Colossians 1:24-28**, there is an amazing depth of insight into what the church is. Here are a few notes, (we will unpack these this week).

1. Suffering benefits the body of Christ, when suffering is for being like Jesus.
2. Stewardship of the ministry God gives us is for the church.
3. Christ is in the church and his presence is what makes it.
4. Christ in the church is the hope of glory.
5. Proclaiming Jesus – as God and over all things is essential for equipping the church.
6. Teaching everyone with all of Christ's wisdom affects the maturity of the church.
7. Leaders in the church and teachers are accountable for the work of equipping people and presenting them to Christ as mature.
8. The work of ministry for the church is worth all the energy and power of Christ working in us.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

SPEAKER:

[illegible]

WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:7
Time:	Prayer Theme: Ecclesiology 101

Think About Him

Ecclesiology 101

Ecclesiology is "The Study of the church".

Paul uses two primary types of metaphors to describe the church. One is seen as a living organism. The other is seen as a structural organization. Both are realities and are useful.

ORGANISM: This language is a more "Organic" concept of the church. The metaphor of the church as "the body" was commonly used by Paul and related very well to the many different aspects of the life of the church. Paul used the body metaphor to express the interdependence of all the various parts to each other and especially to the head (I Corinthians 12:12-26).

He used the body metaphor to teach the work that strives for maturity and growth. (Ephesians 4:15-16).

The head of the body has the redemptive role (Ephesians 5:23) and even in a hierarchical way, the head is superior to the rest (Colossians 1:18).

ORGANIZATION: In other places, Paul used an organizational metaphor. He calls it a flock overseen by a Shepherd. He stressed the authority relationships, discipline, work, membership, belonging, structure, accountability. He references titles, positions and roles such as elders, deacons, teachers, prophets, evangelists, apostles and administrators.

In **Colossians 1:18**, the authority and direction-giving aspects of the head over the body are the focus.

Here's the whole point: Christ is Supreme over all as the head of the body and the founding Sr Pastor, Chief Shepherd of the organization. He is the Sr Pastor of the Church. It's his. He redeemed the people. He purchased every person in the church out of sin. He unified the whole body with His spirit and reconciled it all to God with His blood.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:18
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Firstborn From the Dead

Think About Him

Romans and Colossians are the only letters that Paul uses the word, “firstborn”. He uses the metaphor of creation and birth several times to teach about our redemption and adoption as children of God.

In **Romans 8:23**, Paul says, “we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

II Corinthians 5:17 says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Romans 6:4 says, “We were buried therefore with him in baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was RAISED from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Jesus was raised from the dead in the same way that his followers will be raised from the dead. This is true on different levels.

Level 1: Jesus victory over death as the firstborn from the dead is the model for our own new birth. He applies his resurrection to our spirits – and makes us alive in him, by faith. We are raised with Him.

Level 2: Jesus ultimate victory over the grave as the firstborn from the dead is the model for our own resurrection and glorification. We will be raised like him and our bodies will be glorified as his was.

This phrase in Colossians 1:18, “firstborn from the dead” implies that the members of the church are in alignment with his resurrection. We are like him and we are raised from spiritual death to spiritual life by faith in Him.

The church is made up of those who have been and will be raised from death to life – by Jesus, the firstborn from the dead.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:18
Time:	Prayer Theme: Supreme Resurrection Existence

Think About Him

Supreme Resurrection EXISTENCE

The Greek word, πρωτεύω – proteuo means “to have the first place, preeminence, chief”.

It's only used one time in the Bible. Here's the context:

Colossians 1:18 says, *“And he is the head of the church, he is the beginning ~~and the~~ firstborn from among the dead, so that he might have the **supremacy**.”*

Yes, I marked out the words “and the” because in the Greek, the original language the words beginning and firstborn are side by side with no addition.

The correct wording should say, “He is the beginning, that is, the firstborn out of the dead.”

In other words, His resurrection is the founding of the church. The first place in the church is the firstborn from the dead – who is also the one who actually raises each member from the dead through their repentant faith in Christ.

Ephesians 2:1 says, “You were dead in your trespasses and sins”. Jesus died and rose to life from the actual realm of the dead and has established a whole new order of existence.

