

The Bible Companion Series

# *THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST*

**"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.  
And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the  
beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he  
might have the preeminence."**

Colossians 1:17,18

---

## **A Study of the Letter to the Colossians**

**A Bible-Believing Study Guide**

**an AV 1611 Bible Companion**

**By Craig A. Ledbetter, B.A., Th.G.**

Bible Baptist Church

Unit B, Enterprise Park, Innishmore,

Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland

Tel: (021) 4871234

E-Mail: [biblebc@gmail.com](mailto:biblebc@gmail.com)

Web: [www.biblebc.com](http://www.biblebc.com)

(c) 2017 Craig Ledbetter

*Any portion, including the whole of this text may be reproduced without the permission of the author, as long as credit is given for its source (Romans 13:7)!*

## **Colossians Chapter Two**

### **What Pastors Worry Most About – Part 1**

#### **(Colossians 2:1-7)**

#### **I. Introduction to Colossians Chapter Two**

- A. The Apostle Paul gets down to business in this chapter
- B. He said part of his ministry was winning people to faith in Jesus Christ
- C. But another part is WARNING people about false faith, false Christs, and false Gospels (1:28; Gal 1:6-9)
- D. Paul expresses WORRY, an ENCOURAGEMENT, a COMMAND, and an intense WARNING

#### **II. Lesson**

##### **A. Paul's WORRY (Col 2:1-4)**

1. Is EVERY Pastor's Worry
  - a. Most people do not know what a pastor worries about
    - 1) Not where money is going to come from
    - 2) Not about health
    - 3) Not about people's happiness
    - 4) Or people's approval
    - 5) But about false doctrine creeping in!
  - b. Paul worried about these precious believers in Colosse and those in Laodicea, and just like he did the Corinthians in 2Cor 11:1-4
  - c. Paul often agonized in prayer over the doctrines that his converts were barraged with (Gal 4:19; 3:1)
  - d. Christians are some of the most gullible people in the world, when they should not be
    - 1) Prosperity gospels
    - 2) Ideas about Sinless perfection
    - 3) Follow angry preachers
    - 4) Believe in Superior races – the English race is the Lost Tribes of Israel
    - 5) Dominated by Satan's Conspiracies instead of God's Sovereignty
    - 6) Turned to Legalistic bondage
    - 7) Accepting exhaustive, complex theologies like calvinism
    - 8) Other extreme - Live as you please since Grace abounds
    - 9) And on and on the list goes on
  - e. Christians are usually gullible simply because they are IGNORANT (2Cor 2:11) of the enemy's devices and strategies and strengths and powers!
2. Paul was Worried about FOUR key things going wrong in Colosse – let's make sure these things don't go wonky HERE!
  - a. That these believers were unsettled in their faith – constantly being blown around with every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14; Rom 14:5)

- b. That they were not knit together in love (Col 3:14) – just loosely gathered together like a stadium filled with spectators instead of closely knit family!
  - c. That they were not experiencing all the riches of full assurance / confidence, but were plagued / struggling with doubts
    - 1) That the Bible is RIGHT (Ps 119:160)
    - 2) That Jesus is the ONLY way (John 14:6) so many popular preachers are not so sure, when they get in front of a TV camera!!! When asked if unbelievers can go to Heaven, Joel Osteen has said over and over, “I don’t claim to understand who’s all going to Heaven. I just believe and I teach in all my messages that when you have a relationship with Christ ... that is the guarantee from Heaven. People don’t all believe like me; they see it bigger. I believe God’s mercy is very big. I thank God I’m not the judge of who gets to come.”
    - 3) That Jesus is coming again, very soon!
    - 4) That preaching the clear Gospel still saves sinners (1Cor 1:18)
    - 5) About whether Paul was really an apostle
    - 6) About their own understanding – that they needed super educated, super spiritual leaders
    - 7) About their own security in Christ – take a look at the simplicity of 2:6,7
  - d. Finally, That worst of all... some man / some woman would beguile them (2:4,8; Acts 20:28-31)
3. All of the above were supposed to be the natural outgrowth of their walk with Christ
- a. Settled in faith in Christ – in Christ’s faith, not even their own!
  - b. Knit together in love towards each other
  - c. Enjoying full assurance, not constant doubts
  - d. Able to withstand deception by smooth talking religious cons!

