

The Bible Companion Series

THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST

**"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the
beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he
might have the preeminence."**

Colossians 1:17,18

A Study of the Letter to the Colossians

A Bible-Believing Study Guide

an AV 1611 Bible Companion

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Colossians Chapter One

The Messiah (Colossians 1:12-14)

I. Introduction (2 Timothy 3:16) – The Importance of Doctrine

- A. Continuing to work through chapter 1 of Colossians
- B. Focus of the chapter is, What Christians Need to Know About Their Messiah
- C. We have looked at how the Apostle Paul tenderly greeted the believers in Colosse, whom he had never met
- D. Then looked at his prayer list for Churches
- E. We now come to the reason why he wrote in the first place...
- F. To lay out just WHO Jesus the Messiah really is - So Paul precisely explained the unexplainable
- G. Paul directs our focus on two great truths:

- 1. What God did for us
- 2. And who Jesus the Messiah is
- 3. If people could settle those two truths, there would be amazing revival

H. There was and sometimes is MASSIVE confusion about those two subjects

- 1. Roman Catholicism, Islam, and all religions are built on what WE must do for God
- 2. Judeo-Christianity is all about what GOD has done for us through Christ!

I. Paul, with clear direction and inspiration from the Holy Spirit answers the heresies that swarmed around in those days of the middle of the First century

- 1. It is so easy to make everything fit your own private interpretation
- 2. And as quickly as churches sprung up, men and women teachers would creep in and turn people's attention away from the simplicity of Christ (2Cor 11:2-4)

- a. Jude 1:4
- b. Acts 15:24
- c. 2Cor 11:13-15
- d. Gal 2:4
- e. Eph 4:14
- f. 2Tim 3:6
- g. 2Pet 2:1,2
- h. 1John 4:1
- i. 2Jn 1:7
- j. 3Jn 1:9

J. That's why we STAY with the Bible only – and let the Bible interpret itself

II. Message – What Christians Need to Know About Their Messiah

A. What God has done (1:12-14)

- 1. Everything about Jesus was “of God”
 - a. Not of the Jews
 - b. Not of Jesus Himself
 - c. But of God! The life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ was OF God (Jn 5:19; 5:30; 6:38; 12:49;50; 14:24)
- 2. So just WHAT has God done for believers?
- 3. God made us all “meet” (fit, able) as partakers of the great inheritance of the saints (1:12)
 - a. By adoption

- b. By justification – making us righteous – as righteous as Jesus (Rom 8:29,30)!!!
 - c. God undid EVERYTHING Satan had done to Adam at the Fall!
 - d. A great inheritance by the way (Rom 8:32; Col 3:22-24)
4. Delivered us from the power of darkness
- a. Broke us FREE – defeated our Captor – previous slave owner
 - b. Unplugged Satan’s power to damn – that is some serious power he had as an accuser
 - c. Broke Satan’s grip on our soul – freed us from his kingdom
 - d. And He usually used a simple soul-winner to do that (Acts 26:18)!
 - e. BUT...
 - 1) God did NOT remove from us the presence of our enemy (Ps 23:5)
 - 2) NOR did God stop Satan from attacking us and testing us
 - 3) Satan is still very present as our adversary (1Peter 5:8)
 - f. So, when we “wrestle” against these powers, we need to wrestle from a victory side – not defeated or afraid (Eph 6:12) – just make sure you are armed and determined to win
5. Translated us into the kingdom of God’s Son (1:13)
- a. Translated is a fantastic word
 - b. We have NOT been physically MOVED out of this world – unfortunately
 - c. But we have been spiritually moved out of Satan’s kingdom – Hallelujah!
 - 1) Kingdom of bondage
 - 2) Kingdom of death
 - 3) Kingdom of demons and devils
 - 4) Kingdom of lies
 - 5) This is what I was born INTO
 - d. Into a new kingdom – the kingdom of God’s Son (1:13)
 - 1) Light
 - 2) Freedom
 - 3) Purity
 - 4) Truth
 - 5) This is what I was BORN AGAIN into!
 - 6) The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom
 - 7) Since I have been placed into Christ in the sight of God, I am already seated in heaven with Christ (Eph 1:3)
 - e. There is coming another kingdom – the kingdom of heaven on earth – the Millennium, where Jesus will sit as King of kings and Lord of lords in Jerusalem, and will actually rule with a rod of iron this sin-cursed world
6. Redeemed us (1:14)!
- a. We HAVE (present tense) redemption
 - 1) Redeemed – means bought back
 - 2) God personally paid off ALL our debts – all means ALL (Mt 18:23-27)
 - 3) God bought this whole world back from the devil at such a high price (1Cor 6:19,20)
 - 4) THROUGH Christ’s perfect blood – that is how valuable that blood was!
 - 5) Perfect forgiveness!
 - 6) When Paul starts writing about our “redemption” it seems he just can’t stop! He is in awe of it so much!
 - b. We have the forgiveness of sins:

- 1) What an impossible reality – EVEN the forgiveness of sins (1John 2:2)
 - 2) Through his blood - He has done it all through the shedding of His blood
 - 3) This truth is REMOVED in Ephesians 1:7 in the new bibles!
7. God did it all by and through Jesus Christ (2Cor 5:18,19).
- a. Not by Moses, or by the means of keeping the Law, or by the purity of Mary, or by the communion of catholic saints
 - b. But only and completely by Christ Jesus!
 - c. THAT is the reason for GOD becoming a Man – to redeem us

III. Conclusion

A. Next Sunday evening – Who Christ Is

1. Not only is the Jesus we worship the Creator
2. He is the Sustainer (1:17)
3. He is the head of the body, the church
4. He is the beginning (1:18) of the Church
5. The firstborn Son of God - from the dead
6. He is our Reconciler
7. He is our Sanctifier – if we let Him

B. So that in all things, He might have the pre-eminence (1:18)