THE NEW ORDER IS: RESURRECTION EXISTENCE.

He is the firstborn and is supreme over all because of His resurrection and his resurrection power that gives life to every member of His church. His resurrection power is in you.

He is worthy. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:19-20
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Fullness of God in Christ

Think About Him

He Is The Fullness of God

Context matters so much. In order to understand the rich deep theology and language of Colossians without reading each statement within the whole context of the whole letter.

Jesus is not distinct from God. Jesus is God.

Colossians 1:19 says, "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him".

In the New Testament, this phrase refers to God's pleasure with the Son at his baptism, (**Matthew 3:17**) and transfiguration (**Matthew 17:5**). Neither of these are the backdrop for this text, but the pleasure of God the Father with the Son is the same idea being shared here.

Here Paul states that our Triune God determined that the human being, Jesus would be God, sharing all of the properties, attributes and qualities of God himself.

The correct order of understanding the incarnation is that God became flesh, not that a human being was elevated to deity.

This verse simply means that God was pleased to take human form in Jesus. He was no less than God, and he continued to be fully divine. Even the word "Dwell" is present tense and stresses an ongoing reality.

The whole point here is that God the Father worked on behalf of Christians and there is perfect harmony in the plan of salvation.

God made the first move in saving you. He became flesh and activated his plan to save you and succeeded. Receive His love today and love him back in all you do. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P – Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:20-22
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Blood of Jesus and Eternal Security

Think About Him

The Blood of Jesus and Eternal Security

Colossians 1:20-22 says, *and through him to **reconcile to himself** all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace **through his blood**, shed on the cross.*²¹ *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*²² *But now he has **reconciled** you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—*²³ ***if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.***

Reconciliation means, . . .

1. Reconciling of a broken relationship with God
2. Reconciling a person with their purpose and original design.
3. Reconciling division among race, gender, nationality and all differences.
4. Reconciling all things being brought into proper relationship with God through Christ.

“The Blood of the Cross” points to substitutionary atonement and the establishment of eternal peace with God and peace through all things in Christ.

However, there is a very clear warning imbedded here in the words “if you continue in your faith” and “do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.”

It is clear, Paul is saying – your only hope in salvation is in the gospel of Jesus. No one reading this will ever let any teaching cause you to stray from the love of God in Christ Jesus. You know His voice. Jesus is God. He is supreme. You will not tolerate any other gospel or anything added to this atoning work on the cross.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 1:23
Time:	Prayer Theme: Servant of Christ's Gospel

Think About Him

All Ministry Serves the Gospel of Jesus

Colossians 1:23 says, *"This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant."*

There are eternally severe consequences for tainting, perverting, taking away from or adding to the gospel of Jesus.

It is very clear in Paul's teachings that we are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone and our faith in Christ is rooted in the Bible alone.

No human being has any permission to add to this and if one does, the consequences are severe for that person and those who adhere to the teaching.

One example today is Mormonism. Mormonism is not Christianity.

There's no way a Mormon can open their Bible and read the first chapter of Colossians or the first chapter of Galatians and walk away truly believing that it's ok to have the book of Mormon and any form of the gospel of Jesus apart from the Scriptures.

No one dies and becomes a god. Jesus wasn't a conceived born son of God. God doesn't have a wife and your deeds are not saving you. There is one God, He is Jesus.

Do not apologize for the Word of God, it is perfect for salvation and there is no permission to add to it or take away from it.

Paul claims to be a servant of the purity of the gospel of Jesus until he gets the message to every person because every person must believe the gospel of Jesus in order to be saved. Be firm in your faith. Love people, but do not pervert the gospel of Jesus.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEK FIVE INTRO

Who is Jesus In You?

A God-filled life is a Spirit-filled life.

A Spirit-filled life is a Christ-filled life.

A Christ-filled life is a Presence-Driven life.

A Presence-Driven life is a life consumed with Knowing Jesus Christ in his sufferings, his death, his burial, his resurrection, his glory, his supremacy, his fullness, his love, his character, his eternal attributes and his face-to-face nearness. Crown Him. Worship Him. Abide in Him. Rest in Him. Trust Him.

