

# COLOSSIANS

Life in our supreme & sufficient Savior

## Colossians – Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

### Review of Background

- 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)
- Theme of the Class: Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

### 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)

## Lesson 10 – Colossians 3:18-4:1

### Make Jesus supreme by submitting to Him!

1. Make Jesus supreme in your home (3:18-21).
  - a. Honor Him in your marriage (3:18-19).

- b. Honor Him in your family (3:20-21).
2. Serve your Master, Jesus (3:22-4:1).
- a. By submitting to authorities (3:22).
  - b. By working with integrity (3:23).
  - c. By expecting His wages (3:24).
  - d. By operating with fairness (4:1).

Philemon: Philemon's slave Onesimus ran away (12). Paul led Onesimus to faith in Jesus (10-11). Paul appeals to Philemon to forgive Onesimus as a brother in Christ even as he is his slave (15-16). Paul offers to pay Philemon any loss he has suffered from Onesimus' escape (17-22).

### **Application**

*Honor Him in your marriage* – Jesus must be supreme in your Marriage! Your relationship with your spouse must reflect His Name with honor!

Wife, you Honor the Name of Jesus by following the leadership of your husband! As you discuss things, help him, think with him, make your opinion clear, but also let him know you are ready to follow him! Support and encourage him as your head and the head of the home. When he does lead, thank him. Ask for further input and direction in various areas. Of course, the wife submits to God first! This is all in the context of honoring Him – so the wife would never support the husband

in illegal activity, or abuse in the home. The theme is honoring the Lord! This is not “blind, silent, obedience.” This is interactive, loving, encouraging, and helpful teamwork. Unity is the key. When there may be disagreement, or varying perspectives, the wife helps the husband to lead.

Husbands, instead of loving, we often treat harshly! We respond, “in kind.” “Well, if that’s how she’s going to treat me, then I’ll...” Rather, sacrificial love is the command. This establishes unity in the relationship. The husband isn’t just making decisions and barking out commands. He’s talking with his wife, learning her perspective, sacrificing his own comfort and pleasure for the good of His wife and family. If, on rare occasions, there is a difference in perspective, it falls to the husband to weigh the options, and lead by making the choice that (1) honors God and (2) loves his wife and family. Love your wife! We are very poor at this. We don’t pursue her, and know her, and sacrifice for her.

*Honor Him in your family* – We must honor Jesus in our families. As parents and children, reflecting His character in the home.

Children, obey your parents! Listen to their instruction, do what they say and keep in mind that this honors the Lord! Think of Him as you follow your parents.

Parents, especially fathers, instruct your children well! Honor the Lord in the way you instruct them. This isn’t about barking commands for obedience. Rather your instructions should encourage, strengthen, and build up the child. They should not be frustrating – impossible, pointless, or even simply authoritarian – just to prove your authority. Children are not slaves to do your bidding. You are training them – first to love the Lord, then, little by little, to function out from under your authority – to live and thrive on their own. Training should encourage and build up.

*Serve your Master by submitting to authorities* – We serve our Master Jesus, by submitting to the authorities He has placed in our lives. This means we are obedient to our employers at work! Of course, the focus is on obedience to Jesus, so we wouldn't sin against God to obey our employer, if they asked us to lie, for instance. But we do our best to be good employees, fulfilling our responsibilities. We are respectful and submissive to our local and civil authorities – law enforcement and government officials. However, this isn't just to look good to them. Our eyes remain on our heavenly Master. We aren't man-pleasers, but God-fearers. Our singular, sincere purpose is to please the Lord. We work for His honor.

*Serve your Master by working with integrity* – We ought to pour ourselves into even the most mundane tasks because we know that it's for our heavenly Master! Don't forget balance – Paul's charge doesn't mean we become workaholics! We aren't living for our jobs, for money, abandoning our families in the name of passion at work! Remember, the focus is that we “do it to the Lord.” So, is the way I'm doing this pleasing to Jesus? Certainly, we can't say that if the family is being forsaken! Whatever we are called to do, in the workplace, at church, by our government, we ought to do it with passion, remembering that we are serving the Lord. We can take great joy in these mundane tasks! We serve the Lord, and He is pleased!

*Serve your Master by expecting His wages* – We serve our Master Jesus by looking for His payment. Rather than simply working for earthly treasure, we store up treasure for our inheritance to come! So, we serve in a way that earns His payment. Conversely, we fear His justice! So, we do our best always to do right.

*Serve your Master by operating with fairness* – As we have positions of authority, we must operate with fairness, remembering our Master in heaven. Some of us have employees working for us – are we treating them the same way our heavenly Master would treat us – with fairness and justice.