



ABOVE ALL THINGS

A Study of Colossians

“As one of the most thoroughly Christ-centered books in the Bible, Colossians finds its essential unity in the divine and exalted person of the preeminent Christ. The letter presents variations on this central theme, with Christ celebrated as the object of the believer’s faith, the image of the invisible God, the creator of all dominions, the head of the church, the firstborn from the dead, the unifier and reconciler of all things, the Savior through his sufferings on the cross, the treasury of all wisdom and knowledge, the triumphant victor over sin and Satan, the exalted Lord of life and glory, and the true pattern for the life of Christian faith.”

– ESV Study Bible



FULLY PLEASING TO HIM

– *Colossians 1:9-14* –

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:

– vv 9-10



*that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together
in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding
and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ,
in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*

– Colossians 2:2-3



ALL spiritual wisdom and understanding (vs 9)

FULLY pleasing to him (vs 10)

bearing fruit in **EVERY** good work (vs 10)

being strengthened with **ALL** power (vs 11)

for **ALL** endurance and patience (vs 11)



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– vv 9-10



*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,
so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith,
as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

– Colossians 2:6-7



And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:

– vv 9-10



*bearing fruit in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

– vs 10



*being strengthened with all power, according to
his glorious might, for all endurance and patience*

– vs 11



*For this reason I bow
my knees before the
Father, from whom
every family in
heaven and on earth
is named, that
according to the
riches of his glory he
may grant you to be
strengthened with
power through his
Spirit in your inner
being, so that Christ
may dwell in your
hearts through faith*

– Ephesians 3:14-17

*Not that I am speaking of being in need,
for I have learned in whatever situation
I am to be content. I know how to be
brought low, and I know how to abound.
In any and every circumstance, I have
learned the secret of facing plenty and
hunger, abundance and need. I can do all
things through him who strengthens me.*

– Philippians 4:11-13

*being strengthened with all power, according to
his glorious might, for all endurance and patience*

– vs 11



with joy; giving thanks to the Father,

– vv 11-12



*who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints
in light. He has delivered us from the domain of
darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

– vv 12-14



*The Spirit himself
bears witness with
our spirit that we
are children of God,
and if children,
then heirs – heirs
of God and fellow
heirs with Christ,
provided we suffer
with him in order
that we may also be
glorified with him.*

– Romans 8:16-17

*And if you are Christ's,
then you are Abraham's offspring,
heirs according to promise.*

– Galatians 3:29

*For at one time you were darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.*

– Ephesians 5:8

*But you are a
chosen race, a
royal priesthood, a
holy nation, a
people for his own
possession, that
you may proclaim
the excellencies of
him who called
you out of
darkness into his
marvelous light.*

– 1 Peter 2:9

For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus

– Romans 3:24

[Jesus Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

– Titus 2:14

Sold on the auction block of sin, the world bids for our bodies with fame, wealth, prestige, influence, and power – all the things that are the world’s currency. But God sent the Lord Jesus Christ, his Son, into the marketplace, to buy us at the cost of his blood.”

– James Montgomery Boice

*In him we
have
redemption
through his
blood, the
forgiveness
of our
trespasses,
according
to the
riches of
his grace*

– Ephesians 1:7

*I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name's sake.*

– 1 John 2:12

*who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints
in light. He has delivered us from the domain of
darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

– vv 12-14



“The blessing of forgiveness has sometimes been devalued, as though it were no more than the wiping of the slate clean. But it is always a *power* that holds people in thrall, so, in Paul’s teaching, forgiveness must include the breaking of that power. It is inconceivable that God should forgive the past, and then send us back incapable of living a new life. Pardon without deliverance would be a mockery, and it is never so contemplated in the New Testament. We ought not to speak of ‘mere forgiveness’ as though this were but an initial blessing of the gospel. The gospel is precisely the offer of freedom because of the forgiveness of our sins. That forgiveness flows from the cross where Christ not only canceled our debt but also disarmed our enemy.”

– Dick Lucas

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, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

– Colossians 2:13-15



“For three things I thank God every day of my life: thanks that he vouchsafed me knowledge of His Works; deep thanks that He has set in my darkness the lamp of faith; deep deepest thanks that I have another life to look forward to – a life joyous with light and flowers and heavenly song.”

– Hellen Keller



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