

# The Book of Colossians

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**SESSION 3 presented by Jim Prock**

**Verses 1:24 to 2:5**

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## PREFACE

Before we begin, I want to add to our lesson and touch on a couple of thoughts that have impacted my thinking relative to the sufficiency of Christ in my life and our discussion of about discipleship. This may be somewhat esoteric, but I believe you'll make the connection. As I thought about this lesson, a couple of disparate questions popped into my mind.

FIRST, are my earthly possessions really that important? Matthew 19 and 20 says not to lay up for yourselves treasures on earth but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

Here's the deal. Sue and I decided to move to a smaller house with less upkeep. We simply don't need all the "stuff we've accumulated over 63 years of marriage, so asked ourselves what things are really important and donated many of them for others to enjoy.

As Billy Graham used to say, in effect, I never saw a hearse pulling a U-haul trailer.

# VIDEO

IT ALL GOES BACK IN THE BOX

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSAVN-nYSLI>

As you watch this video  
ask yourself -

**WHAT REALLY MATTERS?**

NEXT, buried in my treasures were stacks of old music CDs, and the lyrics of a few songs suddenly jumped out at me. Some people don't believe that God speaks to them, but I do and sometimes he does it through music. Here are some samples.

The Beatles

There's nothin' you can do that can't be done  
No one you can save that can't be saved  
It's easy  
All you need is love

Burt Bacharach

What's it all about, Alfie?  
Is it just for the moment we live?  
As sure as I believe there's a heaven above, Alfie  
I know there's something much more  
Something even non-believers can believe in

Kris Kristofferson

Tell me, Lord  
What did I ever do  
That was worth lovin' you  
Or the kindness you've shown?  
Maybe, Lord  
I can show someone else  
What I've been through myself  
On my way back to you

▶  
Collin Raye

For every mountain I have climbed  
Every raging river crossed  
You were the treasure I longed to find  
The only dream that mattered had come true  
In this life, I was loved by you

## INTERESTINGLY, THAT LAST SONG TALKS DESCRIBES THE SAME TREASURE THAT PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS REFERENCES IN CHAPTER 2 VERSE 2-3, WHICH SAYS:

My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

So why did the people of Colassae need to hear Paul's message? It was an influential city in what is now Turkey during the Byzantine period before the Ottoman's came to power and ruled the area until its collapse at the end of World War I and before Israel became a nation. It was near Laodicea that was referenced as one of the 7 churches in the Book of Revelation

It was a very affluent area, probably much like Southern California, but the problem was that many new Christians were listening to false teachers, and some were embracing the idea that the Gospel is based on human merit and good works. It was akin to a sort of pre-Gnostic idea that you didn't need to be saved from your sins. You just needed to arrive at a higher level of knowledge and that while Christ was important, he was not God. Sound familiar?

So, Paul set about to explain to the Colossians that It wasn't human traditions and basic principles of this world, or religious festivals, worship of angels, human commands and teachings, BUT Christ alone that was the issue.

As a result, this short letter became the most important treatise on the supremacy of Christ which is the essential doctrine we are studying in this series.

# Quick review

## REVIEW OF SESSION 1 - Verses 1-14

The supremacy and the sufficiency of Jesus Christ is all we need in this life and the life to come because God is at work in and through us. In other words, faith in Jesus alone.

Our past does not define our future and our circumstances do not limit what God wants to accomplish in and through our lives.

Key verses to remember?

### Philippians 1:6 **ESV**

- ▶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

### Proverbs 19:21 **ESV**

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

### Romans 8:28 **ESV**

- ▶ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.



# Quick review

## REVIEW OF SESSION 2 - Verses 15-23

Jesus was God's agent as the originator of the universe. All things, including ourselves, were created by and for Jesus. Our lives matter because we were designed to be in a relationship with God and in him all things hold together glorify him. We learned about laminin, the protein in our bodies in the shape of a cross that is described as the re-bar that hold our bodies together.

Key verses to remember:

### Colossians 1:17 ESV

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together

### Colossians 1:19-20 ESV

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## Things to look for in today's lesson

### SESSION 3 - Verses 1:24-2.5

1. The significance of both Jews and Gentiles being a part of God's family?
2. The mystery of God that Paul talks about?  
P.S.- Paul spoke about mystery more than 20 times throughout his various letters  
Key - Repetition is the key to remembering
3. The difference between Christ and us versus Christ in us.

▶ **PLAY VIDEO**

▶ <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/287526?session=292100>



# WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

Paul was a Jew and knew full well how new Christians might react upon hearing the Gospel, so his purpose in writing to the Colossians was to remind them that God has been making a way for his people to have a relationship with him from the very beginning.

Paul explained that the mystery is Christ in us, the hope of glory.

Jesus fulfilled that goal by becoming everything people need through his supremacy and his sufficiency by providing everything we need to reach our full potential when Christ is in us.

He gave us everything he promised so we can be everything he wants us to be.

## REMEMBER WHAT IS SAYS IN HEBREWS 11-1

- ▶ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen

# Table Discussion

- ▶ 1. Can you think of any examples of teaching in today's church that has strayed from the message of the Gospel?
- ▶ 2. Can you explain the mystery of God as it regards Christ living in you?
- ▶ 3. Are you burdened by anything that inhibits you from growing in your faith?