



The Book of Colossians: Complete In Christ

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

Overview:

The Preeminence of Christ Declared, Defended, & Demonstrated

Teaching Schedule

Christ Declared

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|---|---------------|
| 1. Faith, Hope, & Love in Christ Jesus (1:1-12) | Sun. Sept. 11 |
| 2. Christ The Image of God (1:13-23) | Wed. Sept. 14 |
| 3. Preaching Christ With Purpose (1:24-29) | Sun. Sept 18 |

Christ Defended

- | | |
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| 4. Christ Provides Freedom Through Truth (2:1-7) | Wed. Sept 21 |
| 5. Freedom From Worldly Ideas (2:8) | Sun. Sept 25 |
| 6. Freedom From Spiritual Death (2:9-15) | Wed. Sept 28 |
| 7. Freedom From False Religion (2:16-23) | Sun. Oct 2 |

Christ Demonstrated

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|---|-------------|
| 8. Complete In Christ: My New Life (3:1-11) | Wed. Oct 5 |
| 9. Complete In Christ: My New Heart (3:12-17) | Sun. Oct 9 |
| 10. Complete In Christ: My New Family & Work (3:18 – 4:1) | Wed. Oct 12 |
| 11. Complete In Christ: My New Routines (4:2-18) | Sun. Oct 16 |
| 12. Special Study: Comparing Colossians & Ephesians | Wed. Oct 19 |
| 13. Special Study: "In Him You Have Been Made Complete" | Sun. Oct 21 |

Class Goals

- To understand and appreciate the preeminence of Christ.
- To guard against worldly arguments which undermine Christ.
- To elevate our thinking towards heavenly blessings in Christ.
- To transform daily decisions in the light of the leadership of Christ.



1. Faith, Hope, & Love In Christ Jesus (Col. 1:1-12)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. What was Paul's situation as he wrote? (Col. 4:10, Philemon 1:9-10, Eph. 6:20)
2. How was the church in Colossae probably established? (Acts 19:8-10, 20, 26-27)
3. What was the object of the Colossians faith, hope, and love in vs. 4-5?
 - a. Faith...
 - b. Hope...
 - c. Love...
4. How did Paul know about these qualities in vs. 7-8?
5. What phrases in vs. 1-13 indicate the value and importance of knowledge?
 - a. Vs. 5
 - b. Vs. 6
 - c. Vs. 7
 - d. Vs. 9
 - e. Vs. 10
 - f. Vs. 11
6. According to vs. 3,9 what was Paul's response to hearing about the Colossians?
7. Complete the phrases that Paul prayed for the Colossians:
 - a. That you may be filled...
 - b. That you may walk...
 - c. To please Him in...
 - d. Bearing...
 - e. Increasing in...
 - f. Strengthened...
 - g. For the attaining...
 - h. Giving thanks to...



2. Christ, The Image of God (Col. 1:13-23)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. Into what have we been transferred? (vs. 13) How does this terminology relate to the word "Christ?"
2. How does verse 13 and verse 21 describe the position and mind of the lost? How does this compare with the position and mind of the saved?
3. List 5 phrases that demonstrate Christ's preeminence in creation. (vs. 15-17)
4. List 4 phrases that demonstrate Christ's preeminence in redemption. (vs. 18-20)
5. What does it mean for Christ to be the "head of the body?" (vs. 18)
6. In verse 20-22, what does "reconcile" mean?
7. The Colossians would be presented "holy and blameless and beyond reproach" if they met what conditions? (vs. 22-23)
8. According to vs. 23, how far and wide had the gospel been proclaimed?



