

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 1

“SOME CHRISTIANS MAKE YOU GIVE THANKS”

Colossians 1:1-8

INTRODUCTION - 1:1-2

- (1) IT **REMINDS** US OF THE AUTHORITY OF PAUL
“an apostle of Jesus Christ by (through) the will of God”
(important because he had never seen them - cf. **2:1**)
- (2) IT **REVEALS** THE KIND OF PEOPLE TO WHICH HE WAS WRITING
“saints” - set apart ones “faithful brethren” - writing to spirit-filled believers “in Christ” - The sole basis of their position
- (3) IT **REFLECTS** THE SOURCE OF ALL CHRISTIAN BLESSING AND GROWTH

“grace ... and peace” (some texts read, “Lord Jesus Christ”)

- 1A. SEEN IN THE **EXPERIENCE** OF THESE COLOSSIAN BELIEVERS - 3-6
- 2A. SEEN IN THE **EXAMPLE** OF EPAPHRAS - 7-8

1A. SEEN IN THE **EXPERIENCE** OF THESE COLOSSIAN BELIEVERS - 3-6

1B. The **RESPONSE** Paul gave - 1
“we (he and Timothy -) give thanks (continually) to God - praying always for you” - a consistent and faithful prayer life that always included thanksgiving for people.

2B. The **RESULTS** that Paul hears were in their lives - 4
(This caused him to give thanks.)

1C. Their “faith” was **Centered** in the Person of Jesus Christ
(the sphere in which faith operates and functions properly)

2C. Their “love” was **Concerned** for all the believers, not just a select few

3B. The **REASON** why these results were in their lives - 5
“because of the hope laid up for you in heaven”

1C. The **Basis** of the hope is the resurrection of Jesus Christ
cf. *1 Peter 1:3-5*

"GIVE THANKS"
Message No. 1 - Colossians 1:1-8

- 3B. The REASON why these results were in their lives - 5
1C. The Basis of the hope is the resurrection of Jesus Christ
2C. The Benefits of that hope
"laid up in the heavens" where Christ is and where He is preparing a place for us!
- 4B. Their REACTION to the gospel - 5-6
1C. It was Personal with them
"you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel, which has come to you"
2C. It was Productive In them as it was in others
"constantly bearing fruit and increasing"
- 5B. The RELATIONSHIP of God in their experience
"Since the day you heard ... and understood (came to know) (complete full knowledge) the grace of God in truth" cf. *Eph. 2:8-10* and *Eph. 1:6*
- 1A. SEEN IN THE EXPERIENCE OF THESE COLOSSIAN BELIEVERS - 3-6
2A. SEEN IN THE EXAMPLE OF EPAPHRAS - 7-8
1B. As to his WORK with the Colossian believers
"just as you learned (were disciplined) it from Epaphras"
2B. As to the WILL of God for his life
he is referred to as a "*bond-servant*" (slave + with) and as a "servant (deacon) of Christ" - We must be submissive to what God wants!
3B. As to the WAY he is described in his service for Christ
1C. "beloved" - he was much loved by others
2C. "faithful" - you could always count on him
3C. "on our behalf" - he had the best interests of others in his heart
4B. As to the WORDS he shared with others about the Colossian believers
"he also informed (to make plain or evident) us of your love in the Spirit"
Cf. *1 Peter 1:22-25*

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 2

“THE NEED OF PRAYER”

Colossians 1:9-14

1A. THE **REASON** FOR PRAYER - 1:9A

1B. Because of the **NEED** in the life of every believer
“*since the day we heard*”

he heard that they had become Christians - Paul then knew what they needed - we all have the same needs. The things listed here are the real needs in our lives - we only think that other things are the real needs.

2B. Because of the **NECESSITY** of God's involvement in meeting these needs only He can do it. He has promised to answer prayer.

2A. THE **REQUESTS** OF PRAYER - 9B-14

1B. In terms of God's **WILL** - 9b

1C. As to our **Ability** to do the right thing or make the right decision
“that you may be filled with the knowledge (full, complete and mature knowledge) of His will”

2C. As to the **Application** of God's will to the problems of life.

1D. **Wisdom**
doing the right thing in the right way with the right motive.

2D. **Understanding**
seeing things clearly and correctly from God's viewpoint.
literally - “to bring together” (like two rivers coming together). To bring together our circumstances and what we think we know with what the Scriptures actually say.

2B. In terms of our **WALK** - 10-14

1C. The basic **Concern**
“walk in a manner worthy (having the weight balanced) of the Lord, to please Him in all respects”(unto all pleasing). Is what we are doing or saying really pleasing and honoring to the Lord? We must know God's will in order to do that.

"THE NEED OF PRAYER"
Message No. 2 - Colossians 1:9-14

2A. THE REQUESTS OF PRAYER - 9B-14

1B. In terms of God's WILL - 9b

2B. In terms of our WALK - 10-14

1C. The basic Concern

2C. The main Characteristics of that walk - 1:10b-14

1D. Your Actions reveal that the Holy Spirit is controlling you and producing His fruit in you
"bearing fruit (constantly) in every good work"

everything that is described in the Bible as being a "good work."
Cf. *Phil. 4:8*.

2D. Your constant Aim is to know God Himself -
"increasing (constantly) in the knowledge (full, mature knowledge = facts + experience) of God"

3D. Your personal Abilities reflect an inward strength that could come only from God.

1E. The Extent of that inward strength -
"according to His glorious power (the inherent - kratos - strength of His glory, - cf. Eph. *1:1&20; 3:20; Phil. 4:13*. An inexhaustible supply! There is no problem or burden or crisis that we face that can be greater than the power of God within us to meet it and face it!