In that spirit-filled Roman prison cell, the Apostle Paul is inspired by the Spirit of God to lay out every single word possible to tell these precious believers in Colossae: "Get the FULL word of God in this: Christ is the total and complete and only hope for being glorified and raised from the dead . . . and the fullness of that hope is IN YOU."

There is no letter in the Bible that even comes close to the extensive effort Paul gives to tell the church who Jesus is and who the church is in Him.

Hope is alive because Jesus is alive.

Hope is always alive in you because Jesus is always alive in you.

Hope is thriving and we are nearer today than yesterday.

Christ in you is the hope of glory.

His resurrection power is yours.

His glorification is yours.

His victory over sin, hell and the grave is yours.

His power over all sickness and disease is yours.

His reign over sin and death is yours.

His victory over demonic forces and every global power is yours.

His peace with the Father is yours.

His promise of the Spirit is yours.

His energy for ministry is yours.

His strength over temptation is yours.

He is in control of the beginning and the end of your life.

Today, in the full surrender of your own dignity, pour out your richest praise to Him. Bring your best to his ministry, today.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE:

SPEAKER:

[illegible]

WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:1-2
Time:	Prayer Theme: Christ is Greater

Think About Him

Christ is Greater

Maybe you picked up on this in the opening words of chapter 2, but Paul did not start the church in Colossae and most likely, he has never been there at this point. According to History, even after this letter was written, there was severe attack on the church in Colossae.

You may wonder why this study guide and prayer guide has spent so much time unpacking chapter 1. Well, it's not because chapters two, three and four aren't important . . . it's because you have to get the fullness of who Jesus is in order to understand anything else in the letter.

This is what was severely under attack: The supremacy of Christ and the teachings that Jesus is insufficient alone.

Colossians 2:1 tells us that the church has not met Paul personally. So, this even is more indicative of the severity of the threat against this church and area.

Colossians 2:2 says, "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and unified in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments."

Question 1: How does the supremacy of Christ encourage hearts?

Question 2: How does the supremacy of Christ unify believers in love?

Question 3: How does a mixture of Christ plus (anything else) contaminate courage and unity in love?

This was Paul's goal in the letter and for them to know the true Christ. Can you see how serious this is and what's at stake in the church?

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:2-3
Time:	Prayer Theme: Perfect Wisdom and Knowledge

Think About Him

Jesus is Perfect Wisdom and Knowledge

Colossians 2:2-3 says, *"My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the **full riches of complete understanding**, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden **all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**."*

False teachers add human wisdom to the message of the gospel. They will preach human philosophy and you will not be able to tell the difference between a great self-help lecture or mental health class and their teaching.

For Paul, Christ is God manifest. According to the Scripture, all real wisdom originates in Christ. The amazing storehouse of God's infinite knowledge and wisdom is supremely found in Christ alone.

This could mean that Christ IS the wisdom and therefore you need no other wisdom.

This could also mean that Christ reveals all wisdom and knowledge and is the key to the treasure of all of God's resources. This fits the immediate context pretty well. Faith in Christ alone brings the treasures of all God's resources to the church and the believer's life.

Paul knew that these young believers had begun the journey toward maturity and the goal is the full measure of understanding the vast love and depths of God's love in Christ.

You will never forfeit the cross for anything else. The Lord has your devotion and you are his. He is calling you to a commitment to Christ and to each other that leads to a more mature knowledge of Christ. Bless you as you walk in his grace today.

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:6-7
Time:	Prayer Theme: Continue What Started This

Think About Him

CONTINUE is So Empowering and Affirming

I've learned to trust that treating people according to who they truly are is more powerful than punishing them for acting out of alignment with who they truly are.

When I tell my kids, "We're Jenkins, we're children of God. This is who we are." And I reward and affirm progress I see them making toward that reality, it bears much more fruit than shaming them when they miss the mark.

There's no doubt this is what Paul is doing here in vs. 6 & 7.

Colossians 2:6-7 says, "Just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, CONTINUE to live your lives IN HIM, rooted and built up IN HIM, strengthened in the faith AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, and overflowing with thankfulness."

The word "continue" is so powerful. It is affirming and assumes the best. It reminds you of truth and affirms your actual roots and original acceptance of the gospel.

