

Teaching Through Colossians

Christ the Fullness of All Things

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Topic and Chapter</u>
1	Christ is the Fullness of God (Col. 1:1-29)
2	Christ the Completeness of Believers (Col. 2:1-23)
3	The Christian's Duties (Col. 3:1- 4:1)
4	The Christian's Duty to the World (Col. 4:2-18)

Lesson 1: Christ is the Fulness of God (Colossians 1:1-29)

Key Verse: "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell."
(Col. 1:19)

Introduction: (Col. 1:1-14)

- A. Paul greets the Colossians (1:1-2)
 - B. Paul prays for the Colossians (1:3-8)
 - C. Paul's prayer for the Colossians (1:9-14)
 - 1. That they be filled with the knowledge of His will (9)
 - 2. That they walk worthy of the LORD (10-14)
- I. Christ Is the Fulness of God in Preeminence (Col. 1:15-18)
- A. He is preeminent as God's image (1:15)
 - B. He is preeminent in birthright (1:15)
 - C. He is preeminent as creator (1:16)
 - D. He is preeminent in pre-existence (1:17)
 - E. He is preeminent as sustainer (1:17)
 - F. He is preeminent in the Church (1:18)
 - G. He is preeminent in the resurrection (1:18)
- II. Christ Is the Fulness of God in Reconciliation (Col. 1:19-23)
- A. All fulness dwells in Christ (1:19)
 - B. All things are reconciled by Christ (1:20-21)
 - C. He reconciled them in His fleshly body (1:22)
 - D. Reconciliation is through enduring faith (1:23)
- III. Christ Is the Fulness of God in Perfecting (Col. 1:24-29)
- A. Perfecting requires the suffering of saints (1:24)
 - B. Perfecting requires the Word of God (1:25)
 - C. Perfecting requires the mystery of Christ (1:26-27)
 - 1. The mystery was previously hidden
 - 2. The mystery is presently revealed
 - 3. The mystery is "Christ in You"
 - D. Perfecting requires preaching and teaching (1:28)
 - E. Perfecting requires labor (1:29)

Lesson 2: Christ the Completeness of Believers (Colossians 2:1-23)

Key Verse: "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." (Col. 2:10)

I. Paul's Concern for the Colossians: Their Steadfastness of Faith in Christ (Col. 2:1-5)

- A. Paul's concern that they be confirmed (2:2-3)
 - 1. By unity in love
 - 2. By full assurance of understanding
 - 3. By acknowledging the mystery of God
- B. Paul's concern that they be not deceived (2:4-5)

II. Paul's Command for the Colossians: Be Steadfast in the Faith (Col. 2:6-8)

- A. Paul's command to walk in Christ without change (2:6-7)
 - 1. With Christ as the foundation
 - 2. With stablishment in the faith
 - 3. Without wavering in doctrine
 - 4. With abounding thanksgiving
- B. Paul's command to beware of deceitful philosophy (2:8)

III. Paul's Doctrine for the Colossians: We Are Complete in Christ (Col. 2:9-15)

- A. All the fulness of the Godhead dwells in Christ bodily (2:9)
- B. All believers are complete in Christ (2:10-14)
 - 1. We have true circumcision in Christ (11-13)
 - 2. We have death, burial, resurrection in Christ (12-13)
 - 3. We have forgiveness of sin in Christ (13)
 - 4. We have freedom from law's accusations (14)
- C. All principalities and powers are subject to Christ (2:10, 15)

IV. Paul's Desire for the Colossians: Their Freedom from Ritualism and Legalism (Col. 2:16-23)

- A. Let no man judge you about legalism (2:16-17)
- B. Let no man beguile you of your reward (2:18-23)
 - 1. Regarding humility and angel worship (18)
 - 2. Regarding Christ's headship of the body (19)
 - 3. Regarding man-made commandments and doctrines (20-23)

Lesson 3: The Christian's Duties (Colossians 3:1-4:1)

Key Verse: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." (Col. 3:17)

I. The Christian's Duty Toward His Desires (Col. 3:1-4)

- A. He should seek heavenly things (3:1)
- B. He should desire heavenly things (3:2)
- C. He should expect Christ's coming (3:3-4)

II. The Christian's Duty Toward His Two Natures (Col. 3:5-17)

- A. He should put off the old man and his deeds (3:5-9)
- B. He should put on the new man and his deeds (3:10-17)
 - 1. The new man described (10-12)
 - a. He is after Christ's image (10)
 - b. He is without prejudices (11)
 - c. He puts Christ as all in all (11)
 - d. He is the elect of God (12)
 - 2. The new man's deeds (12-17)
 - a. His deeds toward others (12-14)
 - b. His deeds toward God (15-17)

III. The Christian's Duty in Domestic Relationships (Col. 3:18-4:1)

- A. The duty of husbands and wives (3:18-19)
- B. The duty of parents and children (3:20-31)
- C. The duty of masters and servants (3:22 - 4:1)

Lesson 4: The Christian's Duty to the World (Colossians 4:2-18)

Key Verse: "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time."
(Col. 4:5)

I. The Christian's Duty to Pray for Missionaries (Col. 4:2-4)

- A. Pray continuously (4:2)
- B. Pray for their opportunities for witnessing (4:3)
- C. Pray for their clarity of witnessing (4:4)

II. The Christian's Duty to Practice a Good Testimony (Col. 4:5-6)

- A. He should walk in wisdom (4:5)
- B. He should redeem the time (4:5)
- C. He should speak with grace (4:6)
- D. He should know how to answer (4:6)

III. Paul Exchanges Salutations (Col. 4:7-18)

- A. Salutation through the letter bearers (4:7-9)
- B. Salutation from certain brethren in Rome (4:10-14)
- C. Salutation to the Church of Laodicea (4:15-16)
- D. Special exhortation for Archippus (4:17)
- E. Benediction (4:18)