COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL
Who, What, Where, When, & Why & Greeting (Colossians 1:1-2)

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, & WHY

WHO WROTE COLOSSIANS?
_________ wrote the Epistle to the Colossians

WHAT IS COLOSSIANS ABOUT?
In Colossians, Paul exalts __________ above creation, above any other reconciliation method with God, above the church, above philosophy, above the law, above legalism, above carnality, above divisions, above the Christian’s character, above the Christian’s behavior at home, above the Christian’s testimony, above Christian friendship, and above individual congregations—Christ above all.

WHERE DOES COLOSSIANS TAKE PLACE?
Paul writes to the church in Colosse

David Guzik: By Paul’s time the glory it had as a city was on the __________
WHEN WAS COLOSSIANS WRITTEN?
Paul wrote Colossians while in _________ at Rome (AD 59-62)

WHY WAS COLOSSIANS WRITTEN?
To set the Colossian churches straight on the idea that Jesus is _________ than anything and everything could mix in with Christianity (mysticism, legalism, early forms of Gnosticism, etc.). David Guzik: Whatever the problem was precisely, Paul dwelt on the solution: a better understanding of ___________. Knowing the real Jesus helps us to stay away from the counterfeit, no matter how it comes packaged.

GREETING (COLOSSIANS 1:1-2)
1 Paul, an apostle [one who has _______ the risen Jesus and could ___________ to it] of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, [Paul calls ___________ a brother more often than anyone else.]

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse [J. Vernon McGee: The most important question is not, Where are you at? But Who are you in?]:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Christ is above all
2. Christ is ___________ than all
3. Small places with short futures have _________ to God

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Live _________ Christ
2. Praise Him
3. Value small places

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 1:3-8 (NKJV)

Their Faith in Christ
3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL
Their Faith in Christ (Colossians 1:3-8)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-2 (GREETING)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

COLOSSIANS 1:3-8 (THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST)

3 We give thanks [Wiersbe: We should be grateful for what God is doing in the lives of __________] to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you [LifeWay Life Connections: What is happening in your faith or in the faith of a loved one that makes you thankful today? Who are we always praying for?] 4 since we heard of your [If we stopped right here, what would Paul say about ____? What are we known for?] faith in Christ Jesus and of your love [Life Application Bible Commentary: Faith proves its genuineness in its love for others] for all the saints [John MacArthur: Their love was ________________]; 5 because of the hope [Stedman: The important thing is to notice that hope produces faith, and faith in turn grows into love. Hope is the _______, faith is the _________, and love is the _________. The faith/hope/love triad shows up in the following passages: Romans 5:1-5; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:5-6; Ephesians 1:15-18; 4:2-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:3; 5:8; Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:22-24; 1 Peter 1:3-8, 21-22] which is laid up [reserved, awaiting] for you in heaven, of which you have heard before in the word [logos] of the truth of the gospel [Wiersbe (quoting Dr. Walter Wilson): “If you were to give a gift that would be suitable for the whole world, what would you give?” . . . Only the ____________, with its gift of eternal life, was suitable for the whole world.], 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world [Clarke: The doctrine of the Gospel is represented as a traveler], and is [___________ tense] bringing forth fruit [bear fruit, be fertile; Wiersbe: The Word of God is the only seed that can be planted ______________ in the world, and it will bear fruit.], as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from [We all learned about the gospel from someone—who is your someone?] Epaphras, our dear [beloved] fellow servant, who is a faithful minister [diakonos; _____________, servant (one who executes the commands of another)] of Christ on your behalf [for you; Calvin: Paul everywhere makes it his particular aim, that he may, by his recommendation, render those who he knows serve Christ faithfully, very dear to the Churches; as, on the other hand, the ministers of Satan are wholly intent on alienating, by unfavourable representations, the minds of the simple from faithful pastors. Jim’s paraphrase of Calvin: Just as Satan accuses whenever possible, so Paul uplifts whenever possible—and so should we!], 8 who [Epaphras] also declared to us your love [agape] in the Spirit.
APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. Paul (arguably the greatest Christian ever to live) gave thanks for others
2. Phillips: Christian hope is . . . embedded in eternal _________
3. Faith must have an object
4. Love is a witness
5. The gospel brings forth fruit

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. Give thanks for others
2. Know the truth
3. Use _________
4. Love ______ the saints (it is the best witness—see John 13:35)
5. Examine my life for _________

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 (NKJV)

PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Gromaki’s Philippians & Colossians: Study Questions (abbreviated):

1. Do Christians adequately thank God for other believers?
2. In what practical ways can saints manifest their love to others? To those that they know? To unseen brothers and sisters?
3. What is the difference between a genuine and a false hope?
4. Do believers see themselves as slaves today?
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Preeminence of Christ (Colossians 1:9-18)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

COLOSSIANS 1:9-18 (PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it [their faith in Christ], do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled [to ______ a net] with the knowledge of His will [determination, choice, desire, ______________], will; 1 Peter 2:13-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6; 5:18 in all wisdom and spiritual understanding [someone who can skillfully ______ out the supernatural connections they see]; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful [Constable: The Christian can continue to grow in his knowledge of God’s will revealed in Scripture. As he does so, he not only bears fruit but grows in his __________ to bear fruit, as a fruit tree does.] in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God [Calvin: We must always make progress . . . until __________]; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience [Wiersbe: We must never think that patience is complacency. Patience is endurance in __________.] and longsuffering with joy [cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness, exceeding joyfulness]; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered [rescued] us from the power of darkness [____________ that obscures] and conveyed [transferred, carried away, deposed, exchanged, seduced, put out, removed, ______________] us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Who did this?

