

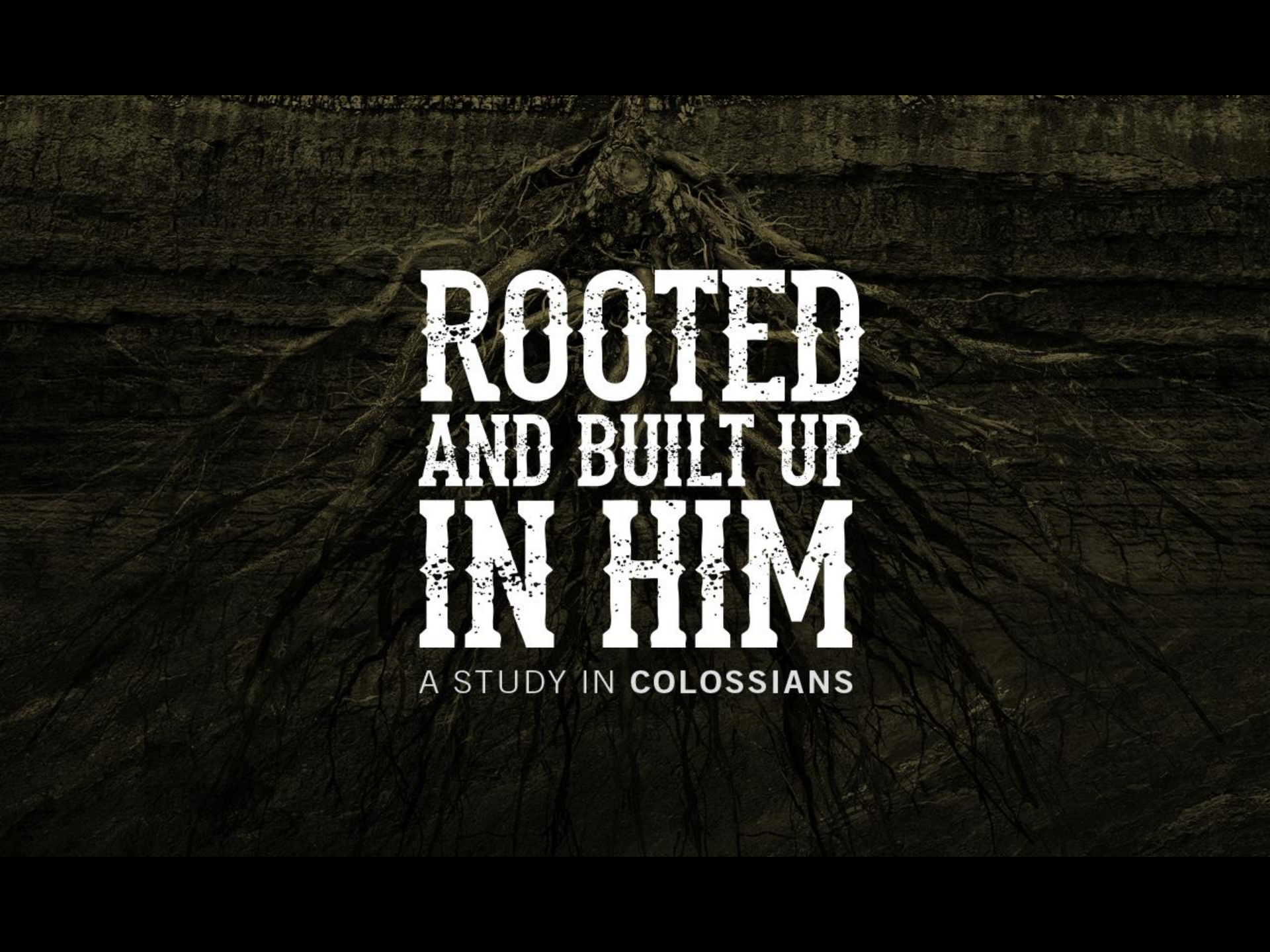




*"I am the Greatest.  
I said that even before  
I knew I was."*

*Muhammad Ali*





**ROOTED  
AND BUILT UP  
IN HIM**

A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

## ***Colossians 1:21-23***

***21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and***

# ***Colossians 1:24-27***

***of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

***<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.***

## ***Colossians 1:28-29***

***27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.***

***28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.***

# Him We Proclaim

Colossians 1:21-29



**JESUS is the key to both  
our being saved by faith  
and our becoming  
mature in the faith..**



# Reconciliation in Christ

(vv. 21-23)



## ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

***And you were dead in the trespasses and sins<sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—<sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.***



The result of reconciliation is that Christ is now working in all the believers **to present you holy and blameless** before God. This is the same language used in the OT to describe the unblemished animals that the Levitical priest would bring for a sacrifice to God. When Christ brings his followers to the Father for inspection, they will be found to be **above reproach**.

*ESV Study Bible*





## 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

**Ministry**

**in Christ**

**(vv. 24-28)**



Christians will suffer for their faith in one way or another: if not outwardly, then inwardly, through the long, slow battle with temptation or sickness, the agonizing anxieties of Christian responsibilities for a family or a church, the constant doubts and uncertainties which accompany the obedience of faith, and the “thousand natural shocks ... within the call to follow Christ.”

*N.T. Wright*