2E. The Endurance of that inward strength
"for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience" (unto all patience - things; and longsuffering- people)

3E. The Expression which proves that inward strength is there
"joyously (with joy)" *James 1:2* - "consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials" *Romans 5:3* -
"We also exult or rejoice in our tribulations. "

4D. Your Attitude is one of continual thanksgiving to God
"giving thanks to the Father" - in three specific areas:

1E. For His Reception of us into His family as sons and heirs
"who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in (the) light". - cf. *1 Pet. 1:3-5; Rom. 8:17*

"THE NEED OF PRAYER"
Message No. 2 - Colossians 1:9-14

- 4D. Your Attitude is one of continual thanksgiving to God
 - 1E. For His Reception of us into His family as sons and heirs
 - 2E. For His **Release** from the control of sin and Satan
“delivered us from the domain of darkness” (authority - the authority of the darkness - cf. ***Eph. 2:1-3***) - cf. ***1 Pet. 2:9***
 - 3E. For our **Redemption** in Jesus Christ
which includes two basic things:
 - 1F. A new **Position**
“transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son the Son of His love!”
 - 2F. A complete **Pardon**
“in whom we are having the redemption - to loose from the forgiveness of the sins (all of them)

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 3

“WHO IS JESUS?”

Colossians 1:15-23

- 1A. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CREATOR - 15A
- 2A. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CREATION -15B-17
- 3A. HIS INTENTION FOR THE CHURCH - 18-23

- 1A. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CREATOR - 15A
“And He is the image of the invisible God”

What do we learn from this expression and statement?

- 1B. Christ is the REVELATION of the invisible God
The invisible is understood by the visible
- 2B. Christ is the complete REPRESENTATION of the invisible God
To see Jesus is to see the Father! “*image*” - a copy seeing your face in the water. Every image is a likeness, but every likeness is not an image. Two men can look alike but not be derived from the same source.
- 3B. Christ has a specific RELATIONSHIP with the Father
He is the “*image*” but not the same as the Father.

Cf. *Heb. 1:3* “exact representation of His nature” (the imprint of a tool)
The word “*nature*” – “to stand under”

Christ and the Father are the same in substance, nature, or being; Christ is a perfect representation of the Father, but separate from Him in personality and work.

- 2A. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CREATION -15B-17

- 1B. As to His PREEMINENCE
“the firstborn of all creation” “*firstborn*” (Prototokos)- used 9 times (twice in this passage *v. 18*) *Matt. 1:25* and *Luke 2:7* - refer to birth of Jesus. Called Mary’s “firstborn” son *Rom. 8:29*

“*firstborn*” - from the standpoint of time, Christ was not born first among all the believers. *Heb. 1:6* - again, not true from standpoint of time *Heb. 11:28*

Firstborn of Egyptians *Heb. 12:23* - plural - church of the firstborn ones *Rev. 1:5* - “*firstborn of the dead*”

"WHO IS JESUS"
Message No. 3 - Colossians 1:15-23

- 1B. As to His PREEMINENCE
- 2B. As to His POWER - 16-17
 - "created all things"

 - 1C. The Origin of that power
 - "*in Him*" - It is not a power granted - to Him by the Father, but that which He has in and of Himself

 - 2C. The Operation of that power - 16b
 - "all things have been created through Him" - cf. *John 1:3*

 - 3C. The Objective of that power
 - "for Him" - or "unto Him"- cf. *Rom. 11:36*

- 3B. As to His PREEXISTENCE - 17a
 - "He is before all things"

- 4B. As to His PROVIDENCE - 17b

- 1A. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CREATOR - 15a
- 2A. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CREATION -15B-17
- 3A. HIS INTENTION FOR THE CHURCH - 18-23
 - 1B. As to His PLACE of authority
 - "He is also head of the body, the church" - cf. *Eph. 1:22-23; 4:15-16*

 - 2B. As to His POSITION among the believers -18b-19
 - 1C. It is based on His Resurrection
 - "firstborn out of the dead ones"

 - Because He lives, we have new life.

 - 2C. It is based on the Relationship of all things to Him
 - "He Himself might come to have first place in everything"

 - 3C. It is based on the Reality of His presence among the believers
 - "all the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him"

 - Cf. *Eph. 1:22-23* "all the fullness" - the full expression of His life is seen in the corporate lives of all the believers.

"WHO IS JESUS"
Message No. 3 - Colossians 1:15-23

- 1A. HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH THE CREATOR - 15a
- 2A. HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE CREATION -15B-17
- 3A. HIS INTENTION FOR THE CHURCH - 18-23
 - 1B. As to His PLACE of authority
 - 2B. As to His POSITION among the believers -18b-19
 - 3B. As to His PLAN to make the church a reality - 20-23
"reconciliation"

- 1C. The Ground upon which this plan is built
"having made peace through the blood of His cross" - cf. *Eph. 2:13-16*;
Rom. 5:10-11

- 2C. The Guarantee that this can be done
"He has now reconciled you" "although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds"

- 3C. The Goal which He had in mind - 22
 - 1D. The Motive toward the believer
"to present (stand alongside of) you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach"

 - 2D. The Manner in which we should respond - 23
"if indeed you continue (it is obvious that you are remaining) in the faith"

 - 3D. The Means by which it is made known
"which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister" (servant)

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 4

“CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY”

Colossians 1:24-29

- 1A. *THE RESPONSE OF PAUL TO THAT MYSTERY - 24-25*
- 2A. *THE REVELATION OF THAT MYSTERY - 26-27*
- 3A. *OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT MYSTERY - 28-29*

1A. THE RESPONSE OF PAUL TO THAT MYSTERY - 24-25

- 1B. In terms of his ATTITUDE toward what he was experiencing
“Now I rejoice”

Cf. *Romans 5:3-5* and *1 Cor. 12:7-11*. He clearly saw how God was using him. That always brings us joy!