15 He is the image [likeness, statue, profile, representation, resemblance, image, manifestation] of the invisible God, the firstborn [first in time, place, order or ______________] over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created [____________], made; Adam Clarke: Creation is the proper work of an infinite, unlimited, and unoriginated Being; possessed of all perfections in their highest degrees; capable of knowing, willing, and working infinitely, unlimitedly, and without control: and as creation signifies the production of being where all was absolute nonentity, so it necessarily implies that the Creator acted of and from himself; for as, previously to this creation, there was no being, consequently he could not be actuated by any motive, reason, or impulse, without himself; which would argue there was some being to produce the motive or impulse, or to give the reason. Creation, therefore, is the work of him who is unoriginated, infinite, unlimited, and eternal. But Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things, therefore Jesus Christ must be, according to the plain construction of the apostle’s words, truly and properly God.] that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones [seats, powers, thrones] or dominions [rulers, dominions, governments] or principalities [chiefs, principals, beginnings] or powers [privilege, authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power,
right, strength]. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist [______ ______________], stand near, constitute, consist, stand; a compound Greek word meaning union and stand; Lightfoot: He is the principle of cohesion in the universe. He impresses on creation that unity and solidarity which makes it a ________ instead of a _________. Wiersbe: For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause the power, and the final cause the purpose. When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).]. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence [be first; Life Application Bible Commentary: The Resurrection assures believers that Christ is not a legend; he is ________ and ruling his kingdom].

**APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)**

1. Jesus is ________
2. There is always ________ with Jesus
3. It’s ________ about Jesus. It’s always about Jesus.

**PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)**

1. Be ________ first
2. Look for the ‘more’
3. Be all about Jesus

It’s only about Jesus.

**HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 1:19-23 (NKJV)**

_**RECONCILED IN CHRIST**_

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Gromaki’s Philippians & Colossians: Study Questions (abbreviated):

1. Where do you feel you are right now in terms of “growing in the knowledge of God” (v. 10)?
2. If you were truly to pray as Paul teaches . . . how would it change your prayer life?
3. In what ways do believers try to determine the will of God for their lives?
4. How can the headship of Christ be applied to the operations of the local church?
5. In what practical ways can Christ be given preeminence in all things within the life of each Christian?
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Reconciled in Christ (Colossians 1:19-23)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-18

COLOSSIANS 1:19-23 (RECONCILED IN CHRIST)

As it is used in the Bible, reconciliation is God exchanging my __________ relationship with Him with a __________ relationship with Him through the finished work of Christ.

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness [Wiersbe: The sum total of all the divine power and attributes] should dwell [occupy, dwell, house ________________, reside], 20 and by Him to reconcile all things [Robertson: Sin somehow has put the universe out of joint. Christ will set it right.] to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven [Philippians 2:9-11], having made peace [a peace maker, ________________]; Holman New Testament Commentary: In the New Testament, peace is not merely the absence of hostility, but it also includes the presence of a relationship] through the blood of His cross [Ironside: Man is never called upon in Scripture to make his own peace with God].

21 And you, who once were alienated [alienated, estranged, non-participants] and enemies [hateful, enemies, hostile, foes, hated] in your mind [deep thoughts, imagination, mind, understanding; Philips: Sin alienates us from God __________ and ___________] by wicked [hurtful, evil, diseased, degenerate, culpable, derelict, vicious, mischievous, guilty, sinning, bad, evil, grievous, harmful, lewd, malicious, wicked] works [acts, works, deeds, labors; Robertson: Hostile purpose finds natural expression in evil deeds], yet now He [Jesus; Barclay: The initiative in reconciliation was with _____] has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death [Guzik: In the work of reconciliation, God didn’t meet us halfway. God meets us _____ the way and invites us to accept it.], to present [stand beside, exhibit, recommend, substantiate; be at hand, to aid, assist, bring before, commend, give presently, present, prove, provide, show, stand (before, by, here, up, with)] you holy, and blameless [unblemished, without blame, faultless, blameless], and above reproach [a compound word meaning not and to call in (as a debt or demand), to bring to account (charge, criminate, etc.), to accuse, to call in question] in His sight [literally, directly in front of; Where will you go to hide when you are directly in front of God? God is the One who sees all and who knows all. All will be laid bare and the only acceptable defense will be __________]. — 23 if indeed [if indeed, seeing that, unless, since; Philips: Paul uses the word if in this way . . . [in] 1 Corinthians 15:12 . . . [and] 1 Corinthians 15:14] you continue [stay over, remain, abide, continue] in the faith, grounded [to lay a basis for, erect, consolidate, lay the foundation, ground, settle] and steadfast [sitting, sedentary, immovable, settled, steadfast, __________], and are not moved away [to stir to a place elsewhere, remove, move away] from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister [a deacon (servant)].
APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. _______ reconciles us
2. _______ presents us
3. The Gospel does not change

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. _______ working for it
2. _______ trying to look good
3. _______ messing with the gospel

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 1:24-29 (NKJV)

SACRIFICIAL SERVICE FOR CHRIST

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

LifeWay Life Connections: Study Questions (abbreviated):

1. How did human sin affect the rest of creation?
2. How did Christ’s sacrificial death bring reconciliation to a world in disharmony?
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Not Philosophy but Christ (Part 1) (Colossians 2:1-10)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-29

INTRODUCTION
COLOSSIANS 2:1-10 (NOT PHILOSOPHY BUT CHRIST)

1 For I want you to know what a great conflict [where we get our English word __________] I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged [used of the Holy Spirit in His ______________ role], being knit together [to drive together, unite, teach, compact, gather, instruct, knit together; Roberton’s Word Pictures: to _______ go together] in love [love is necessary to a church like ______________ are necessary to a __________________], and attaining to all riches of the full assurance [entire confidence] of understanding, to the knowledge [recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement, knowledge—this idea of full knowledge was in direct opposition to the ______________ of the day; Colossians was written to set the Colossian (and Laodicean—see Colossians 4:16) churches straight on the idea that Jesus is ___________ than anything and everything they could mix in with Christianity (mysticism, legalism, early forms of Gnosticism, etc.). David Guzik: Whatever the problem was precisely, Paul dwelt on the solution: a better understanding of ___________. Wikipedia: Gnosticism . . . is a modern term categorizing a collection of ancient religions whose adherents shunned the ______________ world . . . and embraced the ______________ world] of the mystery of God [the mystery of God is ___________], both of the Father and of Christ [How much is there to learn about Christ? About God?], 3 in whom are hidden [kept secrets; treasures, hidden; Guzik: Paul wanted all to know that real wisdom was not hidden in secret books, but deposited in Jesus Christ so that _______ can access it] all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

1. _______ is critical
2. Jesus is knowable
3. Gnosticism still exists

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)

1. Agonize over loving each other
2. _______ in
3. Better understand ___________

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 2:4-10 (NKJV)

NOT PHILOSOPHY BUT CHRIST

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Not Philosophy but Christ (Part 2) (Colossians 2:1-10)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-2:3

INTRODUCTION

Today’s text should scare us. It plainly tells us that we can be deceived. But it also tells us how to avoid being deceived—and the answer should not surprise us—the answer is in ____________.