3. Preaching Christ with Purpose (Col. 1:24-29)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. How are Christians to view their suffering in Christ? (vs. 24, 1 Peter 4:12-19)

2. What is the body of Christ? (vs. 25)

3. How is preaching the gospel a "stewardship?" (vs. 25)

4. What behaviors indicate that a preacher is laboring to "benefit" the church rather than to benefit himself? (vs. 25)

5. The "mystery" which was hidden how now been made... (vs. 26)

6. The "mystery" is well summed up in the phrase... (vs 27)

7. What was Paul's goal in preaching Christ? (vs. 28)

8. How does being "complete in Christ" protect saints from false teaching?

9. Identify and describe the three things Paul did as a minister to reach this goal. (vs. 28)
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____



4. Christ Provides Freedom Through Truth (Col. 2:1-7)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. For what 3 groups did Paul have a great struggle? (vs 1)

2. What was Paul's desire for them? (vs 2-3)

3. When Christians are in need of wisdom and knowledge, where can they turn? (vs. 3)
 - a. What amount of wisdom and knowledge can be found here?

 - b. How does Paul describe the quality of this wisdom and knowledge? Why?

4. What means might be used to deceive the Colossians? (vs. 4)

5. What two qualities does Paul anticipate seeing in the Colossians that would cause him to rejoice?
 - a. Why do Christians rejoice in the faithfulness of other saints?

6. List the 4 phrases Paul uses to describe the Colossians who will "walk in Him."
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____



5. Freedom From Worldly Ideas (Col. 2:8)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

Paul appreciated the value of critical thinking. He often engaged in "reasoning and persuading." (Acts 19:8) However, he also knew the danger of worldly thinking built on flawed or false premises. Therefore, he warns the Colossians against 4 categories of worldly thinking, and he demonstrates how Christ is fully sufficient and superior to these false ideas.

In the outline below, consider the modern threats Christians face today in each of the 4 categories given by Paul. Read the verses included and identify the Biblical truths Christians can use to respond to today's worldly thinking.

1. PHILOSOPHY (8a)

a. Modern Threat: ATHEISM

- i. The World Says: There is no God. (Psalm 14:1)
- ii. Complete In Christ: Christians can point to.... 1. John 20:30-31

2. Mark 12:26

b. Modern Threat: GENDER THEORIES

- i. The World Says: All gender roles, relationships, and identities are acceptable.
- ii. Complete In Christ: Jesus teaches...

1. Matthew 19:4-6

2. Colossians 1:18, Ephesians 5:23-24

2. EMPTY DECEPTION (8b)

a. Modern Threat: MORAL RELATIVISM

- i. The World Says: There is no absolute moral right and wrong. Morality is defined by society.
- ii. Complete in Christ: Jesus teaches...

1. Matthew 5:45, Matthew

19:17 2. John 17:17

3. Matthew 25:41-46



5. Freedom From Worldly Ideas (Col. 2:8)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

- b. Modern Threat: DENYING THE RELIABILITY OF THE BIBLE
 - i. The World Says: The Scriptures are erroneous, fabricated, superstitious stories that no longer apply.
 - ii. Complete in Christ: Jesus verifies...
 - 1. Matthew 5:18

 - 2. Matthew 12:39-41

3. TRADITIONS OF MEN (8c)

- a. Modern Threat: PLURALISM
 - i. The World Says: All religious belief systems are valid options.
 - ii. Complete in Christ: Jesus is...
 - 1. Matthew 7:21, John 14:6

- b. Modern Threat: PRIVITIZATION
 - i. The World Says: Religious beliefs and practices should not be openly discussed or applied to others.
 - ii. Complete in Christ: Jesus teaches...
 - 1. Matthew 10:27-31

 - 2. Acts 17:30

4. ELEMENTARY PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD

- a. Modern Threat: NATURALISM
 - i. The World Says: The entire universe and all life within it are the result of purely natural events. There are no supernatural beings or events.
 - ii. Complete in Christ: Who could not deny the miracles of Jesus?
 - 1. John 9:26

- b. Modern Threat: EVOLUTION
 - i. The World Says: There is no Creator. Our origins began by natural means.
 - ii. Complete in Christ: Jesus says...
 - 1. Mark 10:6
 - 2. Mark 13:19



6. Freedom From Spiritual Death (Col. 2:9-15)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. Complete the 3 "in Him" phrases in verses 9-11.
 - a. In Him all _____
 - b. In Him you _____
 - c. In Him you _____