2B. In terms of his AFFLICTIONS

- 1C. The Ministry of those afflictions

“for your sake” (in behalf of you) and “on behalf of His body which is the church”. What you suffer, others suffer, and all will benefit from the results.

- 2C. The Manner in which those afflictions are described

“filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions” lacking not in the sense of His atonement or in the sense of how extensive they were, but in the sense of how it is seen and applied for believers today!

3B. In terms of the ASSIGNMENT he was given to do

- 1C. His Role

To be a *“servant”* (minister - based on the commission God gave to him)
“according to the stewardship from God bestowed upon me”

- 2C. His Responsibility

to fully carry out the preaching of the Word of God - based on the command God gave to him. (It is easy to devote our energies to some things other than the Word of God! It is the Word of God which we are to proclaim!)

2A. THE REVELATION OF THAT MYSTERY - 26-27

- 1B. As to its MANIFESTATION

“CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY”

Message No. 4 - Colossians 1:24-29

2A. *The REVELATION of that mystery - 26-27*

1B. As to its MANIFESTATION

1C. The **People** to whom this manifestation has been made
“*to His saints*” (hidden from past ages and generations)

2C. The **Purpose** of this manifestation

“to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery among (in) the Gentiles” “*the glory*” - the presence of God dwelling with His people.

Cf. *Ephesians 3:4-6*

2B. As to its **MESSAGE**

“*Christ in you, the hope of glory*”

1C. The **Person** of Christ is dwelling in you.

Illus. - our body in the air, and yet the air is in the body or the sponge in the water, and yet the water is in the sponge.

In what sense is Christ “in us?” Certainly by “faith” - we believe in Him and therefore, our belief in Him is what is in our hearts. He is at the right hand of the throne of God, but also in us and we in Him.

We are seated in Him in the heaven- lies, We are “in Christ” and He is “in us. “The Holy Spirit is “in us” and yet, not limited to us. Neither is Christ, Who also is “in the Holy Spirit” and the “Spirit in Him.”

The mystery was not that the Gentiles would be saved. That was clearly known and predicted in the Old Testament. However, the fact that the Gentiles would be in the same body with the Jews - equal to them in terms of the blessings and the inheritance - was a mystery.

To accomplish that one body, it necessitated the indwelling Christ and Holy Spirit.

2C. The **Prospect** of glory for the believer is based on the indwelling Christ “*the hope of glory*” (includes our resurrection bodies). To say that this is simply based upon our faith puts too much dependency upon the person's ability to keep believing this - No.

The Bible teaches that we have been “born again” of incorruptible seed!

"CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY"

Message No. 4 - Colossians 1:24-29

1A. The RESPONSE of Paul to that mystery - 24-25

2A. The REVELATION of that mystery - 26-27

3A. OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT MYSTERY - 28-29

1B. In terms of PROCLAMATION

“we (continue) are proclaiming”

which we proclaim (Greek)- refers to the “which” of v. 27 - the whole phrase, “Christ in you, the hope of glory” that is what we are continuing to proclaim!

1C. The Method that was used

“*admonishing and teaching*”

the one emphasizes the aspect of warning someone (to put to mind with the desire to stop them from doing something); the other emphasizes the impartation of knowledge and truth. It is almost like saying the negative and positive of teaching.

2C. The Manner in which it was done

“with (in) all wisdom” sometimes what we say is correct in its context but not wise in its timing or in the way it was said.

2B. In terms of PURPOSE

“that we may present every man complete in Christ”

Two views possible: It is a statement dealing with evangelism - therefore, the admonishing and teaching would be with a view toward evangelism. The argument is that we are “perfect” in Christ when we accept Him as Lord and Savior. That which we are proclaiming is “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

It more likely is a statement dealing with Christian growth and maturity - the goal of our admonishing and teaching is to produce a mature life, one that realizes the truth and the application of the statement, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.”

3B. In terms of POWER - 29

1C. The Striving involved clearly indicates the need for God's power (laboring to the point of exhaustion, and agonizing continually).

2C. The Strength involved is God's, not ours

It is His working, the one which is being worked in me in power.

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 5

“THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE”

Colossians 2:1-7

- 1A. *THE **PRINCIPLES** OF MATURITY WHICH PAUL DESIRED THE BELIEVERS WOULD EXPERIENCE - 1-3*
- 2A. *THE **PURPOSE** OF MATURITY THAT SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THESE PRINCIPLES - 4-5*
- 3A. *THE **PATTERN** OF MATURITY THAT DEMONSTRATES WE ARE TRULY BELIEVING IN CHRIST - 6-7*

1A. THE **PRINCIPLES** OF MATURITY WHICH PAUL DESIRED THE BELIEVERS WOULD EXPERIENCE - 1-3

1B. The **EFFORTS** of this desire upon Paul Himself - 1
“great conflict”

2B. The **EFFECTS** they should have on the body - 2-3

1C. There will be a **Loving** fellowship
“having been knit together in love”

This produces real encouragement in your heart. *Col. 2:19* - “held together” - cf. *Eph. 4:16*

We are held together by Christ and by our ministry to each other.

2C. There will be a **Growing** fellowship
“and attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding.

