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No Person Or Plan Is **BIGGER** Than **The Purpose Of God**

Study of Colossians – Chapter 1

Author: Paul

Audience: Church at Colosse

Purpose: To combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Christ.

Theme: The **Supremacy** and **Sufficiency** of Christ

Thought	Explanation	Importance
Christ is God	Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, Lord of all creation, and Lord of the new creation. He is the expressed reflection of the invisible God. He is eternal, pre-existent omnipotent, equal with the Father. He is supreme and complete.	Because Christ is supreme, our lives must be Christ-centered. To recognize him as God means to regard our relationship with him as most vital and to make his interests our top priority.
Christ is Head of the Church	Because Christ is God, he is the head of the church, his true believers. Christ is the founder, the leader, and the highest authority on earth. He requires first place in all our thoughts and activities.	To acknowledge Christ as our head, we must welcome his leadership in all we do or think. No person, group, or church can regard any loyalty as more critical than that of loyalty to Christ.
Union with Christ	Because our sin has been forgiven and we have been reconciled to God, we have a union with Christ that can never be broken. In our faith connection with him, we identify with his death, burial, and resurrection.	We should live in constant contact and communication with God. When we do, we all will be unified with Christ and with one another.
Man-Made Religion	False teachers were promoting a man-made religion that stressed self-made rules (legalism). They also sought spiritual growth by discipline of the body (asceticism) and visions (mysticism). This search	We must not cling to our own ideas and try to blend them into Christianity. Nor should we let our hunger for a more fulfilling Christian experience cause us to trust in a teacher, a group, or a system of thought more than in



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	created pride in their self-centered efforts.	Christ himself. Christ is our hope and our true source of wisdom.
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Outline:

- I. Supremacy of Christ
 - a. Greetings – 1:1-2
 - b. Thanksgiving – 1:3-23
 - c. Prayer for spiritual wisdom and strength – 1:1-12
 - d. Doctrinal discussion – 1:13-23
 - e. Image of the invisible God - 1:15
 - f. The Creator – 1:16
 - g. The “head of the body” the church – 1:18
 - h. His crucifixion makes it possible to stand in the presence of God – 1-22
 - i. World’s teachings vs. union with Christ – 1:24 – 1:29

Vocabulary:

Syncretism – Combining ideas from other philosophies and religions.

Theology – the study of religious faith, practice, and experience; especially, the study of God and of God's relation to the world.

Anthropology- is the study of the human as it relates to God concerned with human behavior, human biology, cultures and societies, in both the present and past.

Legalism - describe a doctrinal position emphasizing a system of rules and regulations for achieving both salvation and spiritual growth.

Asceticism - the doctrine that a person can attain a high spiritual and moral state by practicing self-denial, self-mortification, and the like.

Mysticism - that focuses on preparation for, consciousness of, and reaction to what can be described as the immediate or direct presence of God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What from the lesson today moved you the most?
2. Is Jesus really the center of my life? Or is it just words that I say, but I really don't believe it in my heart?
3. If in fact Jesus is the center and I believe it with my heart then it should be reflected in my life, i.e., the way I treat people, the way I react/respond to people, the way I allow people to treat me, the way I view and value myself....when I reflect on where I am today, would I be charged with having too much Jesus in my life? Is my life resilient and patient, so that no matter the circumstances...Jesus is always my response?
4. What have I put in place of Jesus as my center? Health, wealth, children, self, spouse, career...
5. Is my mind growing in the knowledge of God? How can I defend the truth if I do not know the truth?
6. Is my heart full of joyful gratitude? Do I celebrate even the small things that God shows me in my life, just to let me know He is there?
7. Do I have a spirit of humility or entitlement (consumption):



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- a. Humility – Father, thank you because you did not have to do this and grant me love, grace and mercy. I see how you went ahead of me and made a way...I see how you knew I would be in this situation and made a way for me.
- b. Entitlement - This is what my Father should do for me as His child. I don't make time for Him...I don't spend time with Him in prayer or study...I only call on Him when things get bad.