You were saved because you trusted Jesus Christ and you were taught the truth of who He is. Continue in this. Root down deep in this. Build yourself up in this. Overflow in thankfulness for this.

Gratitude is the evidence that you actually understand the fullness of the salvation that is yours. The lack of gratitude is the evidence that you have contaminated your faith with works and the worship of other things besides Jesus.

Today, CONTINUE in the origin of your salvation by grace through faith in Jesus alone. Remember your first love and you will experience incredible gratitude, power and joy.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:8
Time:	Prayer Theme: Superior to All Philosophy

Think About Him

Colossians 2:8 says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces^[a] of this world rather than on Christ."

HERE'S THE PURPOSE OF THE WHOLE LETTER. . . it's not even really debated; almost every scholar points to this verse as the crux of the issue Paul is addressing in this letter to the church in Colossae.

You may chuckle a bit knowing what you know about all of the false gods, horrible anti-human & anti-God and anti-Christ philosophies pepper our churches and dominate our media, entertainment, government and education systems.

There are gross and demonic philosophies destroying our world. They are disconnected from truth. They are loaded with human wisdom. They are laced with science and persuasive hollow and deceptive twists. They are in absolute open direct rebellious opposition to the truth of the gospel of Jesus.

Bottom line, if Paul were writing to the church in McKinney, TX – he would have many other choice words to say.

Philosophy is the love of wisdom. It is the systematized study of general and fundamental questions about existence, reason, knowledge, values, mind and language.

Paul knows there are Greek philosophers, Stoic philosophers and Jewish-believing philosophers all over the area of Asia. He sees just one ounce of deceptive hollow philosophy as dangerous enough to pervert the gospel of Christ.

Today, it is even more critical. Get rid of everything that contaminates the truth of the gospel of Jesus. Abide in Him alone. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P – Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:8
Time:	Prayer Theme: Superior to All Religion

Think About Him

Colossians 2:8 says, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

Here is the theological heart of the letter.

Threat One: Soteriology. This is the doctrine of salvation founded in the person and work of Christ through the cross. Paul forbids the worship of angels and the practice of the law for salvation. Today, he would forbid so much more.

Threat Two: Sanctification. This is the application of the finished work of the cross to the development of personal purity by the spirit of God and work of Christ.

You'll see the theology of salvation in 2:8-15 and you'll see the theology of sanctification in 2:16-19. Paul spends the rest of the letter unpacking these two things in both a practical way and a pastoral way. He roots it all in the conversion experience itself.

In the end, Salvation includes conversion, sanctification and glorification and it all flows out of justification. The false teachers were attacking Paul's teaching regarding conversion and spiritual growth, so Paul addressed it all in a way that excludes any other religion, philosophy or teaching outside the gospel of Jesus that he preaches.

Do not be ashamed of the gospel. Do not worry about how God will handle the faith of any other person. Stay rock solid in your devotion to Jesus Christ and trust His work. Share his gospel with as many as He gives you favor with and watch Him work.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:9
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Fullness of God

Think About Him

The Fullness of God

Colossians 2:9 says, *“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness.”*

There is a complete and powerful connection between Christ and believers. When He provided the purchase of your life out of sin, he did this to place you fully in God and to place God fully in you.

This relationship has enormous spiritual benefits.

Paul sees the false teachers as a serious threat to the work of Christ and the union of believers with Christ. He brings a very powerful counter attack to their teaching by describing Jesus Christ as the complete and sufficient savior (2:9-14) and Christ as the all powerful, all knowing and sovereign Savior (2:15).

There is no way around this, Jesus is completely God. This describes the totality of every attribute and possible reality of who God is. The fullness and completeness of the deity of God dwells in Christ.

It's truly too difficult to adequately express in any human language, but this is the best we can possibly get.

Jesus is every bit God but does not exhaust the dimensions of deity. The Father and Spirit are equally God and divine. The point is Jesus is God in bodily form.

In addition to this, Paul tells them that in Christ, they have the fullness of salvation in Him and there is nothing outside of Jesus worth attaining or adding to the gospel. Fullness is in Christ alone. Jesus is God and is perfect to save and to make holy. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEK SIX INTRO

Who is Jesus in the Spirit Realm?