COLOSSIANS 2:1-10 (NOT PHILOSOPHY BUT CHRIST)

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive [to come _________ and misreason or miscount] you with persuasive words [David Guzik: Deceivers are ________________]. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit [reserve this phrase for those times when we have ___ __________ where we physically are], rejoicing to see your good order [Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures: A few stragglers had gone over to the Gnostics, but there had been no panic, no breach in the line.] and the steadfastness [established, confirmed stability, steadfastness] of your faith in Christ [Who am I ____ ?].

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk [Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures: “Go on _______________ in him”] in Him [Who am I ____ ?], 7 rooted and built up in Him [Who am I ____ ?] and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

8 Beware [an ________________] lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to [What am I going along ________?] the tradition [transmission, precept, specifically the Jewish traditionary law, ordinance, tradition] of men, according to [What am I going along ________?] the basic principles of the world, and not according to [according to, after, along with; What am I going along ________?] Christ [Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures: Christ is the ________________ by which to measure philosophy and all phases of human knowledge]. 9 For in Him [Who am I ____ ?] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him [Who am I ____ ? David Guzik: Anything that says we are not complete in Him also takes away from the deity of Jesus], who is the head [Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures: There is no other place for Christ. He is first.] of all principality and power.

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APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. It matters who I am in
2. It matters what I am going along with
3. _________ is better

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Answer the question: Who am I in?
2. Answer the question: What am I going along with?
3. Get in _________ and go along with Him

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 2:11-23 (NKJV)

NOT LEGALISM BUT CHRIST
11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Not Legalism but Christ (Part 1) (Colossians 2:11-23)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-2:10

INTRODUCTION

There is a ‘togetherness’ in today’s text. Believers are in Jesus and with Jesus: buried with Him, raised with Him, alive with Him, and victorious in Him. The Christian life is all about Jesus.

COLOSSIANS 2:11-23 (NOT LEGALISM BUT CHRIST)

11 In Him you were also circumcised [circumcision was ________________ by the Old Testament Law] with the circumcision made without hands [unmanufactured], by putting off [divestment, putting off (especially of old clothing)] the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ [Christ cuts away (spiritually) dead flesh and replaces it with new ________], 12 buried with Him in baptism [Guzik: Christians don’t need to be circumcised, they need to be ________________], in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working [efficiency, energy, operation, strength, effectual working (implies that it is not just power, but power that is working and doing and ________________ something)] of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses [Wesley: A beautiful expression for original sin, the ____________ corruption of your nature, your uncircumcised heart and affections] and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him [Guzik: Before a person comes to new life in Jesus, he is not a ________ man who needs a doctor; he is a ________ person who needs a Savior], having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out [smeared out, obliterated, blotted out, wiped away; literally means to __________ over; Barclay: God, in his amazing mercy, banished the record of our sins so completely that it was as if it had never been; not a __________ remained] the handwriting [Barclay: A note of hand signed by a debtor acknowledging his indebtedness. It was almost exactly what we call an ________] of requirements that was against us [Jesus had something written against Him. John 19:19-20], which was contrary to us [in the imperfect tense—meaning ________________ action]. And He has taken [in the perfect tense (describes an action which is viewed as having been completed in the past, ________ and for all, not needing to be repeated)] it out of the way [John 1:29: Where did He take the sin of the world? He took the sin of the world to the ____________], having nailed [nailed, pegged, ________] it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed [divested wholly, put off, spoiled] principalities [the head rulers] and powers [the authority that allows rulers to rule], He made a public [frank, blunt, public, bold, confident, free, open, plain] spectacle [an ________________, spectacle] of them, triumphing over [an acclamatory procession, conquering, victorying, triumphing] them in it [1 Corinthians 2:8].
Barclay: In these vivid pictures Paul sets out the total adequacy of the work of Christ. Sin is forgiven and evil is conquered; what more is necessary? There is nothing that Gnostic knowledge and Gnostic intermediaries can do for men—Christ has done it all already.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. My Christianity is all about Jesus
2. The believer can do nothing without Jesus
3. When Jesus wins, He wins publicly

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. ________________ proclaim Him
2. Publicly ________________ Him
3. Publicly proclaim ______

HYMN: SEE THE CONQUEROR (CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH, 1862)

HOMWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 2:11-23 (NKJV)

NOT LEGALISM BUT CHRIST
11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in fake humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.

20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations— 21 “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” 22 which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, fake humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.
Not Legalism but Christ (Part 2) (Colossians 2:11-23)

**COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL**

**Introduction**

In today's text, Paul deals with three issues: legalism, mysticism, and asceticism.

