

The Letter to the Colossians

Rooted

Built Up

Established

In Christ

Colossians 3:3. The Hidden Life by Mark Lawrence, 2012



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

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Introduction

The people of God always benefit from taking an extended look at the person and work of Christ. The letter to the Colossians provides us with much to meditate on and learn about Jesus and our union with Him in the world. R. Kent Hughes states this simply and beautifully: “In Colossians, (the dominant theme) is the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the Church. There is no other book in the New Testament, including John’s Gospel, which presents such a comprehensive picture of the fullness of Christ. Accordingly, there is no writing better-equipped to draw us upward than the book of Colossians.”¹ May our time in the letter to the Colossians help us to grow in living in the supremacy of Christ and drawing our gaze upward!

The letter to the Colossians is one of Paul’s prison letters written to a fairly young church in the Lycus River Valley in western Turkey about 80 miles from Ephesus. The letter could have been written in the late 50’s or early 60’s. The church came into being through Epaphras’ ministry (**Colossians 1:7**) during Paul’s ministry to the Ephesians between 52 and 55 A.D (see **Acts 19:10**; Colosse would have been part of the province of Asia). The young church appears to be assailed by those who would add something to the Gospel and the person and work of Jesus Christ. D.A. Carson and Douglas Moo write, “Paul puts emphasis on the supremacy of Christ (1:15-19), so it seems that the false teachers detracted in some way from a high Christology. Evidently they thought that Christ was no more than a beginning; to go on to spiritual maturity, it was necessary to follow their rules and practices.”² Paul concludes that salvation, from justification all the way to glorification, is by faith alone through grace alone in Christ alone.

This letter proves just as relevant for the Church today as it did then. We too have many false teachers trying to convince us that Jesus is not supreme or sufficient. The offerings of “better ways” assail us from all sides from both within and outside of the Church. The “better ways” draw us in with promises of greater spiritual power, intimacy, and glory displayed. How can we discern what is true amongst all of these various claims? David E. Garland offers a helpful word: “We do not search for truth but start from it. Therefore, Christians cannot shrink from the challenge to refute the misconception that all truth is relative, a view that

¹ R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ* (Wheaton: Crossway, 1989), 13.

² D.A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament, 2nd Ed.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005), 523.

legitimizes secular culture, and to present the distinctive biblical truth in plausible and persuasive ways. Paul did not simply reject “philosophy” as error or heresy; he gave reasoned arguments why the Christian faith is better....We must know the truth before we can recognize what is false.”³ The letter to the Colossians will help us to know the truth of the supremacy of Christ so that we may better discern what is false and of lesser value.

We will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments for our weekly devotion and worship. The calls to worship will come from the Psalms as they frequently foreshadow the coming Christ and the affect that it will have on God’s people. We will confess together each week **Chapter 8.1: Of Christ the Mediator** from the **Westminster Confession of Faith** to remind us of the preeminence of Christ in both Creation and our salvation. The assurances of pardon will come from **the book of Hebrews** which shares many connections through the person and work of Christ with Colossians. Our benedictory blessings each week will come from **Colossians 4:2,5-6** to remind us of our need to prayerfully consider our display of God’s glory through the image of Christ in the world. The goal of these various elements is to show us that the person and work of Christ is critical for our understanding of how to serve as ambassadors of reconciliation.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the various groups in our church, especially as they have events coming up, or prepare for the appropriate sacrament, and on Sunday, the Lord’s Day Sabbath, to prepare ourselves for worship in the presence of the Lord. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek to for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

Soli Deo Gloria!

³ David E. Garland, *The NIV Application Commentary: Colossians/Philemon* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 59.

Structure of Colossians

- 1:1-8: Introduction to the Letter to the Colossians
- 1:9-14: The Call to Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Lord
- 1:15-20: The Supremacy of Christ
- 1:21-23: The Hope of the Gospel
- 1:24-2:5: Paul's Example in Ministry
- 2:6-7: Rooted, Built Up, Established in Christ
- 2:8-15: Alive in Christ
- 2:16-23: Freedom in Christ
- 3:1-4: Seek the Things of Christ
- 3:5-11: Put to Death What is Earthly
- 3:12-17: Put on What is Heavenly
- 3:18-4:1: The Christian Life at Home and at Work
- 4:2-18: Final Instructions and Greetings

