

Discover the New Testament – Colossians 1

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***Asceticism:** the doctrine that a person can attain a high spiritual and moral state by practicing self-denial, self-mortification, and the like.

Purpose of Paul's letter to Colossae:

- Epaphras asked for Paul's help in dealing with false teachings that threatened the church at Colossae.
- These false teachings encouraged enlightened believers to achieve spiritual fullness through special knowledge and rigorous self-discipline.
- Undercut the major doctrines of Christianity
 - Deity
 - Absolute Lordship
 - Sufficiency of Christ
- Paul wrote the letter to:
 - Expose and disprove the false teachings
 - Instruct the Colossians in the truth and warn them of the dangers of following the false teachings

Theme:

1. Supremacy of Christ in the Church
2. *****Growing in Godliness*****

Colossians 1:3-8 (NLT)

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have **heard of your faith** in Christ Jesus and **your love for all of God's people**, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. ⁶ This same Good News that

came to you is going out all over the world. It is *bearing fruit* everywhere by **changing lives**, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful *grace*.⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.⁸ He has told us about the *love* **for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.**

Romans 8:13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons** of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "**Abba, Father.**"

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and **where the Spirit of the Lord is**, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are **being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Luke 6:43-45

⁴³ "For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴ **For every tree is known by its own fruit.** For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. **For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding**; ¹⁰ that you may **walk** worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being **fruitful** in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, **for all patience and longsuffering with joy**; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has **qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

James 1:22-25

²² But be **doers** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴ for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵ But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be **blessed** in what he **does**.

James 2:14-22, 26

¹⁴ What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, **what does it profit?** ¹⁷ Thus also **faith by itself, if it does not have works,**

is dead. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” **Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.** ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? ²¹ Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? ²² Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? ²⁶ For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1 Peter 2:6-8

⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who **believes** on Him will by no means be put to shame.” ⁷ Therefore, to you who **believe**, He is precious; but to those who are **disobedient**, “The stone which the builders rejected (the Word, Jesus) Has become the chief cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Mark 16:16-18 (NKJV)

¹⁶ He who **believes** and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those **who believe**: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Colossians 1: 15-20 (NLT)

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, **supreme** over all who rise from the dead. **So he is first in everything.** ¹⁹ For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.

Colossians 1: 21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³ **if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard**, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Colossians 1: 24-29 (NKJV)

²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been

revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory.** ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Colossians 2:4-10 (NKJV)

⁴ Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, **rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.** ⁶ As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, **so walk in Him,** ⁷ rooted and built up in Him and established in the **faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. ⁸ **Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit,** according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Colossians 2: 13-15 (NKJV)

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And ***He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*** ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Colossians 3:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:12-17 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, **put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;** ¹³ **bearing** with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. ¹⁴ But above all these things put on **love**, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵ And let the **peace of God** rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷ And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.