2. What sort of "circumcision" have we had in Christ? (vs. 11)

3. Who is the one at work in baptism? (vs. 12)

4. Contrast the condition a person is in before and after baptism from these verses... BEFORE AFTER

vs. 10	_____
vs. 11	_____
vs. 12	_____
vs. 13	_____
vs. 13	_____

5. What did Christ take out of the way, having nailed it to the cross? (vs 14)

6. Who did Christ disarm? (vs 15) What event is this victory a reference to?

7. Colossians 2 is an excellent passage to teach to a lost person who wants to know how to be saved. What points would you make from this passage to share the gospel?



7. Freedom From False Religion (Col. 2:16-23)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. Review: According to vs. 4, what is Paul protecting us from in this chapter?
2. In what things should we not let others judge us? (vs. 16-17)
 - a. What does it mean for a thing to be a "mere shadow of what is to come?"
3. Beyond the scope of Jewish observances, what "food or drink" does God still regulate? (Ephesians 5:18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-13, 1 Corinthians 10:31-33)
4. What modern examples of religious error are guilty of the same root problems Paul addresses in verse 18?
 - a. Errors that delights in self-abasement: _____
 - b. Errors that worship angels (or anyone besides God): _____
 - c. Errors that depend of individual visions: _____
 - d. Errors that follow an inflated fleshly mind: _____
5. What is the root problem behind all of these errors? (vs. 19)
6. What kind of growth comes when religious error is introduced? (vs. 19)
7. Look up and define the word asceticism: _____
8. What condition sets Christians free from the decrees of false religion? (vs 20)
9. False religions often include difficult and uncomfortable demands, yet they are appealing to many people. According to vs 23 why do people embrace them?



8. Complete In Christ: My New Life (Col. 3:1-11)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. What two actions do Christians, raised up in Christ, take as the solution to the spiritual attacks we face? (vs. 1-2)

2. Give a few examples of "the things above" which our thoughts should be elevated to meditate on...

3. What blessing do we have as a people raised up with Christ? (vs. 4)

4. To put on the new self, what 11 sins are we to put to death? (vs. 5, 8-9)
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____
 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____
 10. _____ 11. _____

5. Why do we put off the old self?
 - a. Vs. 3 _____
 - b. Vs. 4-5 _____
 - c. Vs. 6 _____
 - d. Vs. 7, 9-10 _____

6. What have we been renewed towards? (vs. 10) Why do we need this?

7. In your own words, what has Christ accomplished according to verse 11?



9. Complete In Christ: My New Heart (Col. 3:12-17)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. We are described as "chosen of God, holy and beloved." Why is this special?

2. The new self is characterized by a fantastic new heart. What Christ-like qualities does it begin with? (vs 12-13)
 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____

3. We have a beautiful picture of saints Complete in Christ when...
 - a. The heart of Christ is full of _____ and _____ (vs. 14)
 - b. The peace of Christ _____ in the _____ and the _____ with _____ (vs. 15)
 - c. The word of Christ _____ with _____ (vs 16)
 - d. The authority of Christ encompasses _____ with _____ (vs. 17)

4. We are told 3 times to be thankful. Practically speaking, what does thankfulness look like when practiced:
 - a. In the one body...
 - b. In worship...
 - c. In daily life...

5. Our new heart is especially well-suited to what type of worship? (vs. 16) What phrase(s) indicates this is an act of worship carried out collectively?

6. What are the goals of our singing? (vs. 16)



10. Complete In Christ: My New Family, Work (3:18-4:1)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. Read 3:18-4:1. Why is it necessary to command such basic family/work behaviors?
2. In the family, women and children are reminded to consider the Lord, but men are reminded to consider the outcome of their leadership. How is this helpful?
3. What is the duty of wives? (vs. 18)
How does being Complete in Christ equip women to accomplish this duty?
4. What is the duty of husbands? (vs. 19)
How does being Complete in Christ equip men to accomplish this duty?
5. What is the duty of children? (vs. 20)
How does the knowledge of Christ equip children to accomplish this duty?
6. What is the duty of parents, especially fathers? (vs. 21)
How does being Complete in Christ equip parents to accomplish this duty?
7. What is the duty of workers? (vs 22-25)
How does being Complete in Christ equip workers to accomplish this duty?

