

COLOSSIANS

"THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST"

"He is also head of the body the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;
so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
Colossians 1:18

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
March, 2008
Updated September, 2013

Published Online by WordExplain.com
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- A1 THE PROLOGUE TO THE COLOSSIANS 1:1-14
- A2 THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST 1:15-23
- A3 THE PROTECTION FOR THE COLOSSIANS 1:24 - 2:23
- A4 THE PRACTICE FOR THE COLOSSIANS 3:1 - 4:6
- A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

Major Divisions of Colossians
Based on the ANALYSIS OF COLOSSIANS
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- A1 THE PROLOGUE TO THE COLOSSIANS 1:1-14**
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Condensed Outline of Colossians
Based on the ANALYSIS OF COLOSSIANS
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- C1 Creator of all things 1:15b-16
- C2 Sustainer of all things 1:17

B3 Because of His Position: The Head of the Church 1:18a

B4 Because of His Victory over Death: The "First-Born" from the dead 1:18b

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B7 Because of His Work: The Reconciler 1:20-23

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C2 "Keep fixing your mind on the things above, not on the things on the earth": Reasons for obeying this command 3:2-4

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C3 Toward God 4:2-4

C4 Toward unbelievers: A wholesome walk 4:5-6

A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

B1 His Commendation to the Colossians of Tychicus and Onesimus 4:7-9

C1 Regarding Tychicus 4:7-8

C2 Regarding Onesimus 4:9

B2 His Conveying of Greetings 4:10-15

- C1 From fellow prisoner Aristarchus 4:10
- C2 From Barnabas' cousin Mark (whom welcome)
- C3 From Jesus called Justus 4:11
- C4 From Epaphras 4:12-13
- C5 From Luke, the beloved physician 4:14
- C6 From Demas
- C7 To other "brothers" 4:15

B3 His Closing Instructions 4:16-18

- C1 For a Pauline letter-exchange with the Laodiceans 4:16
- C2 To tell Archippus to fulfill his ministry from the Lord 4:17
- C3 His personal signature 4:18
- C4 His urging them to remember his imprisonment
- C5 His bequest of grace upon them

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A1 THE PROLOGUE TO THE COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

B1 Paul's Greeting to the Colossians 1:1-2

C1 The writers 1:1

D1 Paul

D2 Timothy, "the brother"

C2 The addressees 1:2

D1 To those in Colosse

D2 Who are saints and faithful brothers in Christ

C3 The blessing from God our Father

D1 Grace to you

D2 And peace

B2 Paul's Prayer for the Colossians 1:3-14

C1 His Thanks 1:3-8

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- C3 His Proposal of Their Thanks 1:12-14
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A2 THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST 1:15-23

B1 Because of His Essence: The Image of God 1:15a

B2 Because of His Activity: The Creator 1:15b-17

- C1 Creator of all things 1:15b-16
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B3 Because of His Position: The Head of the Church 1:18a

B4 Because of His Victory over Death: The "First-Born" from the dead 1:18b

B5 Because of His Priority 1:18c

B6 Because of His Fullness 1:19

B7 Because of His Work: The Reconciler 1:20-23

- C1 The extent of His reconciliation: All things 1:20
- C2 The means of His reconciliation: The blood of His cross 1:20
- C3 The location of His reconciliation 1:20
 - D1 "Things on earth"
 - D2 "Things in heaven"
- C4 The present example of His reconciliation: The Colossian saints (The bright prospects of His former enemies if they continue in the faith.) 1:21-23
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A3 THE PROTECTION FOR THE COLOSSIANS 1:24 - 2:23

B1 The Ministry / Service of Paul: The proclamation of a secret hitherto unrevealed (Christ within the believing Gentiles) 1:24-29

- C1 Paul's joy at his suffering for the Colossians 1:24
 - D1 His present filling up in his flesh that which is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions
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- C2 Paul's stewardship (dispensation) from God to be a servant ("minister") of the church 1:25-29
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 - D2 His warning against **enticing words** 2:4-7
 - D3 His warning against **human philosophy** 2:8-10
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 - D3 The required practice of the Colossians because of the Cross 2:16-23

A4 THE PRACTICE FOR THE COLOSSIANS: His Strategy for Applied Living 3:1 - 4:6

B1 In Their Attitude: Think Heavenly ("As one risen with Christ, set your affection on heavenly things") 3:1-4

C1 "Keep seeking the things above": Reasons for obeying this command 3:1

D1 The believers' post-death condition: If (as is true) "you were all raised up with Christ"

D2 Christ's heavenly location: Christ is "seated at the right hand of God"

C2 "Keep fixing your mind on the things above, not on the things on the earth": Reasons for obeying this command 3:2-4

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D2 God's present hiding of the believers' life with Christ: "Your life is hidden with Christ in God"

D3 God's future glorious exhibition of believers alongside Christ 3:4

B2 In Their Lifestyle: (In everyday living) 3:5-17

C1 Put to death your earthly members (as resurrected ones) 3:5-7

D1 The death list 3:5

D2 The motivation: It's because of these things God's wrath is coming 3:6

D3 The need: The Colossians used to walk in these things when they lived in them 3:7

C2 Put away (Get rid of) 3:8-11

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D1 The status of the believers 3:12

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- C1 In the home 3:18-21
 - D1 Submissive wives 3:18
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- C2 Toward God 4:2-4
 - D1 The importance of prayer 4:2
 - D2 The request for prayer 4:3-4
- C3 Toward unbelievers: A wholesome walk 4:5-6
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A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

B1 His Commendation to the Colossians of Tychicus and Onesimus 4:7-9

- C1 Regarding Tychicus 4:7-8
 - D1 His qualifications 4:7
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 - D1 He is a "faithful and beloved brother"
 - D2 He is one of them

B2 His Conveying of Greetings 4:10-15

- C1 From fellow prisoner Aristarchus 4:10
- C2 From Barnabas' cousin Mark (whom welcome)

- C3 From Jesus called Justus 4:11
 - D1 These three are Jewish
 - D2 These are the only fellow-workers for God's kingdom who proved to be a comfort to Paul
- C4 From Epaphras 4:12-13
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 - D2 A slave of Christ
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 - D4 Possessed of concern for them, and for believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis 4:13
- C5 From Luke, the beloved physician 4:14
- C6 From Demas
- C7 To other brothers 4:15
 - D1 Those in Laodicea
 - D2 To "Nympha and the church that is in her house"

B3 His Closing Instructions 4:16-18

- C1 For a Pauline letter-exchange with the Laodiceans 4:16
- C2 To tell Archippus to fulfill his ministry from the Lord 4:17
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