Sermon Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Call to Worship</i>	<i>Assurance of Pardon</i>	<i>Benediction</i>	<i>Sacrament</i>
<i>Sunday, 8/20: Colossians 1:1-8</i>	<i>Psalm 1</i>	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	<i>Bread and Cyl</i>
<i>Sunday, 8/27: Colossians 1:9-14</i>	<i>Psalm 16</i>	<i>Hebrews 13:20-21</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 9/3: Colossians 1:15-20</i>	<i>Psalm 8</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:1-9</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 9/10: Colossians 1:21-23</i>	<i>Psalm 20</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	<i>Bread and Cyl</i>
<i>Sunday, 9/17: Colossians 1:24-2:5</i>	<i>Psalm 26</i>	<i>Hebrews 3:1-6</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 9/24: Colossians 2:6-7</i>	<i>Psalm 28</i>	<i>Hebrews 4:14-16</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 10/1: Colossians 2:8-15</i>	<i>Psalm 37:1-22</i>	<i>Hebrews 5:1-10</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	<i>Bread and Cyl</i>
<i>Sunday, 10/8: Colossians 2:16-23</i>	<i>Psalm 37:23-40</i>	<i>Hebrews 6:13-20</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 10/15: Colossians 3:1-4</i>	<i>Psalm 46</i>	<i>Hebrews 7:23-8:2</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 10/22: Colossians 3:5-11</i>	<i>Psalm 51</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:11-15</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	<i>Bread and Cyl</i>
<i>Sunday, 10/29: Colossians 3:12-17</i>	<i>Psalm 103</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:19-25</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 11/5: Colossians 3:18-4:1</i>	<i>Psalm 111</i>	<i>Hebrews 12:1-2</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	
<i>Sunday, 11/12: Colossians 4:2-18</i>	<i>Psalm 145</i>	<i>Hebrews 13:12-16</i>	<i>Colossians 4:2,5-6</i>	<i>Bread and Cyl</i>

Weekly Congregational Confession

1. It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man, the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Saviour of His Church, the Heir of all things, and Judge of the world: unto whom He did from all eternity give a people, to be His seed, and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 8. - Of Christ the Mediator

Colossians 1:1-8

The Week of August 20th

Monday, 8/14: Psalm 1: Meditate on the ways in which you have been blessed by the law of the Lord and its application in your life.

Tuesday, 8/15: Hebrews 1:1-4: Give thanks for Jesus incarnating the glory of God in the world so that we would be drawn to repentance and redemption.

Wednesday, 8/16: Pray for the Larsens with MTW's NEXT that the Holy Spirit would use their ministry to help others to love and care for youth around the world.

Thursday, 8/17: Colossians 1:1-8: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use this series on Colossians to mature you in the faith. Give thanks to God for those who have served as examples to you in the faith.

Friday, 8/18: Colossians 4:2,5-6: How has God blessed your faithfulness in prayer over the last year?

Saturday, 8/19: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's preservation of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

Sunday, 8/20: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to nourish your love for others in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:9-14

The Week of August 27th

Monday, 8/21: Psalm 16: What true good do you have apart from the Lord and His provision? What makes your heart glad and causes you to rejoice?

Tuesday, 8/22: Hebrews 13:20-21: Give thanks for the ongoing ministry of Jesus, our great shepherd, who continues His work to transform us into His image.

Wednesday, 8/23: Pray for the Women's Extension that the Holy Spirit would foster redemptive relationships with those who go for God's glory and their edification.

Thursday, 8/24: Colossians 1:9-14: What are some ways that you are cultivating and growing in your understanding and application of the knowledge of God's will?

Friday, 8/25: Colossians 4:2,5-6: What have you been giving thanks for from God over the last month? How has He blessed you during that time?

Saturday, 8/26: Pray for the college students who attend our church that the Holy Spirit would provide couples to welcome them into their homes and the life of the church.

Sunday, 8/27: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help those who attend worship to better walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

Colossians 1:15-20

The Week of September 3rd

Monday, 8/28: Psalm 8: Rejoice in the fact that God is mindful of you making you a little lower than the angels and crowning you with glory and honor in Christ.

Tuesday, 8/29: Hebrews 2:1-9: What are you doing to pay close attention to the message of the Gospel so that you don't drift away from it and neglect so great a salvation?

Wednesday, 8/30: Pray for the Stocks with MTW in Southeast Asia that the Holy Spirit would continue to bear eternal fruit from their relationships and service.

Thursday, 8/31: Colossians 1:15-20: What are some ways that you have experienced the gift of Christ holding all things together?

Friday, 9/1: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Praise God for making it possible in Christ for you to come before Him in prayer to be blessed with whatever you truly need to glorify Him.

Saturday, 9/2: Pray for those who are single in our church that the Holy Spirit would provide relationships with others in the church to encourage and edify them in Christ.

Sunday, 9/3: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to reveal the fullness of Christ and His work to those in attendance who may not know Him as Savior.

Colossians 1:21-23

The Week of September 10th

Monday, 9/4: Psalm 20: How has the Lord answered you in the day of trouble? Give thanks for the provision of His protection and support.