## **B. Paul’s ENCOURAGEMENT (Col 2:5)**

- 1. He wrote to them – took time to write them to help them
  - a. What a blessing to receive a letter
  - b. Especially a helpful letter that guides and directs – not coddles and says what a person may only want to hear
  - c. Instruction does help – if listened to (Prov 8:33)
- 2. “I stand with you” – even though not there (Heb 13:3)
  - a. Even though not present in the flesh, Paul was WITH them – that’s encouraging
  - b. To be with someone in the spirit is a great connection believers have
  - c. My spirit beareth witness with your spirit – even when absent
  - d. When you are down, under attack, I sense it – and so do others
  - e. When you are blessed, and filled, I can sense it, and so do others
  - f. In the spirit – HOW? There is a spiritual connection between believers, and between Bible believing churches too! We are FAMILY!
  - g. Joying – rejoicing, enjoying
  - h. And beholding their order, and the steadfastness of their faith in Christ.
  - i. Paul was commending them for what they had going as a Church in the First century! As hard as it was!

3. Is in the power of the Gospel itself (Rom 1:16,17; 1Cor 1:18)!
  - a. The Gospel is mysterious to people yes
  - b. But not to believers!
  - c. To us it is awesome / glorious (1:28) - it just is! Think about it!
4. Three great mysteries about God that can be known
  - a. The Mystery of God
    - 1) That God is not hiding from the world – He came and was born into it!
    - 2) But that God loves, and seeks to include Gentiles in on salvation
    - 3) He on purpose is not far from anyone (Acts 17:26,27)
  - b. The Mystery of the Father – that He was/is the Son and vice versa, reconciling the entire world unto Himself BY Himself (2Cor 5:19)!
  - c. The Mystery of Christ – that Gentiles would be fellow-heirs with believing Jews – co-equal!
5. Jesus Christ is THE source of all treasures that could ever be had (1Cor 1:30)
  - a. All the treasures that should ever be sought are found in knowing and understanding Christ Jesus
    - 1) Wisdom – more than Solomon discovered
    - 2) Righteousness
    - 3) Sanctification
    - 4) And Redemption
    - 5) I found them all in ONE Person
  - b. EX: Like when I got to spend time with my grandfather
  - c. You will see the complete list in 2:9-16
  - d. Beware that you think you will find treasures (fast money) in investing in the Stock market, in Bitcoin, in Euro-millions Lottery, etc!

### **C. A Pastor's Command (2:6-7)**

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:  
7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

1. Go back to your salvation
  - a. How did you get saved?
  - b. Works of righteousness? Long prayers? Keeping the law? No!
  - c. Receiving Christ Jesus the Lord like a CHILD running into His welcoming arms (John 1:12)
  - d. No fancy prayers; or fancy altars; or fancy acts of contrition
  - e. Just empty, broken, and receiving the word of God like a thirsty man (Jam 1:21)
2. In the same way that you got saved...
3. You should continue to LIVE/walk and enjoy your new life!

- a. Receiving every day as a priceless gift from the same God that gave you His Son
  - b. All eyes and attention on Jesus alone – always looking unto Jesus
  - c. Trusting Him – not yourself and your strengths
4. And just LET that relationship GROW
- a. Spread downwards like roots – get a solid grip on your life, thoughts, heart, feelings, past, and hope
  - b. And let it grow upwards like a strong tree trunk
  - c. STUDY and LEARN what Jesus taught
5. Abound with thanksgiving

### **III. Next Week – Paul’s WARNING (Col 6:8-23)**

#### **IV. Concluding Questions**

##### **A. A BIG part of Paul’s ministry was what?**

1. WARNING people about false faith, false Christs, and false Gospels (1:28; Gal 1:6-9)

##### **B. What was Paul’s Main Worry?**

1. That believers are unsettled in their faith – constantly being blown around with every wind of doctrine (Eph 4:14; Rom 14:5)
2. That believers are not knit together in love (Col 3:14) – just loosely gathered together like a stadium filled with spectators instead of closely knit family!
3. That believers are not experiencing all the riches of full assurance / confidence, but were plagued / struggling with doubts
4. Finally, That worst of all... some man / some woman would beguile the flock

##### **C. How did Paul ENCOURAGE the Believers he had never seen?**

1. He wrote to them – took time to write them to help them
2. He stood with them – in prayer and an awareness – not numb
3. Reminded them of the power of the Gospel itself
4. Reminded them that THE source of all treasures that could ever be had are found in a relationship with Jesus Christ

##### **D. What are some of the treasures in Christ Jesus?**

1. Wisdom – more than Solomon discovered
2. Righteousness
3. Sanctification
4. And Redemption

##### **E. How DOES anyone get saved FROM THE WRATH TO COME?**

1. Receiving Christ Jesus the Lord like a CHILD running into His welcoming arms (John 1:12)
2. No fancy prayers; or fancy altars; or fancy acts of contrition
3. Just empty, broken, and receiving the word of God like a thirsty man (Jam 1:21)

**F. How does any Christian live then?**

1. In the same way that you got saved...
2. Receiving every day as a priceless gift from the same God that gave you His Son
3. All eyes and attention on Jesus alone – always looking unto Jesus
4. Trusting Him – not yourself and your strengths

**G. What should the believer ABOUND in?**

1. Thanksgiving