The spirit realm is made up of territory and spiritual beings. The bible mentions many of these beings by name or category. They are:

1. Heavenly Host: this includes angels, cherubim, seraphim, and the living creatures
 - a. Angels: these are messengers that function as messengers from God to humans and even able to communicate, fight, assist and minister in various ways.
 - b. Cherubim, Serpahim and Living Creatures are always in close proximity to God in Scriputre. Their primary function is to serve God in his immediate presence.
 - c. The Divine Council: is made up of the sons of God, holy ones, heavenly beings, and watchers. These may be separate from the other spiritual beings or they may be alternate titles.
2. Satan: The leader of the rebellion against God and the cause of corruption, destruction, and death. He is the adversary, the opponent, the enemy, the devil, the slanderer, the accuser, the evil one, the tempter, Beelzebub (lord of the flies), The prince of demons, the father of lies, the ruler of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the god of this age, the deceiver of the whole world, and the dragon. He tempts and he deceives and accuses people of guilt and shame for their evil.
3. Demons: they are unclean spirits who joined Satan in the rebellion against the triune God and are under the rule of Satan, the prince of demons.
4. Thrones, Dominions, Rulers, Authorities: This is a hierarchy among spiritual forces of evil. Evil spiritual beings are associated with human governments, assigned authority over specific nations and regions.

Colossians 1:13 and Colossians 2:10-15 says that Christ is the supreme power over all powers and over all authorities in heaven and on earth. It also says that he has disarmed the powers and authorities – triumphing over them by the cross. Their ultimate goal is to separate you from God and destroy your influence. Jesus requires your trust in him, and he absolutely defeats everything against you.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY ' S S C R I P T U R E :

SPEAKER:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:10
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Supreme Power of all Powers

Think About Him

The Supreme Power of All

I John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

Love is the greatest power on earth. God is love.
Fear is the greatest dark power on earth. Perfect Love drives out fear.

Jesus said in John 16:33, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Jesus overcame trouble. Jesus overcame fear. Jesus overcame death.

Romans 8:38-39 says, *"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

The love of God in Christ Jesus is the supreme power over all powers. The most power you'll ever know in life is rooted in that deep abiding trust in Jesus' finished work and the ongoing promise of His presence alive in you.

Colossians 2:10 says, "He is the head over every power and authority."

Today, see him there over all. See Him reigning over all. Be filled with his love and watch the rumblings of fear lose their grip on you.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:11-14
Time:	Prayer Theme: Your Spiritual Learning Curve

Think About Him

Your Spiritual Learning Curve

I have bought so many different apps and software products over the years. Almost every time I get new software installed – I pretty much ignore it for a while because of the overwhelming feeling I have when I think of all the things I need to learn – just to be able to utilize 20% of it.

I'm like that with every new phone I get. My kids will walk up and start doing something on my phone and say, "You didn't know you could do _____?". And I say, "Pshhh of course I knew."

Salvation is like this and so is sanctification. There's so much we will never fully comprehend, but it's beneficial to try anyway.

Question: Have you ever imagined all that happened at the very moment of your salvation? Have you ever imagined the hands of Christ doing something in your mind, your heart or flesh? Have you ever imagined what happened to spiritual forces of evil around you and those that had been working on you all your life?

According to **Colossians 2:11-15**, these things happened at the point of your salvation:

1. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off by the hands of Christ
2. You were buried with Christ and raised with Christ
3. You were dead in sin, God made you alive with Christ.
4. All your sins were forgiven.
5. The legal penalty for sin against you was cancelled, by taking it away and nailing the penalty to the cross.
6. All of the powers and authorities against you were disarmed and triumphed over by the cross.

When you get these truths into the core of your thinking and activate the benefits of these things, you will see the power of sin and even addictions break under the grace of God over your life.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:16-17
Time:	Prayer Theme: Reality in Christ

Think About Him

Jesus is greater than every feast, law, rule, tradition or religious superstition ever invented.

Something bizarre was happening in Colossae. There was a group of teachers that were judging them by what they ate and drank. They were judged by what festivals they participated in. They were judged by the feasts they celebrated or didn't celebrate. They were also judged by how they treated the Sabbath.