**COLOSSIANS 2:11-23 (NOT LEGALISM BUT CHRIST)**

16 **So let no one judge you** [see also 1 Corinthians 8-9 and Romans 14-15] in food or in drink [see Matthew 15:10-20; Mark 7:14-23; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 14:1-4], or regarding a festival [festival, feast, holy day] or a new moon [festival of new moon] or sabbaths [For an excellent article about the abolishment of the Sabbath, see *The Sabbath Is Abolished* section of Coffman's commentary on Colossians 2: bit.ly/TheSabbathIsAbolished], 17 **which are a shadow** [see Hebrews 8:5; 10:1] of things to come [expectation, to intend, about to be, after that, almost, ready], **but the substance [body] is of Christ** [John MacArthur: A shadow has no reality; the __________ is what makes the shadow. How we __________ on the shadow is a reflection of how we __________ about the substance. If you choose to keep the Old Testament Mosaic Law, you are ________ in Christ to do so.]. 18 **Let no one cheat** [award the price against, to defraud, beguile of reward; Robertson’s Word Pictures: To act as umpire against one. . . . To decide or give judgment against] you of your reward, taking delight [desiring, be disposed toward, intending, choosing, preferring, wishing, being inclined to, being about to, delighting in, intending, loving, pleasing rather having] in false humility [humiliation, modesty, humility] and worship of angels, intruding into [intruding into, stepping in to] those things which he has not [textual variant: NU-Text omits not] seen [stared at, discerned clearly, attended to, appeared to, beheld, perceived, seen, taken heed of], vainly [idly, without reason, vainly] puffed up [blown up, __________], made proud by his fleshly mind [intellect, mind, understanding], 19 and not holding fast [using strength, seizing, retaining, holding fast, keeping, laying, obtaining, laying hand on, retaining, taking] to the Head [See Colossians 1:18; 2:10, 19. Calvin: He condemns . . . whatever does not bear a __________ to Christ. He also confirms his statement on the ground that all things flow from him, and depend upon him. Phillips: The cult at Colosse was doing something a cult always does. It was putting something in the __________ of Christ.], from whom all the body [see Colossians 1:18, 22, 24; 2:11, 17, 19, 23; 3:15], nourished [furnished, fully supplied, aided, contributed, added, ministered] and knit together [forced, driven together, united, inferred, compacted, gathered, knit together] by joints [Robertson’s Word Pictures: To fasten together . . . connections] and ligaments [Robertson’s Word Pictures: To bind together. Aristotle and Galen use it of the human body.], grows [grows, enlarges, increases] with the increase [growth, increase] that is from God.
20 Therefore [textual variant: NU-Text and M-Text omit Therefore], if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations [Paul is asking a rhetorical question: Why go back to the Law?]— 21 “Do not touch [attach, touch], do not taste [taste, eat, experience], do not handle [manipulate, handle, touch],” 22 which all concern things which perish [decay, ruin, corrupt, destroy, perish] with the using [using, consuming]— according to the commandments [injunctions, religious precepts, commandments] and doctrines [instructions, doctrines, teachings, learnings] of men [The Gospel does not allow ________-ons]? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion [voluntary (arbitrary and unwarranted) piety], false humility [humiliation, modesty, humility], and neglect [unsparing austerity (asceticism), neglecting] of the body [Ray Stedman: Dedication and discipline are a proper part of the Christian life. . . . But you can make a ______ of discipline.], but are of no value [value, money paid, valuables, highest degree, dignity, honor, preciousness, price] against the indulgence [filling up, gratification, satisfying] of the flesh.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Shadows are _______
2. Shadows are caused by ________________________
3. Legalism, mysticism, and asceticism are ________ around

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Don’t be satisfied with a __________
2. Be satisfied with _________________________
3. _________ is still the answer

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-11 (NKJV)

Not Carnality but Christ
1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL
Not Carnality but Christ (Part 1) (Colossians 3:1-11)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-2:23

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11 (NOT CARNALITY BUT CHRIST)
1 If then you were raised [raised together] with Christ, seek [an imperative; be about, desire, endeavor, enquire for, require, seek after] those things which are above [upward, on top, above, high, up], where Christ is, sitting [remaining, residing, dwelling, sitting] at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind [an imperative; exercise the mind, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion; be mentally disposed; interest oneself in with concern or obedience, set the affection on, be careful, be like, be of one, be of the same, let this mind, regard, savor, think] on things above [same word as is used in Colossians 3:1; upward, on top, above, high, up; Clarke: ______ heavenly things; Guzik: Every Christian is faced with a question: “Who will I ____________ with, the world or with Jesus?”], where Christ is, sitting [remaining, residing, dwelling, sitting], not on things on the earth [________ example]. 3 For you died [as we learned in Colossians 2], and your life is hidden [concealed by covering, hidden, kept secret] with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life [Barclay: Sometimes we say of a man, “Music is his life—Sport is his life—He lives for his work.” Such a man finds life and all that it means in music, in sport, in work, as the case may be. For the Christian, __________ is his life.] appears [renders apparent, appear, manifestly declares, makes manifest, shows self], then you also will appear [render apparent, appear, manifestly declare, make manifest, show self] with Him in glory.

5 Therefore [since we are dead] put to death [an imperative; nekroo; deaden, subdue, mortify; Barclay: The New Testament never hesitates to demand with a certain violence the complete elimination of ___________ which is against God] your members [limbs, members] which are on the earth [it seems like this paragraph is focused on __________ sin]: fornication [harlotry, idolatry, fornication], uncleanness [impurity (physically or morally), uncleanness], passion [suffering, passion, concupiscence, inordinate affection, lust], evil [worthless, depraved, injurious, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked] desire [longing (especially for what is forbidden), concupiscence, desire, lust], and covetousness [avarice, fraudulently, extortion, covetousness, greediness; a compound word for _______ and _______; Do we want more of what is not our own?], which is idolatry [idolatry, image worship]. 6 Because of these things the wrath [desire, violent passion, punishment, anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath] of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience [obstinate and rebellious disbelief, disobedience, unbelief], 7 in which you yourselves once walked [to tread all around, walked at large, lived, deported oneself, followed, went, be occupied with, walked] when you lived in them.
Stedman: Now people rightly ask, “What is the difference between this kind of a demand that Paul is making here when he says, ‘put aside all these things,’ and what the law says? Isn't this putting us back under law?” . . . You have a new resource, a new power, a new life, a strong Savior who will be with you in every moment of temptation, and you can say, “____!”

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Our focus should be above
2. Judgment is coming
3. Only ______ can help

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Look _____
2. Tell others
3. ______ the help

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-11 (NKJV)

NOT CARNALITY BUT CHRIST
1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Not Carnality but Christ (Part 2) (Colossians 3:1-11)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-2:23

COLOSSIANS 3:1-11 (NOT CARNALITY BUT CHRIST)

