



## World Christian Fellowship

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## The Book of Colossians

**Author:** Paul of Tarsus – born to Jewish parents, a Roman citizen, speaks Greek eloquently, and a tent maker.

### Year written:

Letter	Year Written
1 Thessalonians	52 AD
2 Thessalonians	52AD
1 Corinthians	57 AD
2 Corinthians	57 AD
Galatians	55-57 AD
Romans	57AD
Ephesians	62AD
Philippians	62AD
Colossians	52AD
Philemon	63AD
Hebrews	64-65AD
Titus	64-65 AD
1 Timothy	64-65 AD
2 Timothy	66-67 AD

### Historical background and purpose:

Apostle Paul never visited this church, Epaphras, the founder of this church visited him in prison in Rome. Possibly while Apostle Paul stayed in Ephesus for over three years and

taught the word of God there are lot of people travelled from various cities came and learned and went and established churches. Colosse were also one of them like Laodicea.

The members are mostly consisting of Gentiles. The city of Colosse located 100 miles west of Ephesus.



Hierapolis and Laodicea each set apart six miles in the valley where the Lycus River flows. Hierapolis known for its hot

springs bath for medicinal purpose and Laodicea for its wealth. Whereas Colosse was known for its wool and dyes.

**Colossians 2:1**, *For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,*

This show very clearly neither Colosse nor Laodicea was visited by Apostle Paul.

**Colossians 4:9**, *with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.*

Onesimus is the member of the church in Colosse.

Also Apostle Paul had asked them to read this letter in the church in Laodicea likewise their letter to be read out here. (4:16)

### **Purpose:**

- Tychius who was with Apostle Paul in Rome is been sent back to comfort them in their needs. (4:7-8)
- The danger of returning to their former beliefs and practices.
- Refuted the false teaching that was threatening this church by emphasising the outstanding Christian doctrine of Christology.
- To set forth the absolute supremacy and sole sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

## Brief Summary:

The whole message of this epistle finds expression in **Colossians 2:9-10a.**: *"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete."*

The two declarations in this sentence are the great revelations of the Colossian letter.

- The fullness of the Godhead is in Christ.
- Not only is the fullness of the Godhead in Christ, but the filling of the saints is in Christ too!

## Proclamation about Christ in Colossians

Title	Verse
Image of the Invisible God	1:15
First born of Creation	1:15
Originator of Creation	1:16
Cause of the creation	1:16
Goal of Creation	1:16
Predecessor of Creation	1:17
Sustainer of all Creation	1:17
Head of the church	1:18
First born from the dead	1:18
Preeminent one	1:18
Fullness of God	1:19
Reconciler of all things to Himself	1:20
Maker of Peace	1:20

This book has 4 chapters

1. Deeper life in Christ 1:1—2:7
2. Higher life in Christ 2:8-23
3. Inner life in Christ 3:1-17
4. Outer life in Christ 3:18—4:18

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction 1:1-14**

1. Salutation 1:1-2
2. Thanksgiving 1:3-8
3. Prayer 1:9-14

### **Explanation of the person and work of Christ 1:15-29**

1. The pre-eminence of Christ 1:15-20
2. In relation to God the Father 1:15a
3. In relation to all creation 1:15b-17
4. In relation to the church 1:18-20

### **The reconciling work of Christ 1:21-29**

1. As experienced by the Colossians 1:21-23
2. As ministered by Paul 1:24-29

## **Chapter 2: Warnings against the philosophies of men**

1. Paul's concern about Philosophy 2:1-5
2. Paul's exhortation 2:6-7
3. The true doctrine of Christ 2:8-15

### **Believer's completeness in Christ. 2:11-15.**

Description	Verse
The domination of flesh has been broken	2:11
Former manner of life has ended	2:12
Raised from spiritual death	2:12
Given a New Life	2:13
Transgressions have been forgiven	2:13
Debt to God has been paid	2:14
Enemy has been defeated	2:15

#### 4. The false doctrines of men 2:16-23

### **Chapter 3: Exhortations to practical Christian living 3:1—4:6**

1. The basic principle 3:1-4
2. Things to put off 3:5-11

Paul's first list deals with sexual practices.

- "Immorality" refers to illicit sexual intercourse.
- "Impurity" especially moral impurity in this context.
- "Passion" means uncontrolled illegitimate desire.
- "Evil desire"
- "Greed" is any materialistic desire, including lust that disregards the rights of others.

Paul's second list deals with sins of speech:

- "Anger"
- "Wrath" verbal outburst of evil passion.
- "Malice"
- "Slander" refers to insulting, injurious, malicious speech
- "Abusive speech" means filthy, disgraceful, dishonourable speech.
- Lying, distorting, untruthful speech.

### 3. Things to put on 3:12-17

- "Compassion" show sensitivity to those suffering and in need.
- "Kindness" sweet disposition and thoughtful interpersonal dealings.
- "Humility" thinking lowly of ourselves
- "Gentleness" not behaving harshly, arrogantly, or
- Self-assertively but with consideration for others.
- "Patience" being long-suffering, self-restraining.
- "Bearing with" one another means putting up with others and enduring discomfort.
- "Forgiving"
- "Love"

### 4. The fundamental relationships 3:18—4:1

- a) Wives and husbands 3:18-19
- b) Children and parents 3:20-21
- c) Slaves and masters 3:22—4:1

## **Chapter 4:**

1. The essential practice 4:2-6
2. The bearers of this Letter 4:7-9
3. Greetings from Paul's companions 4:10-14
4. Greetings to others 4:15-17
- 5. Paul's personal conclusion 4:18**

## **Application for today:**

### **1. Restored Life in God.**

First, God restores us to "our true place in creation" in Christ. We can regain the sceptre and the crown as kings of the earth under God's authority (Genesis 2:15).

God has sent us out into the entire world to make Christ known (Matthew 28:19-20). Unfortunately, we do not always realize our position. We choose instead to crawl among the world's garbage heaps. Nevertheless God makes us full in Christ. We come into a new relationship to all creation through Christ. God restores us to our divinely intended position in creation in Him. We are His trophies.

Second, God restores us to "our true relation to Himself" through Christ's resurrection. God communicates His very life to us so that we take our rightful place as God's subjects. We are His instruments.

Third, God restores us to "true fellowship with Himself" in Christ. We not only receive from God, but we can also give to

God in service. By this our fellowship becomes reciprocal. We are His partners. We experience fullness in Christ, for in God.

God restores us to our true place in creation, to our true relation to Himself, and to our true fellowship with Himself. This restoration enables us to cooperate with God in His purposes. We become, not only trophies of His grace, but His instruments and even His partners in our generation.

## **2. Warning against wandering away from Christ.**

1. The first warning is a warning against a false philosophy (2:8)
2. Second warning is against false mediation (2:16-18)
3. Third warning is against false confidences (2:20-23)
4. Apostle Paul does not use any of his credentials when it comes to knowing Christ. Could we live a life making it our goal to know more about Christ?

## **3. According to the list of putting off and on in Christ, how are you doing?**

Do self-examination about yourself?

## **4. Do you live a life knowing that you are complete in Christ?**

- The domination of flesh has been broken
- Former manner of life has ended

- Raised from spiritual death
- Given a New Life
- Transgressions have been forgiven
- Debt to God has been paid
- Enemy has been defeated