One thing is clear – Jesus is pure religion. Jesus is the Sabbath. Jesus is rest. Jesus is the fulfillment of the feasts. Jesus is the new great festival. All celebration is around Him and Him alone.

There is nothing wrong with keeping the sabbath, just do not make up whatever you want to make up and call it “keeping the sabbath”. If you really want to keep the sabbath – do it the way God commanded it, but do not ever judge anyone based on their keeping of the Sabbath. Paul actually said the Sabbath day was a shadow of the rest that we have in Christ.

Paul said, “Reality, however is found in Christ.” So what does this mean?

1. Remember the Lord and go for the reality there is in Him.
2. Celebrate Jesus and everything to do with his redeeming work for you.
3. Enter the rest and peace of the Lord. Work hard. Rest hard. Establish His rhythm of grace.
4. Take His yoke upon you. Learn from Him.
5. Walk by the Spirit and do not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
6. The Old is gone – the new has come. Live as a child of light and do not become enslaved to religious traditions and superstitions – especially do not judge others by religious traditions.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:18
Time:	Prayer Theme: Keep Connection with Christ

Think About Him

What Captures Your Attention and Affection

How can you tell that you're about to leave a job or leave an organization you've been a part of? How can you tell when you're about to go a different direction in life?

I've noticed that people usually start rooting their affection and attention somewhere else and then they become discontent with where they are. Once this happens, they start sowing their attention more and more elsewhere and it's just a matter of time before a formal change happens.

This happened in Colossae. People were introduced to spiritual traditions and the worship of angels. They became infatuated with spiritual and religious experiences ABOVE their affection for the Lord Jesus and the simplicity of his Gospel.

Colossians 2:18 says, *“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.”¹⁹ They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”*

Do not think of a person as “more spiritual” just because they tell you about a spiritual experience. When a person brags about angels, dreams and metaphysical experiences or useless encounters, there's often a toxic false humility there. They appear to be humble and spiritual, but their bragging and language disconnects them from the humility of worshiping Christ. They talk more about their spiritual experience than they do Jesus.

Don't do that – and avoid people who do. Selah!

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 2:20-3:14
Time:	Prayer Theme: Restraining Sensual Indulgences

Think About Him

The Power of Christ Over Sin

Colossians 2:20-23 says, “²⁰ Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: ²¹ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? ²² These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. ²³ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Rules do not give anyone power over sin or restraining an addictive indulgence.

Colossians 3:1-14 lays out the details of overcoming sin and spiritual warfare. Scripture says:

1. You have been **raised with Christ**, so set your heart on things above where Christ is seated . . . not on earthly things.
2. You died and your life is now **hidden with Christ** in God.
3. **Put to death** whatever belongs to your earthly nature.
 - a. Sexual immorality
 - b. Impurity
 - c. Lust
 - d. Evil desires
 - e. Greed / Idolatry
 - f. Anger
 - g. Rage
 - h. Malice
 - i. Slander
 - j. Filthy language
 - k. Lying
 - l. Racial division
 - m. Religious superstitions

Put on Christ. Put to death the misdeeds of the Body. Live by the Spirit. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:3
Time:	Prayer Theme: Seated With Christ, Hidden in God

Think About Him

Your New Identity

If you ever wanted a picture of who you are as a person saved by Jesus Christ, read Colossians 3. This is the most beautiful and powerful picture of who you are as new creation.

Colossians 3:1-4 says, “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

When you worship, what do you see? When you pray, what is your heart set on?

Think about this, Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father. That's far above the angels. Your life is not hidden with the angels. You don't become an angel when you die. You're not going to be among the angels in heaven.

You actually got a better deal. Which angel does the spirit of God dwell in? Which angel was redeemed by the blood of the lamb. Which angel has an inheritance that can never spoil or fade?

Your life is actually hidden securely – with Christ – In God – in the heavenlies.

That's amazing! When Christ appears again – you will appear with Him. This identity is the absolute most beautiful core of who you are. You're so much more than just a person.

Get this in your core. Speak it over your life and confess it in the heavens. You're known by the God of the universe and so loved.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEK SEVEN INTRO

Christ is All and Is In All.