8 But now [now, just now] you yourselves are to put off [an imperative; put away, cast off, lay apart, lay aside, lay down, put away, put off] all these: anger [desire, violent passion, punishment, anger, indignation, vengeance, wrath; short-term anger (think: flare up)], wrath [passion (as if breathing hard), fierceness, indignation, wrath (think: sustained heat)], malice [badness, depravity, malignity, trouble, evil, maliciousness, naughtiness, wickedness (think: heart hatred)], blasphemy [vilification (especially against God), blasphemy, evil speaking, railing (think: slander)], filthy language [vile conversation, filthy communication; a compound word from shameful, base, venal, filthy and speech (think: talking dirty about someone)] out of your mouth [Matthew 12:34; 15:18]. 9 Do not [an imperative] lie [utter an untruth or attempt to deceive by falsehood, lie; Matthew Henry: Lying makes us like the ________ (see John 8:44)] to one another, since you have put off [divested wholly, put off, spoiled, laid aside like old __________] the old [antique, not recent, worn out, old] man [the old man is a look back at ________ and the first man] with his deeds [practices, acts, functions, deeds, offices, works], 10 and have put on [in the sense of sinking into a _____________, invested with clothing, arrayed, clothed with, endued, have put on] the new [new, youthful, fresh, regenerate, young] man [the new man is a look at __________ and the second Adam] who is renewed [being renewed, ________________, renewed] in knowledge [recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement] according to the image [likeness, statue, profile, representation, resemblance, image; see also 2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29; 1 John 3:2] of Him [Jesus] who created [fabricated, created, formed, made] him [Adam; Genesis 1:27; Stedman: Scripture calls it “walking with the Lord.” I like that figure because a walk, of course, merely consists of two simple steps, repeated over and over again. . . . Paul describes them as, “Put off the old man,” and “put on the new.” Then ____________ them.], 11 where [in Christ] there is neither [Robertson’s Word Pictures: There does not exist.] Greek nor Jew [Robertson’s Word Pictures: ________ distinctions . . . disappear], circumcised nor uncircumcised [__________________ background distinctions disappear], barbarian [foreigner, non-Greek, barbarian; _____________ distinctions disappear], Scythian [savage, Scythian; _____________ distinctions disappear], slave nor free [Robertson’s Word Pictures: ________ distinctions vanish in Christ], but Christ is all and in all.

How do we know we are thinking according to the old man? We see ________________________. The new man way of living sees ____________. Robertson’s Word Pictures: Christ has obliterated the words barbarian, master, slave, all of them and has substituted the word . . . ________________.

Stedman: We can no longer excuse wrong conduct on the basis of class, background or origin. Have you ever heard a Christian say, “I know I have a temper, but I can’t help it. I’m Irish. All Irishmen have
hot tempers.” This is the kind of thing Paul describes. There is no longer to be any of that for you are no longer what you once were. Someone else says . . . “I’m blunt, but our whole family is that way.” No, says Paul, we no longer can retreat to that kind of excuse for we are no longer what we were born to be. All such background of class, national origin, training, education, whatever it may be, is all set aside because you are now linked to Christ. “Christ is in all.”

Johnson: The new man lives in a new environment where all racial, national, religious, cultural and social distinctions are no more. Rather, Christ is now all that matters and in all who believe. The statement is one of the most inclusive in the New Testament and is amply supported by the pre-eminence of Christ in New Testament theology. It is a particularly appropriate statement for the Colossians and affords an excellent summary statement of the teaching of the letter. There are three realms, relevant to the Colossians, in which He is all. He is everything in salvation; hence there is no place for angelic mediation in God’s redemptive work (cf. Colossians 1:18-22; Colossians 2:18). He is everything in sanctification; hence legality and asceticism are out of place in the Christian life (cf. Colossians 2:16-23). He is our life (Colossians 3:3-4). Finally, He is everything necessary for human satisfaction; hence there is no need for philosophy, or the deeds of the old man (Colossians 1:26-28; Colossians 2:3; Colossians 2:9-10). He fills the whole life, and all else is hindering and harmful.

**APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)**

1. Christianity comes with ______________ to follow
2. Distinctions divide and Christ ____________

**PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)**

1. Put off the old man and put on the new man
2. Look at ___________ and not at distinctions

**HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (NKJV)**

*Character of the New Man*

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL
Character of the New Man (Colossians 3:12-17)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-3:11

INTRODUCTION

Colossians ____-____ is what it looks like when Christians wear the truth found in Colossians ____-____.

We cannot put ____ the new man until we have put ______ the old man.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17 (CHARACTER OF THE NEW MAN)

12 Therefore, as the elect [select, favorite, chosen, elect] of God, holy [sacred, physically pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially consecrated, holy, saint] and beloved [agapeo; Barclay: Paul takes these three precious words which had once been the possession of Israel and gives them to the ________________], put on [sinking into a garment, arrayed, clothed with, endued, have put on; Stedman: The apostle has written in terms of putting off and putting on clothes. That suggests that this ought to be done __________ morning.] tender [bowels] mercies [pities, mercies], kindness [usefulness, moral excellence, gentleness, goodness, kindness], humility [humiliation of mind, modesty, humbleness of mind, humility of mind, lowliness of mind], meekness [gentleness, humility, meekness], longsuffering [____________________] (a disposition to bear injuries patiently), forbearance, fortitude, longsuffering, patience;

13 bearing with [holding oneself up against, putting up with, bearing with, enduring with, forbearing with, suffering with; Jamieson, Fausset, Brown: As to _______________ offences] one another, and forgiving [granting as a favor, pardoning, rescuing, delivering, forgiving, giving, granting; Jamieson, Fausset, Brown: As to _______] one another, if anyone has a complaint [blame, fault, quarrel] against [toward, near, against] another; even as [just as, according to, how] Christ forgave [granted as a favor, pardoned, rescued, delivered, forgave, gave, granted] you [Barnes: Always afterward to treat him as kindly as if he had not injured us—as God treats us when he forgives us. How did Christ forgive us? Barnes: Freely . . . entirely . . . ________________], so you also must do.

14 But above all these things put on love [agape], which is the bond [a joint tie, ligament, uniting principle, band, bond] of perfection [completeness, perfection, maturity; Wright: The other virtues, pursued without love, become _____________ and unbalanced]. 15 And let [an imperative] the peace [peace, rest, oneness, quietness, rest] of God rule [arbitrate, govern, ____________, prevail, rule] in your hearts [kardia; thoughts, feelings], to which also you were called in one body [Wright: ‘Peace’ here is not the inward, individual peace of mind which accompanies humble confident trust in God’s love, but a peace which characterizes the community, the ‘_______’ as a whole.]; and be [an imperative] thankful [well favored, grateful, thankful]. 16 Let [an imperative] the word [logos; what was said, the topic, reasoning, motive, account, cause, communication, doctrine, fame, intent, matter, mouth, preaching, question, reason, reckoning, saying, speech, talk, utterance, word, work] of Christ
dwell [inhabit, dwell, be at ________, make at home] in you richly [copiously, abundantly, richly] in all wisdom, teaching [teaching via conversation with the intent to explain or expound] and admonishing [warning, reproving gently, admonishing, cautioning] one another in psalms [songs accompanied with music] and hymns [sacred songs that were praises to God] and spiritual songs [lyrical poems relating to the human spirit; Robertson’s Word Pictures: The ________ song can have all three words applied to it], singing with grace [favor, graciousness, gratitude, favor, pleasure] in your hearts [kardia; thoughts, feelings] to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed [business, act, deed, work, labor, toil], do all in the name of the Lord Jesus [People’s New Testament: If doubtful, see if you can on your knees ask Christ to go with you and _________ you in what you are about to undertake. Bruce: What the NT does provide is those basic __________________ of Christian living which may be applied to all the situations of life as they arise.], giving thanks [being grateful, expressing gratitude; saying grace at a meal, giving thanks] to God the Father through Him [Jesus].

