

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

By Craig A. Ledbetter, B.A., Th.G.

Bible Baptist Church

Unit B, Enterprise Park, Innishmore,

Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland

Tel: (021) 4871234

E-Mail: biblebc@gmail.com

Web: www.biblebc.com

(c) 2017 Craig Ledbetter

Any portion, including the whole of this text may be reproduced without the permission of the author, as long as credit is given for its source (Romans 13:7)!

Colossians Chapter One

The Messiah Part 4

(Colossians 1:19-23)

I. Introduction

A. The Apostle Paul wrote 14 Books of the New Testament

1. Romans
2. 1 Corinthians
3. 2 Corinthians
4. Galatians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians
7. Colossians
8. 1 Thessalonians
9. 2 Thessalonians
10. 1 Timothy
11. 2 Timothy
12. Titus
13. Philemon
14. Hebrews

B. They were written to specific churches, and specific people in the First Century to help them settle what is right to believe (Doctrine), and do as Christians

C. A Bible preacher is called to make sure Christ's flock are taught and reminded about these truths (1Tim 4:6, 16; Titus 2:15; Jesus called it FEEDING His sheep)

D. Sometimes doctrine is NOT the most exciting kind of things to study (2Tim 4:1-4)

1. Doctrine of SIN (Hamartiology)
2. Doctrine of SALVATION (Soteriology)
3. Doctrine of MAN (Anthropology)
4. Doctrine of the CHURCH (Ecclesiology)
5. Doctrine of the SECOND COMING (Eschatology)
6. Doctrine of GOD (Theology)
7. ...

E. But they are THE most important for the believer – MANY false teachers, teachings

F. ONLY verse by verse, subject by subject study can establish people's faith (Col 2:6-8)

II. Review

A. This Man from Galilee...

1. He is the Image of the invisible God – He is exactly what God is like!
2. The Firstborn of every creature – the Lord of this universe!
3. The Creator of ALL things – all things came from HIS designs
4. He is Eternal – Existed before all things – He is the very "I am"
5. He is the Sustainer of the entire Universe
6. He is the HEAD of the Church

B. Tonight, some final truths about who and what this God-Man Jesus is

III. Lesson

A. The Final Revelations about Jesus... Here is Paul's Summary of all the above!

1. **Jesus is GOD - In Him all fullness dwells (1:19) – WHO HE IS**

- a. Jesus is the Trinity in the flesh – the Godhead
 - 1) Jesus said, if you saw HIM, you actually were looking at God the Father (John 14:8,9)
 - 2) He as a Man was equal with God (John 5:18)
 - 3) In His was ALL of the Spirit of God (John 3:34)
 - 4) The fullness of God!!! (Eph 1:22,23; Col 2:9; Jn 3:34)
 - a) In Him was GOD Almighty!
 - b) All the fullness of all three (not just bits of them) was IN CHRIST the Man
 - c) Three persons, three faces – one Being!
- b. As well as all the fullness (BEST) of absolutely everything is found in Him – God was delighted to have made everything good fit inside Jesus the Man!
 - 1) All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (2:3) – HE is the queen of sciences (Philp 3:10)
 - 2) All that can be known of God (Mt 11:25-27) is found in Jesus
 - 3) All of Grace (John 1:14-17) is found in Him
 - 4) ALL spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3) are found in Him – not in anything or anyone else
 - 5) Life itself (John 1:4; 10:10)
- c. Spend your day with Jesus Christ! “And he walks with me and He talks with me...”