At the heart of the mystery that God is now revealing through Paul is the amazing hallmark of the new covenant, **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. God himself, in the person of Christ, will be directly and personally present in the lives of his people, and his presence assures them of a future life with him when he returns. Moreover, Christ does not reside only in believing Jews but also in believing Gentiles, so that there is one unified people of God.

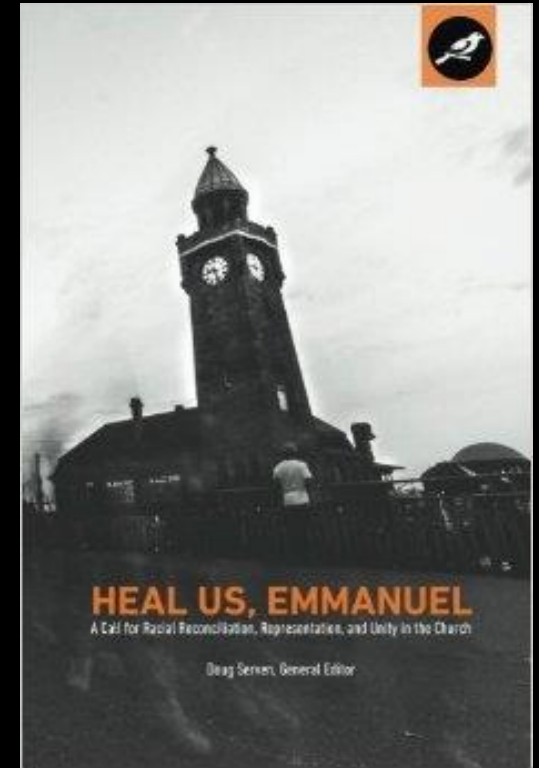
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## ***Acts 9:15-16***

***15 But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”***









**Maturity**

**in Christ**

**(vv.28-29)**

# ***Colossians 1:13-20***

***13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.***

***15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.***

# ***Colossians 1:13-20***

***17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning,  
the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be  
preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to  
dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his  
cross.***



## ***Ephesians 4:12-15***

***12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood,[e] to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ***





## ***Colossians 1:3, 9-11***

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...

<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy....

## *John 15:3-5*

**3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.**4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.



A photograph of three tall, white, minimalist crosses standing on a green grassy hill. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. The crosses are arranged in a line from left to right, with the tallest one in the center. The overall scene is peaceful and symbolic.

He canceled the record of  
the charges against us and  
took it away

by nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:14

