

Christ is before all things, in Him all things consist and He is the head of the body, the church

„For in Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Col. 1:16-18

I. Conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Col. 1:1-14; 2.Pet. 1:17)

A. The church in Colosse (Col. 1:1; 2:1; 4:16-17; Phlm. 2)

1. Faith in Christ Jesus and love in the Spirit for all the saints (Col. 1:4, 8; Eph. 1:15; 2.Thess. 1:3)
2. Through the word of the truth of the gospel (Col. 1:5)
3. As learned from Epaphras, the faithful minister of Christ (Col. 1:7; 4:12)

B. Conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Col. 1:13; Eph. 1:6; Jn. 3:3, 5; Eph. 5:5)

1. The Son of His love (Mt. 3:17; Mt. 17:5; 2.Pet. 1:17)
2. In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (Col. 1:14)
3. Delivered from the power of darkness (Col. 1:13a)
4. To partake of the inheritance of the saints in the light (Col. 1:12; 1.Pet. 1:4; Acts 20:32; Jos. 18:2-6)

C. To walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him (Col. 1:10; 2:6; 4:5)

1. Praying for the full knowledge of His will (Col. 1:9; Phil. 1:9-10; Col. 2:3)
2. In all spiritual wisdom (Prov. 8:12-13; Col. 2:23; 4:5)
3. In all spiritual understanding (Eph. 1:17-18; Col. 2:18)

II. Christ is all-inclusive (Col. 1:15-19)

A. It is the Father's pleasure to reveal His beloved Son to us (Mt. 17:5; Gal. 1:12; Is.33:17; Jn. 4:10; 2.Tim. 1:12)

B. Christ: The image of God (Col. 1:15)

1. Full of life and light (Jn. 1:14, 18)
2. The express image of God's person (Hebr. 1:3)
3. We are being transformed into His image (Rom. 8:29; 2.Cor. 3:18)

C. Christ: The firstborn of all creation (Col. 1:15-17)

1. The Son of God lives from eternity to eternity (Micah 5:2; Jn. 1:1; Rom. 9:5; Jn. 17:5)
2. All things were made through Him, in Him and for Him (Jn. 1:3; Hebr. 1:2-3)
3. All things (the whole universe) exist in Him

D. Christ: The Firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:18)

1. He died on the cross as a man and was resurrected by the Father (Acts 2:23-24; Rev. 1:17-18)
2. In His death all old things were terminated (Col. 2:20; Hebr. 2:14-15; Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:19-20)
3. In His resurrection the new creation came into being (1.Cor. 15:22, 45-47; 2.Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:19-20)
4. In His resurrection He was glorified as the Son of man (Rom. 1:3, 4; Jn. 7:39; 17:5)
5. As the head of the body He cleanses and sanctifies the churches (Rev. 1:12-16; chapter 2-3)

E. All the fullness of God dwells in Him (Col. 1:19; Col. 2:9-10; Col. 2:6)

III. By Christ we are reconciled to God and His will is to perfect us (Col. 1:20-27)

A. In Jesus Christ God has made reconciliation and peace (Is. 59:1-2; Rom. 3:21-27; 5:1-2)

1. It is only God's work – righteousness and mercy (2.Cor. 5:18, 21 – Eph. 2:1-2; Rom. 3:20, 23; 5:10)
2. The requirement of death and repentance (Hebr. 9:22; Mt. 26:28 – Lk. 5:32; 24:47; Acts 17:30; 2.Pet. 3:9)
3. Reconciled in one body (Eph. 2:15-16)

B. The purpose of reconciliation: to present us holy and without blemish before God (Eph. 1:4; 5:27; 2.Pet. 3:14)

1. Given and accomplished holiness (1.Cor. 1:30; 1.Thess. 5:23; 4:1-8; 2.Cor. 7:1; Hebr. 12:14)
2. We cooperate in the removal of defects (2.Pet. 1:9; Rev. 3:17; Phil. 3:14; Tit. 1:9; Tit. 3:3; 1.Kings. 8:21)
3. We preserve ourselves blameless (1.Tim. 3:9-10; 6:10)
4. We remain grounded and steadfast in faith (1.Cor. 15:1-2; 2.Thess. 2:14-15; 2.Tim. 3:16; Mt. 7:24)
5. We will not be moved away from the hope of the gospel (1.Cor. 15; Rom. 8:29; 1.Thess. 1:10; 1.Jn. 3:2)

