

Colossians: In Christ Alone
2024-01-21

Colossians 1:26-27

the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

27 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.

Key to determine truth of any religion or “theology”: Who they say JC is.

Kabala

- **Colossian heresy**, 1860s **Kenosis** theory, 1990s **open theism**, today **evangelical deconstructionism** all **diminish Jesus’** nature. There is **no Gospel** or salvation **without Biblical Jesus Christ!**
 - **Jesus alone** is completely **sufficient** for **salvation and sanctification**.

Paul **61-63** A.D during **first imprisonment** in Rome, **same time** as he wrote **Ephesians**.

• **Colosse** small city **100 miles east** of **Ephesus** in Asia Minor (today **Turkey**)
Colossians teach **Biblical view** of **Jesus Christ**, **antidote** for **heresy & foundation** for **Christian life**. See *outline at end*.

- **Chapter 2** warning against **doctrinal error** called *“Colossian heresy”*
Colossians 2:8-23
- **Asceticism** is a **higher spiritual state** by **abasement** of body.
 - common in **Hinduism**, **Buddhism**, **Judaism**, **Islam**.
- **Angel worship**. **Unworthy** to **approach Jesus Christ directly...go through angels**.
 - **Today...through saints, virgin Mary**. *1 Timothy 2:5*
- **True salvation through secret knowledge** gained by human **philosophy** or rituals.
 - **Gnostics: Jesus just man** and **Christ was divine Spirit** came at **Jesus’ baptism** and **left at cross**. **Christ did not die**, but simply **Jesus died**.

Who Jesus Christ is determined by scripture not human philosophy and ideas.

Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9

- **Jesus was, is and always will be fully God!** The nature of **Jesus Christ is nonnegotiable**.
 - **Firstborn: not** what Jehovah Witness say, that Jesus **first created** (then not **God/truly eternal**).
 - **Old Testament firstborn son** language...**heir, first in line** as **owner/master**.

Firstborn implies **Jesus’ supremacy OVER all things...like creation and church**.

- **Jesus created**, holds together, and **rules over entire universe**. **SUN DOG**.
 - **Jesus holds together** orbiting **electrons**, so **atoms won’t fly apart**.

- “**Firstborn from dead**” proclaims Jesus Christ **Lord of new body—church**.
 - **First to rise to unending life (others before raised from dead to temporal life)**, means **chief and leader of all with eternal life in heaven**.

Paul reveals a **mystery in response** Gnostic search for “**secret, hidden truths**”.

- **Not that they can't understand but was hidden for ages & now revealed.** Colossians 1:26-27, 2:2-4
 - **Mystery equals Jesus Christ living IN you (gentiles), the hope of glory.**

United with Jesus profound practical implications. Colossians 2:6, 3:2-3, 5, 9b-10, 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Christians **died with Jesus** therefore **able to die to sin and put off old self**.
 - **Raised with Jesus** so **can live like Jesus...holy and put on new self**.
- Our supreme, omnipotent God dwells within Christians... Think about that.**
- Jesus Christ **desires to impact** all areas of your **life**: thoughts, words, actions, **relationship**.
 - He **empowers you to put off old, put on new** (sanctify), **hold fast** to Him, **know Word**, set **minds** on things **above, live like Jesus Christ (holy) in community** of believers. Colossians 2:19, 3:16-17, 1:10, 28, 3:12a
 - **Same as keys to experience true, abundant joy in** Philippians

Colossians teaches us: Jesus Christ alone completely sufficient for salvation & sanctification.

- Be **on guard for any deviation that diminishes centrality of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior**.
 - Gospel **not first a theology or way of thinking but relationship with Jesus**.
- Jesus Christ **died for us so He might live in us and fellowship with us**.
 - **Delight** in the fact you are **passionately loved by indwelling Creator, Savior, Friend**.

COLOSSIANS OUTLINE

1:1-14	Introduction
1:15-2:23	Doctrinal: The Supremacy of Jesus
1:15-17	Christ, the Head of Creation
1:18-2:3	Christ, the Head of the Church
2:4-23	Our Freedom in Christ
3:1-4:6	Practical: Jesus Empowers Holy Conduct
3:1-11	Put Off the Old Self
3:12-17	Put On the New Self
3:18-4:2	Familial Responsibilities

4:2-6 Exhortations to Prayer and Proper Conduct
4:7-18 Conclusion