



# 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



# CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY

– *Colossians 1:24-2:5* –

*And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.*

– 2 Corinthians 3:18



*Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions  
for the sake of his body, that is, the church,*

*– vs 24*



*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 cancelling the  
record of debt that  
stood against us with  
its legal demands.*

*This he set aside,  
nailing it to the cross.*

*– Colossians 2:13-14*

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*– Colossians 2:13-14*

*And every priest stands  
daily at his service, offering  
repeatedly the same  
sacrifices, which can never  
take away sins. But when  
Christ had offered for all  
time a single sacrifice for  
sins, he sat down at the  
right hand of God, waiting  
from that time until his  
enemies should be made  
a footstool for his feet. For  
by a single offering he has  
perfected for all time those  
who are being sanctified.*

*– Hebrews 10:11-14*

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and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions  
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*– vs 24*





*Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.”*

– Acts 9:3-5



*Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,  
and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions  
for the sake of his body, that is, the church,*

*– vs 24*



*of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God  
that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,  
the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.  
To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the  
riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*– vv 25-27*



*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ*

*– Titus 2:11-13*



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riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

*– vv 25-27*



*Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*

*– vv 28-29*



*For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 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.*

*– vv 1-3*



“Paul resists the temptation to cease praying; he strives and agonizes to overcome the listlessness of his physical frame and the alluring temptations of the devil. Why? Because he wants the hearts of the folk to be strengthened for battle and bonded in love so *that* they can be ever more assured of the truths of the faith and ever more entranced with the beauty and all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ.”

– Sam Storms





*I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.  
For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit,  
rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.*

*– vv 4-5*





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