



Colossians Introduction

I. Identity of Christ (1:1-3:4)

A. Thankfulness and prayerful hope they continue in Spiritual knowledge and Christian character (1:1-14)

B. Reconciliation of Christ (1:14-23)

C. Paul's own labors for the Gospel to go to the Gentiles (1:24-2:7)

D. Cautions for attaining maturity (2:8-3:4)

i. not jumping to philosophical speculations.

ii. human ordinances or traditions.

iii. strict self-denial to complete the Believer.

iv. but that it's faith in Christ as our perfect redeemer and that by being connected to Christ by the Holy Spirit who dwells in each of us who leads our thought and desires to heavenly things.

II. Applying the Identity of being new in Christ to our life (3:5-4:18)

A. putting off the nature of our old self, and placing on the new man – brotherly love, which is to be exercised in social worship and mutual edification (3:5-17)

B. directions for how we fulfill our domestic duties now under this new value system (3:18-4:1)

C. to be consistent in prayer and thanksgiving and Godly conduct they had been taught from the Word before the world (4:2-6)

D. In everything they would be told by those bringing the letter, to remember his bonds and who they are in, in Christ (4:7-18)

- Or -

Thanksgiving (1:1-8)

Prayer for fulness and a worthy walk (1:9-14)

I. Identity of Christ – what we may be filled by

A. Christ is the fulness of God in creation (1:15-18)

B. The fulness, cross, and mystery of Christ (1:19-27)

i. Christ is the fulness of God in redemption (1:19-23)

ii. Christ is the fulness of God in the Church (1:24-2:7)

D. Christ is the fulness of God versus heresy (2:8-23)

II. Application – That we way walk in

A. The new life – and believers individually (3:1-11)

B. The new life – and believers reciprocally (3:12-17)

C. The new life – and domestic relationships (3:18-21)

D. The new life – and employment obligations (3:21- 4:1)

E. The new life – and “them that are without” (4:1-6)

III. Personal addend (4:7-18)

- Or -

- I. Greeting
- II. Thanksgiving
- III. Prayer (1:9-14)
- IV. Praise of Christ (1:15-20)
 - A. Christ is Lord of creation (1:15-17)
 - B. Christ is Lord of Redemption (1:18-20)
- V. Reconciliation of the Colossians to God (1:21-23)
- VI. Paul's labor for the Gospel 1:24-2:3
 - A. Paul's suffering and stewardship of the mystery (1:24-28)
 - B. Paul's labor for the Colossians (1:29-2:3)
- VII. Dangerous teaching at Colossae (2:4-23)
 - A. Warning about deceptive teaching (2:4-8)
 - B. Help for the danger: resources we have in Christ (2:9-15)
 - C. Additional warning about the teachings (2:16-23)
- VIII. The proper focus: Christ and the Life Eternal (3:1-4)
- IX. Instructions on living the Christian Life (3:5-4:6)
 - A. Dealing with the sins of the past (3:5-11)
 - B. Putting on the virtues of Christ (3:12-17)
 - C. Living in the Christian household (3:18-4:1)
 - D. Persistence in Prayer (4:2-4)
 - E. Good behavior toward those outside the community (4:5-6)
- X. Personal Greetings and Instructions (4:7-17)
 - A. Those carrying the letter (4:7-9)
 - B. Greetings from Paul's associates (4:10-14)
 - C. Greetings to the Christians in Laodicea (4:15-17)
- XI. Letter Closing (4:18)

Central teaching: 2:9-10a

The fulness and completeness of the Christian is only found in Christ as is given from the Word, and Paul brings this to light over and against the (mystic self-denial) that has been joined with the (philosophies and traditions) that mankind builds on our own. Paul says this is overcome by 1:9 – being filled with Spiritual Knowledge from the Word, and 1:10 – walking worthy of the Word and our calling which we have been called to put on as new creation in Christ.

Paul's appeal for the Colossians to abide – 2:6-23

Key Verses:

Col 1:11, 2:2, 3:5, 4:18

Christ is all in all 3:11

To fill (1:9,24,25, 2:10, 4:12)

Fulness (1:19, 2:9)

All/every (1:15,16,17,23,28)

Knowledge/Mystery (1:26,27, 2:2, 4:3)

Riches (1:27, 2:2, 3:16) as is also used heavily in Ephesians

Words of attention that are only ever used here and by Paul in Scripture:

Philosophy (2:8)

Will Worship (2:23)

Robbed of one's reward (2:18)