1D. Because the **Supply** is unlimited
“wealth” “full assurance” (to carry + full)

2D. Because the **Secret** (mystery) is Christ Himself
“true knowledge” - mature and complete knowledge

“understanding” - put things together

3D. Because the **Source** of all growth is in Christ Himself
“in whom are hidden all the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge”

"THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE"

Message No. 5 - Colossians 2:1-7

1A. *THE PRINCIPLES OF MATURITY WHICH PAUL DESIRED THE BELIEVERS WOULD EXPERIENCE - 1-3*

2A. **THE PURPOSE OF MATURITY THAT SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING THESE PRINCIPLES - 4-5**

1B. It **Resists** any false teaching or methods that will take you away from true spiritual maturity - 4

“delude” - to reckon wrong; to reason incorrectly “persuasive argument”

just words, no demonstration of the facts in the life.

2B. It **Reveals** the important qualities that should be a part of our lives as believers

1C. “Good discipline”

to arrange; order in contrast to confusion

we might say you have things put together right - everything seems to be in balance.

2C. “Stability”

a support or foundation; the things that support you are based upon God’s Word

“*the faith*” - your life is being built upon the principles of God's Word.

3A. **THE PATTERN OF MATURITY THAT DEMONSTRATES WE ARE TRULY BELIEVING IN CHRIST - 6-7**

1B. A simple **DEFINITION**

the way we live (daily) as a believer should be on the same basis as when we received Christ as our Lord and Saviour - by faith.

“received” – aorist “walk” - present

2B. A **DESCRIPTION** of what this definition means - 7

1C. As to a doctrinal Foundation

“in the faith just as you were taught” - the basis of what you believe is the heart of the matter!

2C. As to a continual Process

three words used

"THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE"

Message No. 5 - Colossians 2:1-7

1D. "rooted"

in sense of origin and source to cause to take root - passive - someone caused this to happen - you were taught.

2D. "built up"

to build upon - here is where we often fail - we don't build upon the root or the foundation - we stop learning along the road somewhere.

3D. "established"

to confirm with evidence - to make secure - if they (principles) are not applied or seen in the life, the pattern of maturity breaks down.

Again, these three words emphasize a process that is taught to someone by someone else discipleship at its best!

2B. *A DESCRIPTION of what this definition means - 7*

1C. *As to a doctrinal Foundation*

2C. *As to a continual Process*

3C. **As to a proper Attitude**

"overflowing with gratitude" (abounding in thanksgiving)

It is a key to Christian life and growth - a constant attitude of thanksgiving. - cf. *1 Thess. 5:18*

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 6

“COMPLETE IN CHRIST”

Colossians 2:8-15

- 1A. *THE **DANGER** INVOLVED WHEN YOU DO NOT SEE THAT YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST - 8*
- 2A. *THE **DESCRIPTION** OF CHRIST THAT SHOWS THAT WE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM - 9-15*
- 1A. **THE DANGER** INVOLVED WHEN YOU DO NOT SEE THAT YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST - 8
- 1B. You can be **CONTROLLED** by the wrong thing or viewpoint
“takes you captive” (to carry off as spoil - to lead captive)
- 2B. You can be **CONVINCED** by means of wrong principles and teaching
“philosophy and empty deception” “through” (dia - the channel or means)
- 1C. “the philosophy”
love of wisdom (world's kind) used only here and in *Acts 17:18* of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers.
- 2C. “and empty deception”
(Granville Sharp's rule connects this with the word “philosophy” as being equal) - that which gives a false impression either by appearance, statement, or influence. It will look good but that does not reveal the whole truth! It is “empty” - nothing to it!
- cf. problems of modern psychology, etc.
- 3B. You can be **CONCERNED** about the wrong things
“according to”
- 1C. “the tradition of men”
to give or deliver alongside of or over - to hand down from person to person it can refer to the Rabbinical traditions - *Gal. 1:14* cf. *Matthew 15:1-9; Mark 7:1-13* (Can be used in a good sense - *1 Cor. 11: 2*)
- 2C. “the elementary principles of the world”
Things in a series or row; to walk step by step - emphasizes the first things - cf. *Galatians 4:3,9; Hebrews 5:12: Col. 2:20* - (reference probably to legalism) “of the world” - not of the Word!

"COMPLETE IN CHRIST"
Message No. 6 - Colossians 2:8-15

1A. THE DANGER INVOLVED WHEN YOU DO NOT SEE THAT YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST - 8
2A. THE DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST THAT SHOWS THAT WE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM - 9-15

1B. As it relates to His true IDENTITY - 9

"For" – because all the fullness of the Godhead (Deity) is dwelling in Him
what more could we need or ask for!

2B. As it relates to His AUTHORITY - 10

"in Him - you are having been made complete"

"Who is the head of all rule and authority"

He is in complete control; everything else is under Him!

Why would we want to submit to other authority?

3B. As it relates to our SALVATION - 11-15

1C. A total Cleansing - 11

1D. The purpose of physical circumcision is cleanliness or the prevention of potential disease and infection both for the man and his wife. Children were circumcised the 8th day when Vitamin K is higher than at any other time in your life. Circumcision was the outward sign that you believed in the promise of God to Abraham. Physical circumcision never saved anyone!

2D. The nature of spiritual circumcision

"the removal" - to strip off - used in *v. 15* - "disarmed" - the old sin nature has been incapacitated in its ability to control us now or bring any consequences against us in the future!

2C. A spiritual Baptism - 12a

"having been buried with him" cf. *Romans 3:3-4*.

The circumcision is spiritual, not physical, and so is the baptism. Being buried is the proof of death!

3C. A spiritual Resurrection - 12b- 13a

You were dead in or by means of the transgressions. The penalty of the law is death "He made you alive together with Him".

