

COLOSSIANS

Life in our supreme & sufficient Savior

Colossians – Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

Background

- What are the epistles? They are applied pastoral theology. The goal of the Epistles is to help the churches reading to see the world and how they live before God in terms of specific concrete categories and concerns.
- Paul wrote while in prison in Rome awaiting his trial before Caesar (4:18). This letter was delivered by Tychicus along with Philemon (man in Colossian church), Ephesians, and a Laodicean letter which is not canonical.
- Date: A.D. 60-61
- The church met together in Philemon's house (Philemon 2).
- Occasion: False teachers have promised ritual ways to experience God's presence and blessing (mysticism/legalism). Paul's correction in the letter is that those who have trusted in Jesus can already experience the fullness of God's presence through what has been provided already for the believer in Jesus.
- Theme verse: "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Colossians 2:9-10)

- (Overstated) What if the Christian life is less about feeling close to God, and more about us slowly learning and trusting about who Jesus is and what He has already done for us?
- Theme of the Class: Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior
- The book of Colossians is so important for us today.

In the World:

- The supremacy of Jesus Christ is under attack:
 - He's not divine; he was just a good man.
 - He didn't rise again, he didn't defeat death.
 - He is just another created being.
- The sufficiency of Jesus Christ is under attack:
 - He's one, of many, ways to heaven. (Edi)
 - He really helps us, but there are other resources too
 - He's pretty good, but I still need to live this way to earn salvation.

In our lives:

- The supremacy of Jesus Christ is under attack:
 - I'll live the way I want to.
 - I give Him Sundays, the rest of the week is for me.
 - I know this one area of my life isn't pleasing to Him, but I've given Him everything else. I deserve this one thing.
- The sufficiency of Jesus Christ is under attack:
 - If I do enough good things, God will bless me.
 - He helps me on Sundays, but I need something to turn to during the week.
 - I know His way is right – but does that really mean every other way is wrong?
 - Who am I?

Class Outline

- Part 1: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Thinking (1-3:4)
- Part 2: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Living (3:5-4:6)

Colossians 1:1-8 Jesus has changed our lives forever!

- I. Jesus has changed our identity (1:1-2).
 - A. He gives us new purpose (1a).
 - B. He gives us a new family (1b).
 - C. He gives us a new position (2a).
 - D. He gives us His grace and peace (2b).

- II. Jesus has changed what we're thankful for (1:3-8).
 - A. Give thanks for hope, faith, and love (3-5).
 - B. Give thanks for spiritual fruit (6).
 - C. Give thanks for ministry opportunities (7).

Application

Is Jesus supreme in your life?

- Are you submitting to *His* purpose for you?
- Are you a *faithful* member of His family?
- Are you more proud of your earthly position, or your position *in Him*?
- Are you enjoying and giving thanks for God's grace and peace?

Is Jesus sufficient in your life?

- Have you placed your trust in His death and resurrection in your place as the only way to be saved from the penalty of your sins? He is the only one sufficient to save you. Trust Him.
- If you have trusted in the sufficient Savior, are you *content* with Him?
- Is His purpose for you enough?
- Is His family for you enough?
- Is His placement of you, in Him, enough?
- Are His grace & peace to you enough?

He gives hope, faith, and love.

- Is Jesus sufficient to be your hope? Is His sufficient work on the cross strengthening your faith? Is His death and resurrection for you, and for others, sufficient to fuel your love for all the saints?

He grows spiritual fruit.

- Is the truth of God's Word – specifically the gospel – sufficient to grow you and others? Have you seen it at work in your life?

He generates real ministry.

- Is Jesus Christ supreme to direct you in ministry? Are you submitting to His direction to serve, love, and share the gospel?