2. Jesus is SAVIOUR! He is Reconciler (1:20-22a) – WHAT HE DID

- a. Jesus did TWO things:
 - 1) Made peace between us and God
 - 2) Reconciled all things in our lives unto Himself
 - 3) Through His death - through His physical blood shed on His cross
- b. What we were (1:21)
 - 1) Aliens – alienated from God, from His ways (Eph 2:12). Do not belong in God’s presence, in His heaven
 - 2) Enemies in our mind – twisted, perverted, evil ways of thinking!
 - 3) All because of our wicked works (evil deeds, John 3:19) – what wicked works?
 - a) Selfish works
 - b) Rebellious / disobedience
 - c) Self-righteous religious works (1Jn 3:12)
- c. Evidently, Jesus, the Messiah can reconcile anything – can fix it
 - 1) Our citizenship – from aliens, to Israel
 - 2) Our warfare – from enemies, to friends
 - 3) Anything! “things in earth, or things in heaven”
 - 4) Even “YOU”
- d. Ask Him, trust Him, wait on Him

3. Jesus is SANCTIFIER (1:22) – if we let Him – WHAT JESUS DOES!

- a. What we now are (1:22)
 - 1) Reconciled - We were reconciled when His body was crucified
 - 2) Saved from wrath
 - 3) For a purpose... to present us in heaven perfected!
- b. For what purpose did He do all the above?

- c. To present you and I one day...
 - 1) In heaven (which will be an amazing miracle)
 - 2) Holy
 - 3) Unblameable
 - 4) And unproveable in his sight (Cf Num 23:21)
- d. Wow! That is Christ's work in us NOW, cleaning us up and making us fit for heaven
- e. How is He doing that?
 - 1) Troubles, trials of our faith
 - 2) Teaching
 - 3) Time
 - 4) Trust – us learning to trust
- f. If we would just let Him do the work (Philp 1:6)

B. What to do so those things happen (not so that we can be saved, reconciled, but Holy, Unblameable, and Unproveable)

1. *Our Salvation is totally dependent upon Christ's efforts*
2. *Our Sanctification is somewhat dependent upon our efforts*
3. *Commit yourselves! All of the above is true ONLY to those who live out the following realities:*

- a. Continue in the faith – the faith of Christ (Gal 2:20)
 - 1) Some quit because they were just spectators
 - 2) Just keep believing.
 - 3) Quit quitting!
- b. Being grounded, and settled – rock-solidly anchored in this Book
 - 1) Get grounded and settled in what you believe
 - 2) Not constantly being driven by every wind of doctrine.
 - 3) Study what to believe
- c. Never moved away from the great hope of the Gospel – don't be deceived by the great falling away happening today in "Christendom"! There is no greater hope than what the Gospel offers!
- d. Which you heard from Epaphras – a soul-winner
- e. And not only you, but every creature under heaven – is this possible?
 - 1) That the whole world had heard of Jesus of Nazareth in the First Century!
 - 2) Evidently YES!
- f. And Jesus WILL perfect His work in you and on you!
- g. If he is not allowed to perfect His work in you, you will have some answering to do when you do get to heaven, with tears!

IV. Probing Questions

A. Does Jesus have pre-eminence in your life, decisions, will, and suffering?

1. What does that even mean?
2. What would it look like if He actually DID have it in your home?

B. What can hinder the saving work of Christ?

1. Confusion
2. Doctrinal error

3. Ignorance of who Christ really is – not just a great teacher!

C. What can hinder the sanctifying work of Christ?

1. Diminished faith
2. Unsettled faith
3. Quitting faith
4. Replacing faith - Believing heresies – resting in any other hope than the Gospel

D. List several of the efforts God went through to make you fit for all that God has for a saint?

1. Delivered us from the POWER of darkness
2. Translated us into the kingdom of God's Son
3. Redeemed us!
4. Forgave us!

E. How awesome is the lowly Jesus?

1. He is the Image of the invisible God – He is what God is like, if He were here!
2. The Firstborn of every creature
3. The Creator of ALL things
4. He is Eternal - before all created things
5. He is the Sustainer of the Universe (1:17)
6. The Head of the body, the church
7. The Beginning (1:18) of the Church
8. The Firstborn Son of God - from the dead
9. In Him all fulness of everything dwells
10. Are you committed to tapping into that source of all life? Every day?

V. Conclusion

A. We have to stop here

B. It gets GOODER and gooder as we go on

C. Next week, The Life of the Minister of the Gospel