

Christ First

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: New Testament #64



Objective: To understand the background and content of Colossians.



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. 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.

--Colossians 1:15-18

The church in Colossae was a satellite church of the mother church in Ephesus. Paul had never visited this church, but he knew some of the people there, including Epaphras, the pastor. Paul might have even taught Epaphras in his seminary in Ephesus, and the young pastor later asked Paul for help in dealing with the issues at his church.

The theme of the letter is the Christ of the Church. It focuses on the person of Jesus Christ as the head of the Church. It emphasizes the deity and sufficiency of Christ. Paul dealt with three problems: an intellectual or philosophical attack on the faith; legalism; and an interest in psychic phenomena.

In chapter 1, Paul started with a blessing, as he did in other letters. He focused on Who Christ is, presenting Him in a way to answer intellectual attacks. He also wrote about what Christ has done and how to take hold of what Christ has done for us. At the end of the chapter, Paul stated his mission: to proclaim Jesus Christ.

In chapter 2, Paul addressed the legalists by saying that when we have Christ, we have everything. We do not need to do anything for our salvation. In chapter 3, Paul told the Colossians how to live in Christ. In chapter 4, Paul exhorted his readers to prayer. He showed the importance of prayer by his own example.

1. **True** or False? Paul wrote this epistle from prison in Rome.
2. True or **False**? Colossians is just a repeat of Ephesians.
3. True or **False**? Anything belonging to the spiritual realm is of God or the Holy Spirit.
4. True or **False**? Christ is so humble that He would never require us to put Him first in our lives.



5. **True** or False? The epistles in the New Testament are like the prophets in the Old Testament because they deal with problems blocking the work of God until they are removed.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

6. Paul was a prayer warrior. Who did he pray for?

- a. The sick
- b. The poor
- c. The lonely
- d. The born again**

7. When Paul prayed for the faithful believers in chapter 1, what did he pray for? (Choose all that apply)

- a. That nothing bad would ever happen to them
- b. That they would have knowledge of God's will for their lives**
- c. That they would have wisdom and understanding from the Spirit**
- d. That they would be prosperous and healthy

8. In chapter 1, what did Paul say is our hope of glory?

- a. Being successful
- b. Being famous
- c. Having Christ in us**
- d. Getting into heaven

9. At the end of chapter 1, what did Paul say was his mission?

- a. Proclaiming Christ and teaching others about Him**
- b. Learning more about false teaching
- c. Becoming a better speaker
- d. Becoming the best tentmaker so he could support himself

10. Paul focused on the deity and supremacy of Christ. Which of the following problems did he refute? (Choose all that apply)

- a. Legalism
- b. Animal worship
- c. Intellectual attack against the deity of Jesus
- d. Interest in the spirit world or psychic phenomenon



In Colossians 3:12, Paul wrote, *“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”* What are you wearing? What do you need to take off? And what must you put on?

Does Christ reign supreme in your heart and mind? If not, what can you do to put Him first in your life?



Thank God for Paul’s letters of instruction and encouragement to believers, written even while he was suffering in prison. Ask God to help you learn how to answer questions about your faith, and ask Him to protect your faith from attack. Thank God that Christ is supreme over all. Ask Him to help you bring Him glory in all that you do, and thank Him for living in you.



Going Deeper

1. How do you relate to and apply to your church the problems that were being experienced in the Church at Colossae: those who wanted to challenge the deity of Jesus Christ, those wanting bring legalism into the church, and those who made themselves vulnerable to the negative spiritual forces of this world? _____

2. How do you apply the reality that the pastor of the church at Colossae had someone like Paul whom he could seek out when he was overwhelmed with the problems in his church? _____

3. As we learned in the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians, this great apostle had the inspired ability to turn problems into masterpiece-inspired solutions. How do you apply Paul's masterpiece statement about Who Jesus Christ is to those in your church who continuously challenge Who He is? (Colossians 1:15-18) _____

4. How do you apply the great statements of this apostle about what Jesus Christ has done? (Consider verses 13-14 and 22-23 of chapter 1) _____

5. How do you apply his statement in 2:6-7 about how to relate to Jesus Christ? _____

6. How do you teach and apply to the legalists in your church the teaching of Paul in 2:9-12 regarding circumcision? _____

7. Just as the apostles asked Jesus to teach them about prayer (in Luke 11), what does Paul teach us about prayer by his example and by his prayers in this letter, and in his letter to the Ephesians?
