NEW TESTAMENT · PAUL'S LETTERS · BOOK 51 OF 66

Colossians

Christ is all, and in all (3:11)

4	Paul	c. A.D. 60–62	"Complete in Him"
Chapters, 95 Verses	Author (1:1)	From Prison	(2:10)

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Colossians moves from **doctrine** to **duty**: who Christ is and what we have in Him (1–2), then how those who are risen with Him live (3–4).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 95 verses.

I 1:1–2:5 · 34 verses

Christ Supreme

Thanks, prayer, the hymn to Christ, the mystery.

II 2:6–23 · 18 verses

Christ Sufficient

Complete in Him; beware of empty philosophy.

III 3:1–4:6 · 31 verses

New Life

Things above, the new man, home, prayer, speech.

IV 4:7–18 · 12 verses

Closing

Tychicus, Onesimus and greetings.

BACKGROUND

The Church at Colosse

THE TOWN

Colosse

In the Lycus valley, near Laodicea and Hierapolis (4:13).

THE FOUNDER

Epaphras

"A faithful minister of Christ," one of them (1:7; 4:12).

THE DANGER

A Mixed Teaching

Philosophy, food laws, holy days, angel worship (2:8–23).

THE ANSWER

Christ Is All

"Ye are complete in Him" (2:10).

CHAPTER 1:15–20

The Preeminence of Christ

Paul exalts Christ as Creator, Sustainer and Head of the church.

1:15

The Image of God

"The image of the invisible God."

1:16

The Creator

"By Him were all things created … visible and invisible."

1:16

The Goal

"All things were created by Him, and for Him."

1:17

The Sustainer

"He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."

1:18

The Head

"He is the head of the body, the church."

1:20

The Peacemaker

"Having made peace through the blood of His cross."

> *"that in all things He might have the preeminence."*
>
> Colossians 1:18 (KJV)

COLOSSIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

Christ in You and Christ Against Empty Teaching

CHAPTERS 1:24–2:3

Christ in You

1:27

The Mystery

"Christ in you, the hope of glory"

2:3

The Treasure

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

> *"Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus"*
>
> Colossians 1:28 (KJV)

CHAPTER 2:8–23

Christ Against Empty Teaching

Paul answers each part of the false teaching with what believers already have in Christ.

THE FALSE TEACHING	IN CHRIST
Philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men 2:8	**All the fulness of the Godhead bodily; ye are complete in Him** 2:9–10
Circumcision made with hands 2:11	**The circumcision of Christ; buried and risen with Him** 2:11–12
The handwriting of ordinances against us 2:14	**Blotted out, nailed to His cross** 2:14
Meat, drink, holydays, sabbath days 2:16	**A shadow of things to come; the body is of Christ** 2:17
Worshipping of angels 2:18	**Holding the Head, from which all the body increaseth** 2:19
Touch not; taste not; handle not 2:21	**Dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world** 2:20

COLOSSIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Things Above, Put Off and Put On

CHAPTER 3:1–4

Things Above

> *"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."*
>
> Colossians 3:1–2 (KJV)

3:3

Dead

"For ye are dead."

3:3

Hidden

"Your life is hid with Christ in God."

3:4

Glory Ahead

"Ye also appear with Him in glory."

CHAPTER 3:5–17

Put Off, Put On

Like changing clothes, believers take off the old way of life and put on the character of Christ.

PUT OFF · 3:5–9

The Old Man

Fornication, uncleanness, evil desire, covetousness, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, lying.

PUT ON · 3:12–14

The New Man

Mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering, forbearing, forgiving, and above all charity.

3:15

"let the peace of God rule in your hearts"

3:16

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom"

3:17

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus"

COLOSSIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 4

Home, Friends, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTERS 3:18–4:6

Home, Work and Words

3:18–19
Wives and Husbands
Submit as is fit in the Lord; love and be not bitter.

3:20–21
Children and Fathers
Obey in all things; provoke not, lest they be discouraged.

3:22–4:1
Servants and Masters
Work heartily as to the Lord; give what is just and equal.

3:23
“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”

4:6
“Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt”

CHAPTER 4:7–17

Paul’s Friends

4:7
Tychicus
Carried the letter.

4:9
Onesimus
“A faithful and beloved brother.”

4:10
Aristarchus
Paul’s fellowprisoner.

4:10
Marcus
Cousin of Barnabas.

4:12
Epaphras
Labouring fervently in prayers.

4:14
Luke
“The beloved physician.”

4:15
Nymphas
The church in his house.

4:17
Archippus
“Take heed to the ministry.”

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Christ Supreme
Creator, Sustainer and Head.
1:15–18

Complete in Him
All fulness dwells in Christ.
2:9–10

Risen with Christ
Our life is hid with Him in God.
2:12; 3:1–4

Free from Rules
Shadows give way to the reality in Christ.
2:16–23

The New Man
Put off the old, put on Christ’s character.
3:5–14

Thankfulness
Giving thanks in every chapter.
1:12; 2:7; 3:17; 4:2

KEY VERSE

“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power”

Colossians 2:9–10 (KJV)