"COMPLETE IN CHRIST"
Message No. 6 - Colossians 2:8-15

- 4C. A complete **Acceptance** - 13b
"having forgiven" - graced - to bestow a favor unconditionally - used of the act of forgiveness by the one forgiving! No matter what we have done, He accepts us through Christ! Marvelous grace of our loving Lord! Where sin abounds, grace did much more abound!
- 5C. A total **Forgiveness** - 14
- 1D. By canceling our debt
"cancelled out" - to wipe out (used in **Rev. 3:5** - God will never wipe your name out "the certificate of debt" - handwriting on a promissory note - it's as though you never owed anything in the first place!
- This is Substitution!
- 2D. By paying for our debts
"he has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross" - He satisfied the righteous demands of the law ("decrees") for us.
- This is Satisfaction!
- 6C. A wonderful **Victory** - 15
"disarmed the rulers and the authorities demons and Satan "triumphed" completely conquered them!
- cf. **1 John 4:4** and **Hebrews 2:14-15**

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 7

“THE DANGER OF LEGALISM”

Colossians 2:16-23

- 1A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ACT OF JUDGING OTHERS - 16-17
- 2A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ATTITUDE OF PRIDE - 18-19
- 3A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE AUTHORITY OF MAN-MADE REGULATIONS - 20-23

1A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ACT OF JUDGING OTHERS - 16-17

1B. INCLUDES things that do not produce salvation or growth - 6

1C. Specific Diet - “food or drink”

Dietary restrictions in the Old Testament were primarily established to make Israel a peculiar and holy nation, separate from all the nations around them. Cf. *Lev. 11:44-47; 20:25-26*

This verse does not tell us to avoid food and drink, but rather to not let anyone judge us in this matter.

The separation between Jew and Gentile has been removed in the body of Christ!

2C. Special Days- “festival (annual feasts)”

“new moon” (monthly worship) or “Sabbath Day” (weekly observance)

These occasions were a part of Israel's uniqueness and separation from the nations. Here is a warning against trying to set up standards and regulations for believers today based upon O.T. practices for Israel.

Summary: *Romans 14:1-12*

2B. It IGNORES that which is really important - 17

1C. The Shadow is not the reality - it merely points to the reality
Cf. *Heb. 10:1*

2C. The Substance (body) to which the “shadow” points is Christ!

Things that are good in themselves can often substitute for that which is the best and most important!

“THE DANGERS OF LEGALISM”
Message No. 7 - Colossians 2:16-23

1A. *LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ACT OF JUDGING OTHERS - 16-17*

2A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ATTITUDE OF PRIDE - 18-19

1B. It DEPRIVES others of the blessing of God - 18

1C. By Emphasizing a false humility
“delighting in self abasement”

You are humble because of your discipline and your voluntary restrictions which you have imposed on yourself.

Your humility is not based on what God says about you as a sinner, but rather on what you yourself have done or not done. This makes others feel guilty because they do not do what you do. They are not humble like you are - false humility based on asceticism.

2C. By Exalting angels

Drawing people's attention away from Jesus to angelic creatures (whether good or evil).

The Gnostics tried to emphasize their humility by using God's angels as intercessors instead of coming directly to God in prayer.

3C. By Exercising authority based on your experiences rather than on the Word of God.

“taking his stand on visions he has seen” This causes people to look to experiences rather than Christ, and thus rob themselves of the “prize” or reward of true growth in Christ.

4C. By Elevating your importance in the eyes of others the true source here is “fleshly mind”

the mind of his flesh - that which is controlled by your sinful flesh. You want people to look to you rather than to Christ!

2B. It DEPENDS on the wrong things - 19

1C. They always Substitute for the authority of Christ
“not holding last (not deriving strength) to the head”

2C. They always Stop the growth process of the body

"THE DANGERS OF LEGALISM"

Message No. 7 - Colossians 2:16-23

1A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ACT OF JUDGING OTHERS - 16-17

2A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE ATTITUDE OF PRIDE - 18-19

3A. LEGALISM IS BASED ON THE AUTHORITY OF MAN-MADE REGULATIONS- 20-23

1B. It EMPHASIZES the importance of things that do not contribute to our growth - 20-22

1C. They keep us from enjoying our freedom and position in Christ - 20-21
A list of "don'ts"

2C. They are things that will not last anyway - 22
"destined to perish" (unto corruption) with the using once used they cannot be useful again.

3C. They are established by men - not God
"according to the commandments and teachings of men"

2B. It ESTABLISHES a value to things which are not capable of helping us in our growth - 23

1C. Their Appearance is always deceiving
Three areas: self-made religion, humility, and severe treatment of the body (used by Greeks of courageous exposure to hardship and danger)

2C. Their Ability to control our sinful desires is completely lacking

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 8

“CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL”

Colossians 3:1-11

- 1A. OUR **POSITION** IN CHRIST AFFECTS OUR DESIRES AND GOALS - 1-4
- 2A. OUR **PRACTICES** AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD REVEAL OUR POSITION IN CHRIST - 5-11

1A. OUR **POSITION** IN CHRIST AFFECTS OUR DESIRES AND GOALS - 1-4

1B. Our **RESPONSIBILITY**

1C. To **Seek** the things above

Cf. *Matt. 6:33* (involves our motivation)

2C. To **Set** our mind on things above

Phil. 4:8 (involves our meditation)

This is set in contrast to “the things that are on earth “ cf. *Matt. 6:19ff*

2B. The **REASONS**

1C. Our **Death** to the old life

“For you have died”

2C. Our **Destiny** in the future

“revealed with Him in glory”

This world is not my home, I’m just a passin’ through.