Tuesday, 9/5: Hebrews 2:10-18: What are some ways in which Christ has helped you in the midst of temptation?

Wednesday, 9/6: Pray for Mike Kennemar with MNA's Disaster Response that the Holy Spirit would provide opportunities for them to love their neighbors well who are suffering.

Thursday, 9/7: Colossians 1:21-23: How have you changed since becoming a Christian? What are some areas in which you need to grow in faith?

Friday, 9/8: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Give thanks to God for the wisdom that He has blessed you with at the various times that you needed it as you walk through this world.

Saturday, 9/9: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ reconciling you in His body of flesh by His death.

Sunday, 9/10: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to strengthen your faith to be stable and steadfast, not shifting from the Gospel.

Colossians 1:24-2:5

The Week of September 17th

Monday, 9/11: Psalm 26: What are some ways that you are cultivating a life of integrity walking in faithfulness with God's steadfast love ever before your eyes?

Tuesday, 9/12: Hebrews 3:1-6: Consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. How has He served you greater than any other person in your life?

Wednesday, 9/13: Pray for Jody Stancil and Riverside Community Church in Cartersville that the Holy Spirit would provide the leadership and funding necessary to particularize.

Thursday, 9/14: Colossians 1:24-2:5: Take time to remember and give thanks for those who have contributed to you becoming and growing as a Christian.

Friday, 9/15: Colossians 4:2,5-6: How have you been blessed by having the opportunity to speak into the lives of others with the Gospel?

Saturday, 9/16: Pray for the children of our church to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ and begin walking in newness of life through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, 9/17: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to continue to bear fruit in the lives of the leaders of the church.

Colossians 2:6-7

The Week of September 24th

Monday, 9/18: Psalm 28: Meditate on the times that God has heard your pleas for mercy and cries for help. Give thanks to the Lord for His faithfulness and goodness to you.

Tuesday, 9/19: Hebrews 4:14-16: How often do you draw near to the throne of grace with confidence that you will receive mercy and find grace to help in your time of need?

Wednesday, 9/20: Pray for Daniel and Meredith Chen with Campus Outreach at KSU that the Holy Spirit would bear eternal fruit in and through their ministry.

Thursday, 9/21: Colossians 2:6-7: How would you describe your walk in Christ? Do you feel rooted and built up? Are you established in the faith abounding in thanksgiving?

Friday, 9/22: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Give thanks for a time when the Holy Spirit granted you wisdom in an interaction you had with someone else.

Saturday, 9/23: Pray for the parents in our church that the Holy Spirit would grant them wisdom and patience in parenting their children through the various phases of their lives.

Sunday, 9/24: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help us to mature in our union with Christ.

Colossians 2:8-15

The Week of October 1st

Monday, 9/25: Psalm 37:1-22: Notice the commands in the beginning of this Psalm: fret not, trust, delight, commit, be still, refrain. Which of these do you struggle with most?

Tuesday, 9/26: Hebrews 5:1-10: What equips Christ to deal gently with us who are often ignorant and wayward? How should this affect how we deal with others?

Wednesday, 9/27: Pray for the Robertsons serving with MTW in Chile that the Holy Spirit would grant church planting opportunities in that region.

Thursday, 9/28: Colossians 2:8-15: Reflect on verses 13-14. What helps you to feel alive in your forgiveness? What helps you know your debt has been truly canceled?

Friday, 9/29: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Give thanks to God for the time that He has blessed you with to glorify Him in your various spheres of influence.

Saturday, 9/30: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for the application of Christ's death and resurrection to your life.

Sunday, 10/1: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to declare afresh the canceling of your record of debt that is nailed to the cross.

Colossians 2:16-23

The Week of October 8th

Monday, 10/2: Psalm 37:23-40: According to the second half of this Psalm, what sustains us in our brokenness in a fallen world?

Tuesday, 10/3: Hebrews 6:13-20: How has Christ been a sure and steadfast anchor for your soul?

Wednesday, 10/4: Pray for Wes and Kelly Calton serving with RUF at KSU that the Holy Spirit would raise up leaders in the ministry to help reach students at KSU.

Thursday, 10/5: Colossians 2:16-23: What religious regulations do you struggle with using to try to make God love you more? Is it possible to make God love you more?

Friday, 10/6: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you cultivate and redeem your time for the glory of the Lord.

Saturday, 10/7: Pray for the married couples in our church that the Holy Spirit would display the glory of the Lord in and through their marriage covenant.

Sunday, 10/8: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to help set people free from the bondage of religious duties performed to try to gain God's love and favor.

