

# COLOSSIANS: CHRIST IN YOU

North Creek Presbyterian Church, Mill Creek, WA ... Sundays 11am



1. January 7	Introducing Colossians & Christology	Col. 1:1-2 & 4:7-8
2. January 14	The Supremacy of Christ	Colossians 1:3-23
3. January 28	Christ and You, Sharing Life	Colossians 1:24-2:7
4. February 4	Making Christ Your Center	Colossians 2:8-3:4
5. February 11	Living from Christ the Center	Colossians 3:5-4:6

## Lesson 2 of 5 – The Supremacy of Christ – 1:3-23

### Group Sharing:

1. Share one thing God has done that you're thankful for.
2. Share a need God's empowerment in your own life and in the life of the world.

### Prayer for the Colossian Believers in Christ

**Giving Thanks to God for Fellow Saints > 1:3-8** *"We always thank God...when we pray for you"*

#### Qualities that Matter: Faith, Love, Hope

- Faith in Christ Jesus
- Love for all God's people
- Hope in heaven ("stored up for you")

#### The Gospel – The Message of Truth

- It is the source of their hope, faith, and love
- It is bearing fruit and growing – throughout the world and among them
- It is a message heard & learned from others (Epaphras)
- It is the key to understanding God's grace

**Asking God to Empower Faithful Living > 1:9-14** *"...we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you..."*

#### Spiritual Understanding

- Filled by God with the knowledge of His will

#### Worthy Lives that Please the Lord

- Bearing fruit in every good work
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Being strengthened with powerful endurance and patience
- Giving joyful thanks to the Father, because He brought us into the kingdom of light and rescued us from the dominion of darkness

#### General Takeaways:

- God is "the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v3); Christ the son is the source of redemption (v14)
- Power source conflict: kingdom of light (of the son) vs. the dominion of darkness
- Prayer involves "continually" thanking God and asking God for wisdom and strength

## Power Profile: The Supremacy of Christ

### A Hymn to the Son

- Christ the son has already been introduced as the leader of “the Kingdom of Light, in whom we have redemption (the forgiveness of sins);” this takes the idea deeper/more comprehensive.
- This text may have been known to the early church as something they would recite or sing in worship; Paul may have quoted some or all of it. Of course, he may have written it!

### The Church’s Authority is the Ultimate Authority

FIRST VERSE – CHRIST THE SON RULES ALL CREATION	
v. 15	The image of the invisible God The firstborn over all creation
v. 16	All things have been created in, through, and for him *”All things” means “ <i>things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities</i> ”
BRIDGE	
v. 17	Before all things In him all things hold together
SECOND VERSE – CHRIST THE SON IS THE SOURCE OF REDEMPTION	
v. 18	The head of the body, the church The beginning and the firstborn from among the dead (so that in everything he might have the supremacy)
v. 19	God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him
v. 20	Through the son God reconciled to himself all things (things on earth & heaven) by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

### Lives Powerfully Transformed by the Son > 1:21-23

Before	After	Continuing
Once you were <b><i>alienated from God</i></b> and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior (v. 21)	But now God has <b><i>reconciled you by Christ’s physical body</i></b> through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation (v.22)	If you <b><i>continue in your faith, established and firm</i></b> , and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel (v. 23)

#### Discussion Questions:

- To you, what is the most meaningful aspect of the Son’s power profile (v.15-20), and why?
- Christ moves us from alienation to reconciliation in our relationship with God. How does it feel to be reconciled in a broken relationship? If you’re willing, share a personal experience.

#### Reading Assignment

1. Bible: **Colossians 1:24-2:7**
  - Highlight words that interest you
  - Look for the following themes: Christ, mystery, life/living
  - Memorize Colossians 1:27