2A. OUR **PRACTICES** AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD REVEAL OUR POSITION IN CHRIST - 5-11

1B. In our **RESPONSIBILITY** toward sinful desires

1C. The **Commitment** that is necessary - 5

“consider the members of your earthly body as dead”

Cf. *Rom. 6:11* (issue of faith)

2C. The **Consequences** of fulfilling these sinful desires - 6

“upon the sons of the disobedience” in many early manuscripts

(consider problem of temporal judgment)

3C. The **Change** we have experienced makes this possible - 7

The ability to overcome sinful desires is not found in the unbeliever!

“CHRIST IS ALL AND IN ALL”
Message No. 8 - Colossians 3:1-11

- 1A. *OUR POSITION IN CHRIST AFFECTS OUR DESIRES AND GOALS - 1-4*
- 2A. *OUR PRACTICES AS A CHRISTIAN SHOULD REVEAL OUR POSITION IN CHRIST - 5-11*
 - 1B. *In our RESPONSIBILITY toward sinful desires*
 - 2B. In our **RELATIONSHIPS** toward one another - 8 -11
 - 1C. It causes us to **Resist** attitudes and words of condemnation and criticism toward others - 8
 - 2C. It causes us to **Reject** untruthful remarks and deceitful statements about others - 9
 - 3C. It causes us to **Rely** upon our new nature from God - 10-11
 - 1D. It **demands** a continual **Process** constantly being renewed unto true knowledge (mature and complete)
 - 2D. It **depends** on a Divine **Pattern** “according to the image of the One who created him” God's original design, not ours! (In Christ - this is possible!)
 - 1E. Not based on human distinctions - 11
 - 2E. Based on the centrality of Christ He is everything! Christ is all!
 - 3E. Based on the literal presence of Christ in every believer - “*in all*”

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 9

“THE CLOTHES OF A CHRISTIAN”

Colossians 3:12-17

- 1A. *THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE CHRISTIAN CLOTHES - 12-14*
- 2A. *THE CONTROL WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR LIVES - 15-16*
- 3A. *THE MAIN CONCERN WHICH THE BELIEVERS SHOULD HAVE - 17*

1A. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE CHRISTIAN CLOTHES - 12-14

1B. The REASON for wearing them - 12a

1C. “chosen of God” (elect ones)- cf. *Eph. 1:4*
God’s Plan is being revealed in our lives!

2C. “holy” (separated)
Our Position in Christ is being reflected in the way we live. *1 Pet. 2:9, 10*

3C. “beloved” (having been loved)
God’s Person is being revealed in the way we love - we are recipients of His constant love for us! *Rom 5:5*

2B. The RESPONSE they will produce - 12b-14

1C. In terms of our Attitudes

1D. “heart of compassion” (bowels of mercy)
There is a hesitancy to judge and condemn anyone else.

2D. “kindness” (easy in contrast with what is hard, harsh, or bitter)
fit for use or able to be used. *Eph. 4:32; Matt. 11:30*. There is a readiness to be used by God in the lives of others, and there is a certain “softness” about us that makes it easy for someone to accept what we say.

3D. “humility” (lowliness)
A willingness to place yourself at the disposal of someone else, and to consider their concerns as more important than yours. *Phil. 2:3-4*.

4D. “gentleness” (meekness)
the opposite of seeking revenge - a refusal to fight back - the opposite of self-assertion.

"THE CLOTHES OF A CHRISTIAN"

Message No. 9 - Colossians 3:12-17

5D. "patience" (longsuffering)
always used toward people, not things a willingness to endure
someone who is driving you up the wall.

1A. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE CHRISTIAN CLOTHES - 12-14

1B. The REASON for wearing them - 12a

2B. The RESPONSE they will produce - 12b-14

1C. In terms of our Attitudes

2C. In terms of our Associations with people

1D. "bearing with one another"
(to hold up against something or someone) **Eph. 4:2**

2D. "forgiving each other"
(gracing - bestow favor unconditionally) - **Eph. 4:32**

issue - someone has a complaint (meant to put the blame on someone
or something)

3C. In terms of our Affection

1D. the priority of this
"beyond all these things"

"the love" God's style, not ours.

2D. The importance of this
"which is the perfect bond of unity"

(bond - in chains together) of perfection (maturity)

1A. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE CHRISTIAN CLOTHES - 12-14

2A. THE CONTROL WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR LIVES - 15-16

1B. Seen in the STABILITY of God's peace
"let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts" (act as an umpire - making correct
judgments)

2B. Seen in the SPIRIT of thanksgiving
"and be thankful" (become thankful ones)

"THE CLOTHES OF A CHRISTIAN"

Message No. 9 - Colossians 3:12-17

3B. Seen in the **STRENGTH** of God's Word

1C. In terms of our **Values**

"dwell in you richly" or "richly dwell within you" - it becomes our wealth we are rich in the Word and through the Word and from the Word!

2C. In terms of our **Relationships**

"with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another"

3C. In terms of our **Music**

"psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness (in grace) in your hearts to God."

1A. *THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THESE CHRISTIAN CLOTHES - 12-14*

2A. *THE CONTROL WHICH SHOULD CHARACTERIZE OUR LIVES - 15-16*

3A. THE MAIN **CONCERN** WHICH THE BELIEVERS SHOULD HAVE - 17

1B. Doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus

2B. Giving thanks to God the Father for everything!