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. ________ matters
2. Love binds us and completes us
3. ‘In the name of the Lord Jesus’ can be a ____________

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Put off first, then put on
2. Cover everything in _________
3. Filter my life through Jesus’ name

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1 (NKJV)

THE CHRISTIAN HOME
18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

The Christian Home (Colossians 3:18-4:1)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-3:17

COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1 (THE CHRISTIAN HOME)

18 Wives [woman, wife], submit [hypotasso; present imperative; a compound word from the words, ‘under,’ and ‘to put in order;’ subordinate, obey, be under obedience, put under, subdue unto, subject to, be put in subjection to/under, submit self unto; Vaughan: The form of the verb (hypotasseste, middle voice) shows that the submission is to be ______________. Stedman: Submission does not mean ______________.] to your own husbands [man, husband], as is fitting [aneko; imperfect indicative; a compound word from the words, ‘arrive,’ and ‘in the middle;’ to attain to, be proper, convenient, be fit; Stedman: There is an order of authority in ______ God’s world.] in the Lord. [Wives: Put on ____________________]

19 Husbands [man, husband], love [agapeo; present active imperative (keep on loving)] your wives [woman, wife] and do not be bitter [present imperative; embittered, bitter] toward them. [Husbands: Put off ____________________ and put on _________]

20 Children, obey [hypakouo; present imperative; a compound word from the words, ‘under,’ and ‘hear;’ to hear under, to listen attentively, to heed or conform to a command or authority, to hearken, be obedient to, obey] your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing [fully agreeable, acceptable, well-pleasing] to the Lord [Guzik: The First Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Father; the Second Person of the Holy Trinity is called the Son. Inherent in those titles is a relationship of authority and ________________ to authority.] [Children: Put on _______________]

21 Fathers, do not provoke [present imperative; stimulate to anger, provoke] your children, lest they become discouraged [present subjunctive; spiritless, disheartened, dismayed; Coffman: As Barclay said: A parent could do ______________ he liked with his child. Barclay: Luther’s father was so stern to him that Luther all his days found it difficult to pray: “Our __________.”]. [Fathers: Put off ____________________]

22 Bondservants [slaves], obey [hypakouo; same word that is used in Colossians 3:20; present imperative; a compound word from the words, ‘under,’ and ‘hear;’ to hear under, to listen attentively, to heed or conform to a command or authority, to hearken, be obedient to, obey; ______________ is under some type of authority] in all things your masters [_______, God, master; Why did Paul not command that slavery be abolished?] according to the flesh, not with eyeservice [sight labor, that needs watching, eye-service], as men-pleasers [man courting, fawning, men-pleaser], but in sincerity [singleness, sincerity, without self seeking, generosity, bountifulness, liberality, simplicity, singleness] of
heart, fearing [frightened, alarmed, in awe of, revering, afraid of, fearing, reverencing] God. 23 And whatever you do [make, do], do [present imperative; toil, effect, engage in/with, commit, do, labor for, minister about, trade, work] it heartily [from the spirit, from the breath, out of the spirit, out of the breath], as to the Lord [Stedman: We are to work “as unto the Lord.” . . . Every employee ought to write that down and put it somewhere where he can _____ it during working hours.] and not to men, 24 knowing [perfect participle; knowing, seeing, being aware, beholding, considering, looking on, perceiving, understanding] that from the Lord you will receive [future indicative; receive, take aside, take] the reward [requital, reward] of the inheritance [present indicative; heirship, possession, inheritance]; for [variant: NU-Text omits for] you serve [you are a slave, you are in bondage, you serve] the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong [present participle; is unjust, actively does wrong, hurts, injures, is an offender] will be repaid [tended to, be taken care of, provided for, carried off from harm, obtain, received] for what he has done [aorist indicative; is unjust, actively does wrong, hurts, injures, is an offender], and there is no partiality [partiality, favoritism, respecter of persons; Coffman: God will make all things ___________.]. [Slaves: Put off __________________ and put on __________________]

1 Masters [Lord, God, master], give [present imperative; hold near, present, afford, exhibit, furnish, bring, do, give, keep, minister, offer, shew] your bondservants [slave, bondservant] what is just [equitable, innocent, holy, just, meet, righteous] and fair [likeness, equity, equality], knowing [perfect participle; same word used in Colossians 3:24; knowing, seeing, being aware, beholding, considering, looking on, perceiving, understanding] that you also have [present indicative] a Master [Lord, God, master] in heaven. [Masters: Put on ______________]

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Everyone is under __________________
2. Being under authority does not lower value
3. Being under authority allows God’s will to be done

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. _______ to live as #2
2. Learn to _______ as #2
3. Learn to live as #__

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 4:2-4:6 (NKJV)

CHRISTIAN GRACES
2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Christian Graces (Colossians 4:2-4:6)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-4:1

INTRODUCTION

Greeting Colossians 1:1-2
Their Faith in Christ Colossians 1:3-8
Preeminence of Christ Colossians 1:9-18
Reconciled in Christ Colossians 1:19-23
Sacrificial Service for Christ Colossians 1:24-29
Not Philosophy but Christ Colossians 2:1-10
Not Legalism but Christ Colossians 2:11-23
Not Carnality but Christ Colossians 3:1-11
Character of the New Man Colossians 3:12-17
The Christian Home Colossians 3:18-4:1
Christian Graces Colossians 4:2-6
Final Greetings Colossians 4:7-15
Closing Exhortations and Blessing Colossians 4:16-18