What does working with "sincerity of heart" involve? (vs. 22)

What two things must workers keep in mind? (vs. 24)
8. What is the duty of leaders? (ch 4:1)
How does being Complete in Christ equip leaders to accomplish this duty?
9. How will the new heart of 3:12-17 affect our reaction to these commandments?



11. Complete In Christ: My New Routines (4:2-18)

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. PRAYER: What is Paul's instruction regarding prayer? (vs. 2)

2. TIME: Look at multiple English translations. What phrases are used to describe how Christians will manage their time? (vs. 5)

3. SPEECH: What does speaking with grace suggest? How does this especially apply to those who will question us? (vs. 6)

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS: What kind of information did Christians publicly share with one another? Why? (vs. 7-9)

5. Who were Paul's messengers? (vs. 7,9)

6. Who were Paul's companions, sending their greetings to Colossae?
 - a. _____ and _____(vs. 10)
 - b. _____(vs. 11)
 - c. _____(vs. 12)
 - d. _____ and _____(vs. 14)

7. Who were the saints in Colossae that Paul personally greeted? (vs. 15-17)

8. Were the epistles written only for the benefit of one church? How does this help us in interpretation of these letters today?



12. Comparing Colossians & Ephesians

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

- Both epistles identify Christ as the _____ of the _____.
(Ephesians 2:22-23 and Colossians 1:18, 24)
- Colossians emphasizes what CHRIST, the Head, provides to His body.
Ephesians emphasizes how the CHURCH, His body, relates to the Head.

Colossians: As the head, Christ provides: _____ (Col. 1:22)
 _____ (Col. 2:10)
 _____ (Col. 3:3-4)

Ephesians: As the body, the Church becomes: _____ (Eph 2:15-16)
 _____ (Eph 3:6)
 _____ (Eph 4:12-13)
 _____ (Eph 4:16)
 _____ (Eph 5:23-27)

- Complete the chart below to identify common subjects in the epistles...

	EPHESIANS	COLOSSIANS
Both begin with:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph. 1:16)
		(Col.1:3)
Both address:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 1:19)
		(Col. 2:12)
Both place Christ:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 1:21)
		(Col. 1:16-17)
Both describe us:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 2:5)
		(Col. 2:13)
Both address:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 2:14-15)
		(Col. 2:14-15)
Both address:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 1:19)
		(Col. 2:12)
Both instruct us to: _	_____	_____ (Eph 4:1)
		(Col. 1:10)
Both address:	_____	_____
	_____	(Eph 5:22-6:9)
		(Col. 3:18-4:1)



12. Comparing Colossians & Ephesians

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

4. Can you find the counterpart in Ephesians to these other passages as well?

_____ & Colossians 3:10-12 _____ & Colossians 3:16

_____ & Colossians 4:2, 12



13. "In Him You Have Been Made Complete"

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ." Colossians 1:28

1. From Colossians, what exceptional qualities of Christ most impress you?
2. What lessons from Colossians can improve your prayer life?
3. When confronted with persuasive arguments that undermine Christianity, what should saints remember?
4. What "new self" behavior from Colossians 3 & 4 do you most want to grow in over the coming 4 weeks? Make a personal plan to grow in this virtue?
Week 1: _____ Week 2: _____
Week 3: _____ Week 4: _____
5. What worldly distractions are your greatest obstacles to setting your mind on things above?
6. The peace of Christ, word of Christ, and authority of Christ should all produce greater _____.
7. I am motivated to give my best to my family and work because Christ calls me to...
8. Because Christ is my king, I will use my time with _____ and my speech to _____.
9. I can greet other Christians with genuine love by...
10. What other book of the Bible can you study for alongside Colossians for additional help and details?