C. Christ in us, the hope of glory

1. Paul as a minister for the church completed the word of God through the revelation of this mystery
2. Jesus promised: I will not leave you orphans
 - a. He came as another Comforter – in us (Jn. 14:16-17)
 - b. Teaching and bringing to our remembrance (Jn. 14:26) and guiding into all truth (Jn. 16:13) by the power of His life
3. We experience glory when Christ is glorified in us– in oneness (Jn. 17:10, 22) or else in sufferings (Rom. 8:17)
4. As Christ is living in all of us, we need one another
5. He will take us with Himself into glory (Jn. 17:24)

IV. Christ, the mystery of God (Col. 1:28 - 2:7)

A. Our cooperation and our fight for growth in life (Col. 1:28-29)

1. For every man (1.Tim. 2:1; Col. 4:12)
2. Admonishing and teaching in wisdom
3. To present every man perfect in Christ
(Col. 1:28; 2.Thess. 1:10)
4. According to His power which works in us mightily
(1.Thess. 1:5; 2.Tim. 1:7)

B. In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

1. Through the comfort of the Holy Spirit
(Col. 2:2; Jn. 14:16-17; 26)
2. Being knit together and attaining to all riches (Eph. 3:18)
3. Hidden in Him
 - a. Wisdom is the Lord Himself (Prov. 1:20ff; 1.Cor. 1:30)
 - b. Abiding in Him (Jn. 15:4, 7; Col. 3:3)
 - c. Desiring to know Him (Phil. 3:10, 12)
4. Not cheated through empty deceit (Col. 2:6; Rev. 2:20)

C. Knowing the mystery

1. How one ought to know (1.Cor. 8:2; Job 42:5)
2. Knowing and appreciating the order of the Lord
(Rom. 10:12; Eph. 5:23; 6:1, 5; 1.Pet. 5:5)
3. Developing steadfastness and being rooted
(2.Cor. 1:21; Jer. 17:8)
4. As we have received Him, so we walk in Him
(Col. 2:6; Gal. 5:25)

V. Christ, the fullness of the Godhead, as our reality (Col. 2:8-17)

A. Beware that no one carries you off as spoil (Col. 2:8)

1. The enemy does not come but to steal, to kill and destroy (Jn. 10:10; 2.Cor. 11:3; Rev. 2:20)
2. Philosophy – the craftiness of man against the working of the Spirit (Col. 2:4; 2.Tim. 4:4; 2.Pet. 1:16; 1.Cor. 2:4)
3. Tradition of man – pleasing God according to the letter (V. 14; Mt. 15:3, 8-9)
4. Elements of the world – a grasping for the wind and there is nothing new under the sun (Lk. 17:26-28; 1.Cor. 6:1-4; Eccl. 1:9, 14; 2:12, 21)

B. Made full in Christ (Col. 2:9-15)

1. The exalted Christ is the victor (Col. 2:10, 15; Eph.1:20-21; 1.Jn. 3:8b; Phil. 3:21)
2. The reality of our baptism: crucified in Him, buried and resurrected (Rom. 6:4-5; Gal. 2:19-20; Rom. 8:12-13)
3. Living in faith (2.Cor. 4:13-14; Rom. 1:17) and in the relationship with the Wonderful One (Is.9:5; Lk. 7:40; Jn. 10:14-16; Ps.5:4)

C. Christ, the only reality and truth (Col. 2:16-17)

1. The truth in Him and in us (1.Jn. 2:8; 2.Jn. 8-9; Prov. 23:23).
2. Our steadfastness in faith for the freedom of the Spirit (Col. 2:16; Eph. 1:19-21; Gal. 5:1, 12-13)
3. We do not pursue the shadow of things (Col. 2:8, 17; Phil. 3:2), but the reality of Christ in us (Phil. 3:5-7; Rom. 2:28-29; Hebr. 4:1, 3, 10)