COLOSSIANS 4:2-4:6 (CHRISTIAN GRACES)

Pray and pray for (______________ life)

2 Continue [devote, continue steadfastly, be earnest and unwearyed, persist, continue in] earnestly in prayer, being vigilant [wakeful, watchful, alert, aware] in it with thanksgiving [giving thanks, watching in it in thanksgiving; Thanksgiving is often associated with ____________]: Ephesians 6:18: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints; Romans 12:12: rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; Philippians 4:6: Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18; 1 Timothy 2:1; Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8; 21:36; Acts 1:14; 20:31; 1 Corinthians 16:13; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38]; 3 meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, 4 that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak [Paul asks for prayer, not for his circumstances, but rather for the message of the _____________. Paul often made this request (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 6:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1)].
Walking in wisdom = what you say (____________ life)

5 **Walk** [be, live, act, conduct yourselves, ___________] in wisdom [*sophia*; Colossians 1:9, 28; 3:16] toward those who are outside [toward outsiders, towards them that are without, those without], redeeming the time. 6 **Let your speech** [conversation, everything you say, your words] **always be with grace** [pleasing, gracious], seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one [know how to give the Gospel, know how to give your testimony].

**APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)**
1. Keep your head down
2. Wisdom comes out of your __________
3. Know the hope

**PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)**
1. Make prayer a ________________
2. Always inspect my words ______________ I speak
3. Practice my ________________

**HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 4:7-4:15 (NKJV)**

**Final Greetings**
7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Final Greetings (Part 1) (Colossians 4:7-15)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-4:6

COLOSSIANS 4:7-15 (FINAL GREETINGS)

7 Tychicus [fortuitous, fortunate; shows up in Acts 20:4, Ephesians 6:21, 2 Timothy 4:12, and Titus 3:12], a beloved [agape] brother, faithful [trustworthy, trustful, faithful, sure, true] minister [diakonos; fellow servant, co-slave] in the Lord, will tell you [make known to you, certify, declare] all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know [be aware of, feel, have knowledge of, perceive, be sure of, understand] your circumstances [peri; around, circuits, pertaining to, sake, state] and comfort [call near, invite, console, exhort, entreat, pray; the knowledge of their circumstances was not to talk about them, but to ______ them] your hearts, 9 with Onesimus [profitable; shows up in Philemon 1:10], a faithful and beloved brother [same words used of Tychicus in Colossians 4:7], who is one of you [Philemon]. They will make known [make known to you, certify, declare] to you all things which are happening here [in Rome in prison; These men ________ Colossians, Ephesians, and Philemon].

10 Aristarchus [the best ruling; shows up in Acts 19:29, 20:4, 27:2, and Philemon 1:24] my fellow prisoner [fellow prisoner, co-captive; Barclay: Aristarchus was a man who was always on the spot when things were at their grimmest. Whenever Paul was in bad trouble Aristarchus was ________.] greets [welcomes, embraces, greets, salutes] you, with Mark [Markus; shows up in Acts 12:12, 25, 15:37, 39, 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:24, and 1 Peter 5:13 (this may not be the same Mark)] the cousin [cousin, sister’s son] of Barnabas [son of rest/prophesy/encouragement; shows up all throughout Acts, as well as in Galatians 2:1, 9, 13; Bruce: It is from this reference alone that we learn that Mark was Barnabas’ cousin; Guzik: It reminds us that the Book of Acts is an incomplete record of the history of the early church] about whom you received [accepted, attained, brought, caught, hold, obtained, received, took away] instructions [commandments, precepts]: if he [Mark] comes to you, welcome [an imperative; accept, receive, take; Robertson’s New Testament Word Pictures: reception] him [Stedman: That reference to Mark takes us back to the first missionary journey of Paul]), 11 and Jesus [Jehovah is salvation] who is called Justus [just]. These are my only fellow workers [co-laborers, companions in labor, fellow helpers, fellow workers, fellow laborers, workfellows] for the kingdom [royalty, rule, realm, kingdom, reign] of God who are of the circumcision [Jews]; they have proved to be a comfort [paregoria; an address alongside, consolation, comfort, relief, solace] to me.

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)

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1. *Agape* brothers and sisters __________
2. We must know each other to help
3. God needs workers
4. Faithful brothers and sisters will be ________________

**PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)**

1. Find *agape* brothers and sisters
2. Know and be known
3. Get to __________
4. Faithful brothers and sisters must be ________________ to

**HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 4:7-4:15 (NKJV)**

*Final Greetings*

7 Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. 8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, 9 with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that is in his house.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Final Greetings (Part 2) (*Colossians 4:7-15*)

**REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-4:6**

**COLOSSIANS 4:7-15 (FINAL GREETINGS)**

David Guzik: The city of Colosse was probably the smallest and least important city that Paul ever wrote to... The city of Colosse is not even mentioned in the Book of Acts... Historically, Colosse was a prosperous city, and famous (along with other cities in its region) for its fabric dyes. Yet by Paul’s time the glory it had as a city was on the __________.
12 Epaphras [lovely], who is one of you [a Colossian], a bondservant [doulos; slave] of Christ, greets [welcomes, embraces, greets, salutes] you, always laboring fervently [struggling, competing for a prize, contending with an adversary, endeavoring to accomplish something, fighting, laboring fervently, striving, __________________] for you [Who are you praying for?] in prayers, that you may stand [abide, continue, covenant, establish, hold up, present, set up, stanch (to stop something (especially blood) from flowing), stand by, stand forth, stand still, stand up] perfect [complete] and complete [literally to ______ a net, level up a hollow place; figuratively to furnish, satisfy, execute an office, finish a period or task, accomplish, be complete, end, expire, fill up, fulfill, be or make full, perfect, supply] in all the will [determination, choice, inclination, desire, ______________, will] of God. 13 For I bear him witness [martyroo; am a witness, testify, charge, give evidence, bear record, have a good/honest report, give testimony, bear/give/obtain witness; Ray Ortlund: God is preparing some of us to stand publicly for Him in heroic ways that will strengthen the rest of us for a whole generation] that he has a great zeal [zelos; heat, zeal, ardor, fervent mind, zeal] for you, and those who are in Laodicea [people of justice, or, justice of the people; mentioned six times, four in Colossians and two in Revelation], and those in Hierapolis [holy city]. 14 Luke __________-giver; his name shows up here, in 2 Timothy 4:11, and in Philemon 1:24] the beloved [agape] physician [doctor] and Demas [governor of the people; his name shows up here, in 2 Timothy 4:10, and in Philemon 1:24] greet [welcomes, embraces, greets, salutes] you. 15 Greet [an imperative; welcomes, embraces, greets, salutes] the brethren [adelphos; we ______ brothers and sisters in Christ] who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas [bridegroom] and the church [ekklesia; called out assembly, church] that is in his house [home, house, dwelling].

