



Christ Over All- Hopelessness
Colossians 1:1-8

Introduction

The letter to the Colossians is Paul's masterpiece 'sculpture' of the **image of Christ**. In a city filled with the worship of knowledge (Gnosticism) and religious rituals, Paul addresses a young church to illustrate that Christ is supreme and sufficient over all things. He writes from a prison cell, full of hope and encouragement for others. How can he be so vibrant and fruitful for God despite being persecuted and imprisoned?

In our study, we will find the supremacy of Christ **over all** things, including **hopelessness**.

1. Read Colossians 1:1-2. So, Paul is in prison in the "will of God". What might have been some of the positive ripple-effects of him being in prison? What setbacks have you experienced in your life that turned out to be blessings? Discuss.
2. Read Colossians 1:3. Notice how Paul turned his prison cell into a prayer room. Discuss the trap of self-pity and how to make the choice to thank God in all things. What difference does that make in our lives?
3. Read Colossians 1:4-5. Notice how the gospel is received by faith, and results in love. How have you been able to be more loving towards people knowing that you have been set free from sin and death? Discuss.
4. Discuss the phrase, "*that springs from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven.*" (Col. 1:5). How does the hope of heaven allow you to rise above your circumstances? In Christ, you have an eternity ahead of you, absolutely guaranteed, to fully enjoy God's presence and unrestricted ecstasy. Spend a few minutes discussing together what you think heaven will be like.
5. Read Colossians 1:6-8. How was Epaphras a "faithful minister" of Christ? How can we be the same? Take some time to pray for particular people you know who might be feeling hopeless. Ask God to reveal Himself to them and give them hope.

Media Outline
Over All
Colossians 1:1-8

Over all!

Resource Issue
Knowledge Issue
Religious Issue
Authority Issue

Disney Song- The Magic Within You
'Cuz there's a lesson you will not find in a book
Inside yourself is where you have to look
Find your courage and your pride, inner strength can be your guide
And it will always see you through
If you believe the magic within you

Colossae

1. Philosophy- Gnosticism

Colossians 1:15- "The image of the invisible God..."

Colossians 2:9- "In Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily"

Colossae

2. Religious Legalism

Colossians 1:28 "Everyone can be perfect in Christ!"

Colossians 2:20- "Let no one bring you into subjection with laws..."

Big Idea: The Supremacy of Christ over Hopelessness!

I. Introduction (Colossians 1:1-2)

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Image- Map of Colossae

I. Introduction (Colossians 1:1-2)

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II. The Hope of the Gospel (Colossians 1:3-5)

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel.

Faith: Hebrews 11:6

“And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.”

Love: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth.⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

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Hebrews 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for..”

Hebrews 6:19-20a

“We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain,²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf.”

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III. The Fruit of the Gospel (v. 6-8)

⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. ⁷ You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸ and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

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