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 10

“COMMITMENT TO CHRIST”

Colossians 3:18-4:1

- 1A. IT AFFECTS THE **ROLES** OF HUSBAND AND WIFE IN MARRIAGE - 18, 19
- 2A. IT AFFECTS THE **RELATIONSHIPS** IN A FAMILY - 20-21
- 3A. IT AFFECTS THE **RESPONSIBILITIES** OF BUSINESS - 22-25

1A. IT AFFECTS THE **ROLES** OF HUSBAND AND WIFE IN MARRIAGE - 18, 19

1B. The **WIFE** - 18

1C. The **Responsibility**

“be subject (present tense) to your husbands” (The Bible does not teach the submission of all women to all men - it is wives to husbands)

The purpose is to maintain order in the home and to reflect our relationship to Christ.

2C. The **Reason**

“as is fitting in the Lord”

(to arrive + up) to come to the point of what the Lord wants in your life.

2B. The **HUSBAND** - 19

1C. The **Command**

“love (present tense) your wives” with God’s love - agape

2C. The **Caution**

“and do not be embittered against them.

from root meaning “sharp” or “to cut” root of bitterness - *Heb. 12:15; Eph. 4:31; Acts 8:23* bitterness that arises because you cannot have what someone else has or you are jealous of them or their abilities.

2A. IT AFFECTS THE **RELATIONSHIPS** IN A FAMILY - 20-21

1B. The **CHILDREN**

1C. The **Duty**

“be obedient (to listen under) to your parents in all things”

2C. The **Delight**

“for this is well-pleasing to the Lord” (in the Lord) of. *1 John 3:22; Heb. 13:21; Rom. 12:1-2* (acceptable or agreeable to God)

"COMMITMENT TO CHRIST"
Message No. 10 - Colossians 3:18-4:1

2B. The **PARENTS**

1C. The **Problem**

“do not exasperate your children”

Greek word is a lot like the one in *Eph. 6:4* - some early MSS read that way. The word means “to irritate” (from rubbing) - used of one who was provoked to run, and became exhausted while doing so. It carries the idea of a continual provoking until you incite them to anger - “a soft answer turns away wrath - grievous words stir up anger”

2C. The **Purpose**

“that they may not lose heart”

(the word “spirit” or “courage” + “no”)

1A. *IT AFFECTS THE ROLES OF HUSBAND AND WIFE IN MARRIAGE - 18, 19*

2A. *IT AFFECTS THE RELATIONSHIPS IN A FAMILY - 20-21*

3A. *IT AFFECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS - 22-25*

1B. The **SLAVES**

1C. The **Pattern** of obedience

“obey” - same word used for the children - “to listen under”

1D. It **Recognizes** the place of authority and the need of submission
(even when the “boss” is not a Christian)

2D. It **Refuses** to work with wrong motives

“not with external service (eye-service) as those who merely please men”

3D. It **Responds** with a right attitude

“with sincerity of heart (singleness), fearing the Lord”

2C. The **Promise** of reward - 23-25

1D. It is based on the **Purpose** you have in your work - 23

“out of soul” - not merely performing with the physical body the assigned task “as to the Lord, not to men “

*“COMMITMENT TO CHRIST”
Message No. 10 - Colossians 3:18-4:1*

- 2D. Its based on the **Person** you are really working for - 24
Eternal reward is far more important than earthly rewards. It is the Lord Christ you are continually serving!
- 3C. It is based on the **Principles** of God’s judgment and evaluation - 25
“without partiality” (the word “face” + “to lay hold of; take”) When a person gives a judgment with respect to position, rank, popularity, etc, preferring rich over poor.
- 3A. *IT AFFECTS THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS - 22-25*
1B. *The SLAVES*
2B. The **MASTERS** - 4:1 (“lords”)
- 1C. The **Way** they are to deal with those who work for them
“grant (to have alongside of) to your slaves justice and fairness” (definite article in front of both words) “fairness” - equality - treat all employees alike.
- 2C. The **Warning** concerning the way you deal with them
“knowing that you too have a Master in heaven’ - He will deal with you.

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 11

“USING OUR OPPORTUNITIES”

Colossians 4:2-6

- 1A. IN OUR **COMMITMENT** TO PRAYER - 2-4
- 2A. IN OUR **CONDUCT** BEFORE THE WORLD - 5-6

1A. IN OUR **COMMITMENT** TO PRAYER - 2-4

1B. The **NATURE** of our prayer

1C. It involves **Dedication** to the task

“devote” - to be strong toward - *Acts 1:14; 2:42*
(present tense - continually)

2C. It involves **Discipline**

“keeping alert in it” - word means “to stay awake” - to be spiritually alert
- it is easy to “fall asleep” spiritually - cf. *Matt. 26:36-46* - cf. *v. 41*
Two things emphasized in *Matt. 26:41*:

1D. The **Purpose** of discipline

“that you may not enter into temptation”

2D. The **Problem** in discipline

“the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak”

3C. It involves **Delight** in what God is doing and allowing “in thanksgiving”

2B. The **NEED** for our prayer (twice - “in order that”)

1C. For **Doors** to be opened - 3

1D. The **Meaning** of a “door”

a door for the “word”

God is the one Who “opens” doors! - None of us have the ability or the techniques to do this! cf. *Acts 16:13-14* That's why we need prayer! Only God can do it!

2D. The **Motive** we should have

“in behalf of” others - v. 3a “so that we may speak forth”
cf. *Romans 10:13-14*

" USING OUR OPPORTUNITIES"
Message No. 11 - Colossians 4:2-6

- 2B. The NEED for our prayer (twice - "in order that")
- 1C. For Doors to be opened - 3
- 1D. The Meaning of a "door"
- 2D. The Motive we should have
- 3D. The Message involved
"the mystery of the Christ" - it is Jesus - about Him! Much easier to talk about the weather, the church
- 2C. For Discernment in speaking - 4
"in order that I may make it clear (manifest) in the way I ought (it is necessary) to speak".