VI. Holding the Head for the growth and the oneness of the body (Col. 2:18-23)

A. It is all about gaining the prize (1.Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:14; 2.Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 3:11)

1. Seeing through the vain and puffed up things (1.Cor. 15:14; Phil. 2:3; 1.Cor. 4:19-20; 2.Cor. 12:20; 1.Cor. 2:2-5)
2. Only one Mediator (1.Tim. 2:5; Mt. 4:8-10)
3. Having died with Christ from the elements of the world (Mk. 7:5-9; Gal. 4:9-10, 29-5:1; Col. 3:5; Rom. 8:13)

B. How did Christ become Head over all things? (Phil. 2:5-11; Hebr. 5:8; Jn. 8:28-29)

C. We are holding our wonderful Head

1. By learning obedience (Phil. 2:12a; 1.Pet. 1:22; Jn. 14:21, 23; Eph. 4:15-16; 2.Cor. 10:5-6; Is.50: 4-5)
 - a. Obedience needs revelation and knowledge of His will (Col. 1:9; Eph.1:10; Rom. 12:2)
 - b. The Head has authority (Rev. 1:17-18; 17:14)
 - c. We submit to the divine order (Rom. 13:2; Eph. 5:21-23; Tit. 3:1)
2. Through practically being one in the Body
 - a. The river of life flowing out of the Head (Genesis 2:10; Ezek. 47:1-12; Phil. 1:19b; Rev. 22:1-2)
 - b. The joints and bands supplying and knitting together (Phil. 1:19; Rom. 12:3-8; 1.Cor. 12:11, 24-27; Hebr. 11:10)
 - c. The Body growing with the growth of God (1.Cor. 3:6-9; Col. 2:6-7; Eph. 4:15-16)

VII. Christ, our life (Col. 3:1-17)

A. Being focused on Christ and His work

(Col. 3:1-4)

1. Knowing the exalted Christ (Mk. 16:19; Is.52:13)
2. Setting our mind on the things which are above (Mt. 6:33; Phil. 4:8-9)
3. When the Lord comes back, we will be manifested with Him in glory (Zech. 14:5; 1.Thess. 3:13; 2.Thess. 1:10)

B. Putting off the old man with his practices (Col. 3:5-9)

1. Putting to death the members which are on the earth (Rom. 8:13)
2. Not falling back into the manner of life of the old man (1.Pet. 1:14; 4:4)
3. Lies are characteristic of the old man (Jn. 8:44)

C. Putting on the new man which is being renewed according to the image of Christ (Col. 3:10-14)

1. We are being transformed into the image of the Lord (2.Cor. 3:18; 1.Jn. 3:2; Phil. 3:21)
2. In the new man, ethnical, cultural or social differences are completely irrelevant

D. Practical help (Col. 3:15-17)

1. The peace of Christ arbitrating in our hearts (Hebr. 4:12; 12:14)
2. The word of Christ dwelling in us richly (Jak. 1:21-22; Ps. 119:11)
3. What we talk and do must glorify God (1.Cor. 6:20)

VIII. Christ in the walk and work of the believers

(Col. 3:18-4:6, 12)

A. Living Christ in our relationship with each other

1. Family life –an expression of God (Col. 3:1-21)
 - a. Wives being subject to their own husbands (Eph. 5:22-23)
 - b. Husbands loving their wives (Eph. 5:25)
 - c. Children obeying their parents (Eph. 6:1-3)
2. Expressing the Lord at work (Col. 3:22 - 4:1)
 - a. Slaves or employees serve the Lord
 - b. Masters or employers have a Master in heaven

B. Walking in wisdom towards those who are without

(Col. 4:5-6)

1. We redeem the time for the Lord –time is precious
2. Our speech may be in grace and seasoned with salt (Jn. 1:14; Lk. 4:22; Eph. 4:29)
3. Learning how we ought to answer each one

C. Struggling in prayers (Col. 1:3, 9; 4:2-4, 12)

1. Persevering in prayer
2. Praying for those who preach the word
3. The example of Epaphras – struggling in prayers on behalf of the saints
 - a. Struggling all the time in prayers – personally and in the prayer meeting
 - b. Prayer for the perfection of the saints
 - c. Prayer for the saints standing perfect and fully assured in the will God