The high calling in Christ is to live as God's chosen people.
The most pure identity of those in Christ is holy and dearly loved.

Colossians 3;12-17 can be summarized in this way,

Saved people are chosen people.
Chosen people are holy people.
Holy people are dearly loved people.
Dearly loved people are clothed with Christ – in compassion,
kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
People clothed in Christ bear with each other and forgive others.
Forgiving people put on Love.
Loving people are ruled by peace in their Hearts.
People full of peace have the message of Christ dwelling richly in
them.
People with Christ dwelling richly in them overflow with
encouragement and ministry to others and to the Lord.

We are members of one body and Christ is the head and in
everything we do it is all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

The community of faith in Christ is all about Christ. All people who
are in Christ are one. There is no division in Him.

When His message dwells in us, there is so much richness
overflowing in our community and relationships.

Songs are powerful. Scripture in our mouth is powerful. Worship
is pure. Our gatherings are filled with His love and loaded with
gratitude and praise.

Everything we do is for him. Everything we say is for Him.

Every longing in our heart is for him.

We are the most encouraging and sincerely uplifting group of
people on earth. It's not cheesy. It's not fake. It's rooted in the
deep rich and powerful message and spirit of Christ dwelling in us.
There's just so much power in Christ.

WEEKDAY:

Sunday

SERMON TITLE:

TODAY ' S S C R I P T U R E :

SPEAKER:

[illegible]

WEEKDAY: Monday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:18
Time:	Prayer Theme: Christ In Marriage

Think About Him

Christ In Marriage

Colossians 3:18-19 says, "Wives submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands love your wives and do not be harsh with them."

This is more simple than Paul's instructions to husbands and wives in the letter to the Ephesians. It's a similar format, and in Ephesians there is so much more detail given to the husbands and the mystery of Christ and the church being pictured in the metaphor of marriage.

In short, there is so much treasure rooted in our new nature and new identity in Christ. There's such a powerful picture of this when you imagine the church members treating each other according to what Paul says in Colossians 3:1-17. It's kind of like heaven on earth.

Well, how much more for those in the church who are also married to each other. In Ephesians 5:20, husbands and wives are commanded to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ". Then Paul tells women to do this as unto the Lord. Then Paul tells men do this as Christ did sacrificially for the church.

The burden is to honor the Lord so powerfully in your relationships, understanding that each relationship between two believers is made up of two people redeemed by the finished work on the cross. Each person is dearly loved, chosen, justified freely, filled with the spirit and seated with Christ in the heavenlies.

This reality is the overwhelming new attitude and mindset that overshadows and fills the covenant of marriage.

Marriage is so much more than a contract when it is in Christ.

Christ is the glue in the covenant of the marriage. He's worthy.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Tuesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:20-21
Time:	Prayer Theme: Parenting and Family

Think About Him

Christ in the Family

Colossians 3:20-21 says, *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”²¹ Parents, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.*

What do you know about parenting today that you wish you knew when you started? Perhaps you're not a parent or you're just now entering parenthood; regardless, consider the role of Christ in the family.

Family is the vision of God. Remember, all creation was in Christ before anything was created. Therefore, family is designed from the creative imagination and design of the Son.

Question: What has the eternal relationship been like between God the Father and God the Son? Can you imagine what the world would be like if they were not in submission to truth, purpose, wisdom and the individual personhood of the other.

Likewise, when you think of parenting and when you think of your relationship with your parents – as long as you're alive – pursue respect and honor for one another.

The most painful events in life happen when a child rebels against the goodness of a parent or when a parent abuses their authority and discourages the essence of a child's heart.

Today, in Christ – do your part to make things right. Grow into your role according to your age and the season of life you're in. If you need wisdom in this, Ask the Lord Jesus to show you the Father, Son and Spirit and ask Him to teach you what family is meant to be.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Wednesday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:12
Time:	Prayer Theme: Christ in Your Work

Think About Him

Water Baptism and The Trinity

Colossians 3:22-4:1 says, *“Employees, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. ²⁵ Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism. 4:1 Employers, provide for your employees with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.”*

Of course, I know the text says “slave” and “Masters”, but in comparison, the context is 100% in regards to a boss and employee relationship.