The prayer here is that when the opportunity comes, we may speak as God really wants us to speak. This is not easy - it takes much prayer and reliance upon God!

- 1A. IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PRAYER - 2-4
- 2A. IN OUR CONDUCT BEFORE THE WORLD - 5-6

- 1B. In terms of WISDOM
"conduct (be constantly walking) yourselves"
- 1C. The Direction of this wisdom
"toward outsiders" (unbelievers)- those without
- 2C. The Definition of this wisdom
"making the most (redeeming - buying out of) of the opportunity (the time or the season)" - it is not referring to chronological time - being in a hurry or quickly giving it to them - it refers to the right moment - the proper season.
- 2B. In terms of the WORDS we speak
"Let your speech (the word of you) always be with grace" - opposite of judgmental and condemning - a spirit of love and forgiveness - a graciousness about you!

Illus. - "seasoned, as it were, with salt" Seasoned – to arrange or make ready so it is fitting "Salt" - gives it flavor and prevents corruption - preserves the value of something - cf. *Matt. 5:13; Luke 14:34-35*

" USING OUR OPPORTUNITIES "

Message No. 11 - Colossians 4:2-6

1A. IN OUR COMMITMENT TO PRAYER - 2-4

2A. IN OUR CONDUCT BEFORE THE WORLD - 5-6

1B. In terms of WISDOM

2B. In terms of the WORDS we speak

3B. In terms of the WAY we respond

“so that you may know how you should respond to each person “ If you are not controlled by “grace” then you will not be able to respond in the right way!
“every or each one (person)” - indicated that every one is different - not all people should be dealt with in the same way.

“respond” - to answer a question - always refers to something that has preceded statement by the other person. (to judge from)

1C. We need to be Controlled by “grace”
that is the key in responding properly!

2C. We need to be Concerned about each person
everyone is different - no “canned” formulas!

3C. We need to be Careful about listening to the other person
“respond” - to answer a question or statement of the other person
Cf. *1 Peter 3 :15*

COLOSSIANS

Message No. 12

“SEASONED GREETINGS”

Colossians 4:7-18

- 1A. **INFORMATION** ABOUT PAUL AND FELLOW-WORKERS - 7-9
- 2A. **INSPIRATION** FROM THOSE WITH PAUL - 10-14
- 3A. **INSTRUCTION** FROM PAUL TO OTHERS - 15-18

1A. **INFORMATION** ABOUT PAUL AND FELLOW-WORKERS - 7-9

1B. From **TYCHICUS** - 7-8

1C. The **Pattern** of his life- 7

1D. “beloved brother” - much loved

2D. “Faithful servant” - dependable and with a servant's heart

3D. “fellow bonds slave in the Lord”

one who was deeply committed to the Lord - always willing to do what the Lord wanted!

2C. The **Purpose** of his coming - 8

1D. To reveal the **Circumstances** that were happening to Paul and others.

2D. To bring the **Comfort** to them that they needed
“encourage (parakaleo) your hearts”

2B. From **ONESIMUS** - 9

1C. His spiritual **Birth**

“faithful and beloved brother” cf. *Philemon 10ff*

2C. His former **Background**

“one of your number”

2A. **INSPIRATION** FROM THOSE WITH PAUL - 10-14

1B. From Jewish Friends - 10-11

1C. Aristarchus - “fellow prisoner”

"SEASONED GREETINGS"
Message No. 12 - Colossians 4:7-18

1A. INFORMATION ABOUT PAUL AND FELLOW-WORKERS - 7-9

2A. INSPIRATION FROM THOSE WITH PAUL - 10-14

1B. From Jewish Friends - 10-11

1C. Aristarchus - "fellow prisoner"

2C. Mark (Barnabas' cousin) Barnabas was a Levite of Cyprian birth - cf. **Acts 15:36-41 -cf. 2 Tim. 4:11**

3C. Jesus (Justus)

"they have proved to be an encouragement to me"

medicines which cure irritation - a soothing

2B. From Gentile Friends - 12-14

1C. Epaphras

1D. The **Connection** with the church in Colosse

"who is one of your number" - out of you - cf. **Col. 1:7**

(probably the pastor!)

2D. The **Character** of his prayers

1E. The **Intensity** of them

"always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers" (agonizing continually)

2E. The **Intention** of them

"that you may stand perfect (mature) and fully assured, to bring to fullness or to fulfill in all the will of God (in every will - in each specific instance)"

3D. The **Concern** he had for the believers.

v. 13 "much pain" - the consequence of his labours

2C. Luke - "beloved physician" - cf. **2 Tim 4:11**

Acts 16:8 - "they"- v. 10 - "we"

(possibly from Troas, maybe the "man of Macedonia")

3C. Demas - cf. **2 Tim. 4:10**

*“SEASONED GREETINGS”
Message No. 12 - Colossians 4:7-18*

- 1A. *INFORMATION ABOUT PAUL AND FELLOW-WORKERS - 7-9*
- 2A. *INSPIRATION FROM THOSE WITH PAUL - 10-14*
- 3A. **INSTRUCTION** FROM PAUL TO OTHERS - 15-18
 - 1B. To **RESPOND** with warm greetings to other believers
“church in her - or their - house” - logical place for it to
begin - importance of home Bible studies
 - 2B. To **READ** this letter and others - importance of the Word
 - 3B. To **REMIND** Archippus of his responsibilities - 17
 - 1C. The **Priority** it should be
“service (deacon)”
 - 2C. The **Purpose** of it
“to continually fulfill it”
 - 4B. To **REMEMBER** Paul himself - 18