

THE ETERNALLY PURPOSED CHRIST  
(COLOSSIANS)

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. The Book Of *Colossians* (One Of Paul's Prison Letters) Sets Forth *Jesus Christ* As The Son Of God In All His *Preeminence*.

1. *Preeminent* because He is the *Creator!*
2. *Preeminent* because He is the *Redeemer!*
3. *Preeminent* because He is the *Reconciler!*
4. *Preeminent* because He is the *Head!*

NOTE: Read the four chapters of the book at one sitting.

B. The *Preeminence* Of *Jesus* Is So Declared Because Of His Relationship To *All Things*.

1. In Him were *all things* created. (1:15-16)
2. He is before *all things*. (1:16-17)
3. In Him *all things* consist. (1:16-17)
4. He filleth *all things*. (cf. Eph. 1:23)
5. In Him are "*all the treasures of wisdom...*" (2:3)
6. In Him dwells *all the fulness of the Godhead* bodily. (2:9)
7. Christ is *all and in all*. (3:11)

NOTE: Read chapter one again.

II. AIM.

A. To Learn The Overall Scope And Analysis Of The Book Of *Colossians*: *The Eternally Purposed Preeminence Of Christ*.

- B. *To Appreciate The Practical Application Of The Book: What Is True Of Our Position In Christ Must Also Be True Of Our Condition (I.E. Practice).*

NOTE: Read chapter 3:1 - 4:1.

### III. OUTLINE.

#### A. THE ANALYSIS OF THE WRITING.

1. *The date of the writing: 62 A.D.*
2. *The occasion of the writing was to answer a two-fold heresy:*
  - a. *Paganistic Gnosticism. (2:8, 20-23)*
  - b. *Judaistic Legalism. (2:11, 16-17; 3:11)*
3. *The purpose of the writing.*
  - a. *To refute the double heresy noted above.*
  - b. *This Paul does by showing the preeminence of Christ and the completeness of the church in Him. (2:9-11)*
4. *The theme of the writing: The supremacy of Jesus - "Christ is all, and in all." (3:11)*
5. *The outline of the writing.*

I. *Introduction And Greeting. (1:1-2)*

II. *Christ Is Preeminent In Relationships: Answer To The Colossian Heresy. (1:3 - 2:7)*

III. *Christ Is Preeminent In Teaching: Application Of Those Relationships To The Colossian Heresy. (2:8 - 3:4)*

IV. *Christ Is Preeminent In Morality: Actual Walk Demanded By Those Relationships. (3:5 - 4:6)*

V. *Conclusion And Salutation. (4:7-18)*

#### B. THE APPLICATION OF THE WRITING.

1. *The Christian's position and practice.*

- a. The Christian's *position*. (3:1-4)
    - 1) *Risen* with Christ.
    - 2) *Seated* with Christ.
    - 3) *Alive* with Christ.
    - 4) *Hidden* with Christ.
    - 5) *Appear* with Christ.
  - b. The Christian's *practice*. (3:15-17)
    - 1) The *peace* of Christ, *ruling*: Tranquility. (3:15)
    - 2) The *word* of Christ, *dwelling*: Action. (3:16)
    - 3) The *name* of Christ, *doing*: Motivation. (3:17)
2. What is true of our *position* is to also be true of our *condition* (i.e. *practice*).

NOTE: Read 2:6, 8; 3:1-4, 15-16; 4:2-3, noting the action words!

- a. *Faith* in Jesus means life, and *life* means fruit after its kind. (1:3-6 cf. 2:6)
- b. *Walking* is the effect of life; a life directed and motivated by Christ!
- c. How far have you walked since becoming a Christian?

#### IV. CONCLUSION.

- A. The Greatest Things In Life Are In *The Preeminent Jesus Christ*.
  - 1. *No knowledge* of the world can claim a greater wisdom than is in Jesus.
  - 2. *No pleasure* of the world can give more satisfaction than pleasure in Jesus.
  - 3. *No security* that the world can give is as certain as that in Jesus.

4. *No life* which the world can give can match the life that Jesus offers.
5. *No future (prospect)* which the world can give is as attractive and promising as a future with Him!

*NOTE:* The greatest use of life is to spend it for that which outlasts "life"!

B. In Christ Jesus, The Preeminent One, We Have:

1. *A life to live,*
2. *A place to fill,*
3. *A mission to fulfill!*