Colossians 3:1-4

The Week of October 15th

Monday, 10/9: Psalm 46: Give thanks for the various ways in which the Lord has instructed and led you in the paths of His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Tuesday, 10/10: Hebrews 7:23-8:2: Give thanks to the Lord for Jesus' permanent high priestly work in redeeming you.

Wednesday, 10/11: Pray for Chris Foglesong and Mountain City Church in Jasper that the Holy Spirit would bring many sons and daughters into the family through their ministry.

Thursday, 10/12: Colossians 3:1-4: What do you focus on more: the things that are above where Christ is or the things on the earth? What has the biggest impact on your focus?

Friday, 10/13: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Pray for the Holy Spirit to help your speech be gracious and seasoned with salt so that God may be glorified.

Saturday, 10/14: Pray for the empty nesters in our church that the Holy Spirit would guide them to mentor and disciple others with their wealth of knowledge and experience.

Sunday, 10/15: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to turn our gaze to the things that are above where Christ is and away from the things of the earth.

Colossians 3:5-11

The Week of October 22nd

Monday, 10/16: Psalm 51: Give thanks for God's forgiving mercy and redeeming grace. Consider verse 13. How is/has the joy of your salvation being/been shared with others?

Tuesday, 10/17: Hebrews 9:11-15: Praise God for the dead works that you have been delivered from in Christ.

Wednesday, 10/18: Pray for Zach Wagoner serving with CO at KSU that the Holy Spirit would grant him many opportunities to make disciples on campus.

Thursday, 10/19: Colossians 3:5-11: What needs to be put to death in you? What are some ways in which you are actively working on this?

Friday, 10/20: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Give thanks for the equipping and guiding of the Holy Spirit in difficult situations.

Saturday, 10/21: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for Lord's Supper. Give thanks for God's provision of Christ who tears down what separates us.

Sunday, 10/22: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to help us put to death what is earthly in us.

Colossians 3:12-17

The Week of October 29th

Monday, 10/23: Psalm 103: What are some ways in which your soul could bless the Lord like the Psalmist David for what has done and is doing in your life?

Tuesday, 10/24: Hebrews 10:19-25: What are some ways in which you are growing more confident in prayer as a result of the finished work of Christ?

Wednesday, 10/25: Pray for the Mills serving with MTW in Thailand that the Holy Spirit would use the various vocations and ministries to reach the lost.

Thursday, 10/26: Colossians 3:12-17: What are you putting on (like a garment) as God's chosen one, holy and beloved for God's glory and the blessing of those around you?

Friday, 10/27: Colossians 4:2,5-6: How has the Lord blessed you with answers to some of your more difficult questions? Who has He used to help you get those answers?

Saturday, 10/28: Pray for the women who are attending the Women's Retreat to mature in prayer and relationships with one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Sunday, 10/29: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray that the word of Christ dwell richly in us so as to teach and admonish one another in wisdom.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

The Week of November 5th

Monday, 10/30: Psalm 111: Take time to recount how God has provided for and shown you He is faithful and just. Share this with someone.

Tuesday, 10/31: Hebrews 12:1-2: What are some ways that you are looking to Jesus, the founder of our faith, so as to run the race that is set before you with endurance?

Wednesday, 11/1: Pray for Morgan Rogers serving with CO at KSU that the Holy Spirit would use her as an ambassador of reconciliation in the lives of the students in CO.

Thursday, 11/2: Colossians 3:18-4:1: How is your union with Christ affecting you at home and at work?

Friday, 11/3: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Give thanks to the Lord for blessing us with the Holy Spirit who grants us ability to speak the words of life to our families and co-workers.

Saturday, 11/4: Pray for the youth in our church to grow in their knowledge of God's will and presence in their lives.

Sunday, 11/5: The Lord's Day Sabbath: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our families and through our vocations.

Colossians 4:2-18

The Week of November 12th

Monday, 11/6: Psalm 145: What are some ways in which you are sharing the goodness of God with others? Give thanks for those who have shared it with you.

Tuesday, 11/7: Hebrews 13:12-16: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you not neglect to do good and share what you have so as to be pleasing to the Lord.

Wednesday, 11/8: Pray for First Care Women's Clinic in Marietta that the Holy Spirit would continue to grant them opportunities to serve pregnant women in the area.

Thursday, 11/9: Colossians 4:2-18: What are some ways that you are cultivating biblical wisdom that you can share with others?

Friday, 11/10: Colossians 4:2,5-6: Pray for the Lord to bless you with opportunities to share the Gospel with those in your spheres of influence.

Saturday, 11/11: Pray for those in our church for whom the upcoming holidays will be a time of struggle and sorrow due to family strife or loss. Seek to comfort them.

Sunday, 11/12: The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup: Pray for the means of grace to bear fruit in our relationships with others in the community.