

Wrapping Up Colossians

Chapter 1: The Preeminent Glory and Reconciling Work of Christ

- Epaphras told Paul that Gnostics had invaded the assembly (v. 7).
- Gnostics sought experiential wisdom to know God; they taught that Christ was higher than man, but not divine (note prayer in vv. 9-10).
- Seven Superiorities of Christ prove that He is divine; hence He perfectly reveals God to man: He is the source of all knowledge and wisdom and He is the only means of man being reconciled to God.
- Knowledge of God's incarnate Son (the source of wisdom & knowledge) prompts unity & love in His mysterious Body (Church).

Chapter 2: Christ Is God Incarnate – Believers are Unified/Secure in Him

- Danger of the devil's deception, the world's opinions, and human traditions: These are defeated by a fortified faith in Christ that holds to the truth and resists being pulled from it (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9).
- Believers are to progress in the truth concerning Christ (1:15-19): rooted in Him at conversion and then being built up in Him results in unshakable faith and overflowing thankfulness.
- Believers are one with Christ in whom the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily: We died with Christ (v. 20), was buried with Him (v. 12), raised up with Him (v. 12), and made alive with Him (v. 13).

Chapter 3: The Sanctified Walk of a Believer Reveals Christ

- Our union with Christ should prompt holy living
- Put off/put to death former conduct; put on the new man/live Christ
- When God's Word and peace govern our lives and what we do is for His glory, then Christ will be displayed in our: marriages, children, assemblies, and workplaces. **People listen first to what they see!**

Chapter 4: Walking in Wisdom and Grace, and the Conclusion

- Praying with thanksgiving prepares our hearts for God's answer.
- Walking in wisdom, speaking the truth in grace, redeeming the time.
- Examples of devout ministry, profitable restoration, priestly prayers that exhort us to take heed of the ministry given us by Christ.