

# *Introduction to Colossians: Jesus is the Only Place to Find Life*

Colossians 1-4

August 3, 2014

Sermon Outline

Notes:

## I. Introduction

### A. Children's Sermon

#### 1. Background Information (See Map)

#### Acts 19:9–10

<sup>9</sup> But when some became stubborn and continued in unbelief, speaking evil of the Way before the congregation, he withdrew from them and took the disciples with him, reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This continued for *two years*, so that ***all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord***, both Jews and Greeks. (Epaphras) <sup>1</sup>

#### 2. The Temptations in Clossae

#### 2 Peter 1:3 (My paraphrase)

God by His own power has given us ***everything we need*** for life and godliness through the knowing Him... .

- a. Doing what ***we want*** still feels good
- b. Tempted with the wrong answers

### B. Why Should We Study Colossians?

#### 1. Teaches us a ***practical theology*** (Jim)

One reason Jim operates out of two contrary systems is that he doesn't know what to believe. He has no practical theology. Yes, he knows basic theological principles that are true. He knows that we are sinners. He knows that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. But these truths are silent when he struggles with temptations. They do not seem very relevant or practical to

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<sup>1</sup> ***Epaphras***. *This man*, probably of heathen extraction, having been converted through the instrumentality of Paul, *was in all probability the actual founder of the churches of the Lycus Valley* (Col. 1:7). He was a Colossian (Col. 4:12), a servant of Christ Jesus (again Col. 4:12), Paul's fellow-prisoner in Christ Jesus (Philem, 23). - **Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J.** (1953–2001). *Exposition of Colossians and Philemon* (Vol. 6, p. 15). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

him. His theology tells him that there is a heaven, and he is hoping to get there, **but it doesn't tell him how to live**. He sees no present benefits to the cross of Christ. Without Scripture to guide him in the details of his life, **other beliefs will**.<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Teaches us that Jesus is the way

### **Colossians 3:11b**

...Christ is all, and in all.

### **Key Idea**

*God in His fullness dwells in Jesus and Jesus dwells in us so that we have everything we need for life and godliness.*

## **II. The Duel Temptation in Colossae**

### A. Temptations to Go Back...

#### **Colossians 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> And you, *who once were alienated and hostile in mind*, doing evil deeds...

#### **Colossians 3:5–9**

<sup>5</sup> Put to death therefore *what is earthly in you*: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> On account of these the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> *In these you too once walked, when you were living in them*. <sup>8</sup> But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off *the old self* with its practices.

### B. Temptation of False Answers

Clearly it was exactly the purpose of the teachers of error to show the Colossians how they would be able to triumph over ... "the indulgence of the flesh."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> **Welch, Edward T.** (2012-01-30). Addictions: A Banquet in the Grave (p. 4). New Growth Press. Kindle Edition.

<sup>3</sup> **Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J.** (1953–2001). *Exposition of Colossians and Philemon* (Vol. p. 17). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

### Colossians 2:8, 16–23

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by *philosophy* and *empty deceit*, according to *human tradition*, according to *the elemental spirits of the world*, and **not according to Christ**. ...

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of *food and drink*, or with regard to *a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath*. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, **but the substance belongs to Christ**. <sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on *asceticism* and *worship of angels*, going on in detail about *visions*, puffed up without reason by his *sensuous mind*, <sup>19</sup> and **not holding fast to the Head**, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. <sup>20</sup> **If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why**, as if you were still alive in the world, *do you submit to regulations*—<sup>21</sup> “*Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch*” <sup>22</sup> (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to *human precepts and teachings*? <sup>23</sup> These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting *self-made religion* and *asceticism* and *severity to the body*, **but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh**.

The false teachers were probably people from within the Colossian Christian community who were bragging about their ability to find ultimate spiritual “fulfillment” via their own program of visions and asceticism. This program was drawn partly from Judaism, particularly in its focus on rules about eating and observing certain days. They were preoccupied with spiritual beings, probably because they viewed them as powerful figures capable of having a significant influence on their lives. <sup>4</sup>

### C. The Key Question

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<sup>4</sup> Moo, Douglas J. (2008-08-25). The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon (Pillar New Testament Commentary) (Kindle Locations 1234-1237). Eerdmans Publishing Co - A. Kindle Edition.

Is Christ all-sufficient or do we need other Saviors to supplement him?<sup>5</sup>

### III. Jesus is Exceedingly Sufficient

#### A. God Lives in Jesus & Jesus in Us

##### Colossians 2:9–15

<sup>9</sup> *For in [Jesus] the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,* <sup>10</sup> *and you have been filled in him*, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> ***In him*** also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried ***with him*** in baptism, in which you were also raised ***with him*** through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, *God made alive* together ***with him***, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> ***He*** disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them ***in him***.

#### B. Where is Our Life?

##### Colossians 3:1–4

<sup>1</sup> *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above*, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> *Set your minds on things that are above*, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup> For you have died, and ***your life is hidden with Christ in God***. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

##### Colossians 3:11b

...Christ is all, and in all.

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<sup>5</sup> Hendriksen, W., & Kistemaker, S. J. (1953–2001). *Exposition of Colossians and Philemon* (Vol. 6, p. 4). Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.