The principle is between those who are serving and those who are being served. It is the principle of how to work for the Lord when you feel like you’re just working for a job or a person.

The attitude of work is this, “Jesus is my boss. Jesus is my CEO. Jesus is whom I’m working for.”

The attitude of being an employer is this, “Jesus is my master and he is right, good and fair in leadership.”

What does it mean to you that Jesus is the Master in Heaven?
 What does it mean that he is the model CEO? How did he work?
 How did He serve? How did He lead? How did he develop people?
 How did He provide and care for his flock.

Today, what is the Holy Spirit saying to you about your work, your purpose, your career and your relationships in your work? Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Thursday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:13-19
Time:	Prayer Theme: Christ is Our Warfare

Think About Him

Colossians 4:2-6 is a shortened version of Ephesians 6:10-20. The letter of Colossians was most likely read in Ephesus and the letter in Ephesus was most likely read in Colossae.

See 4:16. Paul says, "After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea". There's a decent amount of evidence that this is in reference to the Ephesian letter. If not, then there's a letter to the Laodiceans that was circulated that we do not have a copy of.

Colossians 4:2-4 says, *"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should."*

Paul is teaching the believers that Christ is not only seated above all, and rules over all and sustains all – BUT he is also attentive to hearing you when you pray and responds to ongoing watchfulness and gratitude.

Paul also teaches them that there is power when you talk to God on behalf of other people and that God opens doors in response to prayer and provides power to preach clearly and with power.

In a sense, this is warfare. This kind of prayer is viewed in Ephesians 6 as praying with all kinds of prayers and petitions and praying in the spirit fully clothed with the armor of God.

Christ is the victory – and he also empowers you to participate in your own victory and victory for others in prayer. Do battle today. Pray boldly. Do not let anything silence your prayer. Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Friday	Today's Scripture Colossians 3:22-4:2
Time:	Prayer Theme: Finish the Ministry Christ Gave You

Think About Him

Finish the Ministry

Colossians 4:17 says, *“Tell Archippus: “See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord.”*

Philemon 1:2 says, “To Philemon our beloved fellow worker and Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier, and the church in your house. . . “

We don't know what the work is that Archippus did but we do know the ministry or service he was doing was received from the Lord. We know he needed encouragement to complete it. We assume there must have been something threatening his completion of the work.

Philemon was a man with some higher status since he had at least one slave and a house where the church met. In the major cities, most people lived in rooms.

Philemon had a house and a servant. Apphia was most likely Philemon's wife based on the warm personal tone of the letter which addresses their house matters and the mentioning with Philemon in the address.

Some assume that Archippus was Philemon and Apphia's son. Paul called him a fellow soldier – we do not know what his work was or what his ministry was . . . but we do know this, the ministry he needed to finish was given to him by Christ, the supreme God of the universe. Therefore, it needed to be completed and not quit upon.

What ministry have you received from the Lord? Is there a ministry He's given you that you've quit? Why did you quit? What encouragement do you need to keep ministering until you're finished? May the Lord bless you to keep going. You're needed.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

-

P - Prayer

WEEKDAY: Saturday	Today's Scripture Colossians 4:3-12
Time:	Prayer Theme: The Value of the Gospel of Christ

Think About Him

What Value is Christ to You

Colossians 4:18 says, "I Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you."

There are two final reminders here. These two reminders summarize the entire letter:

1. "Remember my Chains"

The chains outwardly signified the value of the gospel for Paul. The gospel is everything and there's no price he wouldn't pay to bring the good news to as many as he could in his life time.

If it weren't for the commitment to the gospel, Paul would not be under arrest, nor would he have faced the horrible hardship he faced in route to prison.

The chains signified his relationship to Christ and his real slavery to Christ. The chains were a constant reminder of the practical nature of his commitment to Christ and the encouraged others to never shrink back in the face of opposition in devotion to Christ.

2. "God's Grace is With You"

God supplies salvation freely and requires nothing but trust in the work of the Supreme, one and only begotten Son of God and his finished work on the cross.

That Grace sustains the life of every Christian. If God's grace is with them, then they need nothing else.

Amen.

Experience Him

S - Scripture

O - Observation

A - Application

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P - Prayer

WHO IS
JESUS?

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