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Faithfulness is ________________
2. God needs workers
3. Faithful brothers and sisters will be ________________

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
2. Get to ________
3. Faithful brothers and sisters must be ________________ to

HOMEWORK: READ COLOSSIANS 4:16-4:18 (NKJV)

CLOSED EXHORTATIONS AND BLESSING
16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

18 This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen.
COLOSSIANS: CHRIST ABOVE ALL

Closing Exhortations and Blessing (Colossians 4:16-18)

REVIEW: COLOSSIANS 1:1-4:15

COLOSSIANS 4:16-18 (CLOSING EXHORTATION AND BLESSING)
16 Now when [whenever, as long as, when] this epistle [letter, epistle] is read [known again, read] among [near, beside, in the vicinity of] you, see that [an imperative; make, ensure] it is read [known again, read] also in the church of the Laodiceans [see also 1 Thessalonians 5:27; Barnes: The apostles designed that the letters which they addressed to the churches should be read also by __________], and that you likewise [also, likewise] read the epistle from Laodicea [Where is that in the New Testament?]. 17 And say [an imperative; speak, say] to Archippus [horse ruler, master of the horse; only mentioned here and in Philemon 1:2], “Take heed [an imperative; look at, behold, beware, look on, look to, perceive, regard, see, sight, take heed] to the ministry [diakonia; attendance, aid, service, ministering, ministry, __________, relief] which you have received [received near, associated with oneself, assumed an office; learned, received, took with] in the Lord, that you may fulfill [Robertson: Present active subjunctive . . . that thou keep on filling it full; literally to ______ a net, level up a hollow place; figuratively to furnish, satisfy, execute an office, finish a period or task, accomplish, be complete, end, expire, fill up, fulfill, be or make full, perfect, supply; Same word used in Colossians 1:9, 25; 2:10; and 4:12] it [The entire church should ensure the __________ _____ is free from erroneous theology].”

18 This salutation [greeting, salutation] by my own hand [Paul used had an amanuensis, but here—in the same manner as he ended 1 Corinthians, Galatians, and 2 Thessalonians—Paul wrote this with his ______ ____]—Paul [small, little]. Remember [an imperative; recollect, rehearse, make mention, be mindful, remember] my chains [a band, ligament (of the ______) or shackle (of a ________________), an impediment or disability, band, bond, chain, string]. Grace [graciousness, the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life, benefit, favor, gift, grace, joy liberality, pleasure, thanks] be with you. Amen [firm, trustworthy, surely, so be it, amen, verily].

APPLY (SO WHAT IS THE POINT?)
1. Epistles must be ________
2. We need encouragement
3. Jesus is worth ____________

PERSONALIZE (NOW WHAT DO I DO?)
1. Look at the letters
2. ________________ one another
3. Live for Him
INTRODUCTION

Paul wrote the Epistle to the Colossians. Paul wrote Colossians while in prison at Rome (AD 59-62).

In Colossians, Paul exalts __________ above creation, above any other reconciliation method with God, above the church, above philosophy, above the law, above legalism, above carnality, above divisions, above the Christian’s character, above the Christian’s behavior at home or in the world, and above Christian friendship—Christ above all. Paul simply does not have time for anything else.

Colossians was written to set straight the idea that Jesus is __________ than anything and everything that could be mixed in with Christianity. David Guzik: Whatever the problem was precisely, Paul dwelt on the solution: a better understanding of __________. Knowing the real Jesus helps us to stay away from the counterfeit, no matter how it comes packaged.

KNOWLEDGE OBJECTIVES
1. To exalt Christ above all
2. To recognize the dangers of mixing Christianity with anything else
COLOSSIANS

GREETING (1:1-2)
Application: Small places with short futures have value to God; Personalization: Value small places

THEIR FAITH IN CHRIST (1:3-8)
Application: Love is a ______________; Personalization: Examine my life for ___________

PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST (1:9-18)
Application: There is always ‘_______’ with Jesus; Personalization: Look for the ‘_______’

RECONCILED IN CHRIST (1:19-23)
Application: God reconciles ____; Personalization: Stop working for reconciliation

SACRIFICAL SERVICE FOR CHRIST (1:24-29)
Application: Suffering is part of Christianity; Personalization: Encourage and admonish one another

NOT PHILOSOPHY BUT CHRIST (2:1-10)
Application: ________ is critical; Personalization: Agonize over ______________ each other
Application: Who I am in & what I go along with matter; Personalization: Get in & go with ________

NOT LEGALISM BUT CHRIST (2:11-23)
Application: When Jesus wins, He wins _______________; Personalization: Publicly proclaim Jesus
Application: Shadows are real; Personalization: Be satisfied with the ________________

NOT CARNALITY BUT CHRIST (3:1-11)
Application: Our focus should be above; Personalization: Look ____
Application: Christianity has commands to follow; Personalization: Put ______ and put ____

CHARACTER OF THE NEW MAN (3:12-17)
Application: ‘In the name of the Lord Jesus’ is a filter; Personalization: Filter my life in Jesus’ ________

THE CHRISTIAN HOME (3:18-4:1)
Application: Everyone is under ______________________; Personalization: Learn to live as #__

CHRISTIAN GRACES (4:2-6)
Application: Keep your head down in prayer; Personalization: Make prayer a ________________

FINAL GREETINGS (4:7-15)
Application: Agape brothers and sisters _________; Personalization: Find agape brothers and sisters
Application: The faithful will be imprisoned; Personalization: The faithful must be ministered to

CLOSING EXHORTATIONS AND BLESSING (4:16-18)
Application: Jesus is worth ___________; Personalization: Live for Him no matter the consequences