

COLOSSIANS: LIFE IN CHRIST, OUR COSMIC KING

Week 4 -- Col. 1:21-2:5

- I. Getting into the text (*see handout*)
 - Mark all the places in the text (circle, underline, etc.) that use language of abundance/fullness/excess. What stands out?

- II. Outline of Colossians 1:1-2:5
 - A. Opening greeting (1:1-2)
 - B. Thanksgiving for growth of the gospel in the world & in Colossae (1:3-8)
 - C. Intercession for the Colossians (1:9-25)
 1. We ask God TO fill you with knowledge of his will... (v9)
 2. THROUGH all the wisdom & understanding from Spirit (9)
 3. SO THAT you may live a life pleasing to God (10-14)
 - a) Bearing fruit in good works (10)
 - b) Growing in knowledge of God (10)
 - c) Strengthened for endurance (11)
 - d) Giving thanks to the Father who rescued us and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son (12-14)
 4. Foundation: the work & person of Jesus Messiah
 - a) Supreme reconciler in the cosmos and the church (15-20)
 - b) Supreme reconciler in Colossae (21-23) ← **You are here.**
 - D. Paul's Introduction of himself (1:25-2:5)
 1. Paul's ministry in the world and the church (1:25-29)
 2. Paul's ministry in Colossae (2:1-5)

- III. The Cosmic King in Colossae (1:21-23)
 - A. Their past: Alienated, "enemies in your minds," "evil deeds"
 - B. Reconciled in Christ
 1. Total reversal
 2. Reconciled for a purpose: to be presented to God as holy, without blemish, without blame
 - C. ...IF...
 1. Why "if"?
 2. Key words: remain, established, firm, "do not move"
 3. You have a solid foundation -- remain on it!

→ A side note on 'deconstruction'

IV. Paul's Self-Introduction (1:24-2:5)

→ What does Paul tell the Colossians about himself in these verses? What do you think he is trying to accomplish?

A. Paul's Ministry in the Roman Empire (1:24-29)

1. Characterized by suffering (24)
2. A steward/servant with a commission from God (25)
3. Fulfill the word of God: the "mystery" that has been revealed, namely that God ordained Jesus Messiah to be King of ALL nations, and Gentiles are welcomed into the family of God (26-27).
4. Proclamation: admonishing & teaching in order to bring believers to maturity in Christ (28)
5. Hard-working servant (29)

B. Paul's Pastoral Heart for Colossae (2:1-5)

1. Working hard for all who haven't met him (1)
2. The goal: encouragement/strengthening, being knit together in love and knowledge (2)
3. IN ORDER THAT: they may know the mystery, Christ himself (2)
4. Christ has all the wisdom and knowledge they need (3)
5. Purpose: so that you won't be deceived! (4)
6. With them in the Spirit (5)

→ A side note on CRT

V. Paul's Intro and Us

→ How does this text work in US towards those same goals that Paul names?

Colossians 1:1-2:5

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4
because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's
people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and
about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6 that has come to
you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole
world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly
understood God's grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a
faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you.
We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and
understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and
please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of
God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may
have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has
qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For
he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the
Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all
things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones
or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the
body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in
everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness
dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth
or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your
evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to
present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you
continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the

gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

2:1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 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, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.