

Lesson Three
Colossians 1:19-23
The Adequacy of Christ

Jesus Christ is incredibly, 100% inexhaustible! The treasures that a Christian possesses in Jesus will never run out – His supply of grace and mercy are absolutely limitless. Sadly, the contradictory heresy of Gnosticism had crept into the Colossian church and undermined their faith in the sufficiency of Christ.

Gnosticism teaches that knowledge is superior to right living, that a non-literal interpretation of the Bible is correct, and evil in the world rules out God as the only Creator. It also denies the incarnation of Jesus because of its belief that deity cannot unite itself with a material body, thus there is no physical resurrection. Rather than addressing each of these heresies individually, Paul brilliantly responded by focusing exclusively on Jesus Christ.

Conflicting opinions concerning Jesus Christ continue to infiltrate the church today and instruction in the basics of Christianity is still the best antidote for deceptive theology. Once armed with a firm grasp of foundational truths regarding Christ, we will not go astray.

Day One – The Fullness of Christ

Read Colossians 1:19-22

1. The best way to confront false doctrine is to present a clear picture of Jesus Christ. What truths do you discover about Jesus and God’s purpose in Him from verses 19-20?

2. Verse 19 says, “...in Him all the fullness should dwell.” Use the following verses to help you understand what this phrase means.

Matthew 1:23

John 10:30

3. In light of the above verses, how would you respond to someone who says that Jesus was just a prophet or a good man?

4. Paul felt it crucial to stress that Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. Why does Hebrews 2:17-18 say this was necessary?

a. How do you benefit from this?

Note: Isaiah 53:10-11 tells us that it pleased the Father to put His Son to death as an offering for sin, to reconcile us to Himself. In Colossians 1:19, the Greek word for *pleased* stresses the graciousness and willingness behind the action.

5. How else does Ephesians 5:2 describe Jesus' offering?

a. What picture do these scriptures draw of the Father's heart towards us?

b. How can the assurance of God's amazing love shown to you in your reconciliation with Him, strengthen and encourage you in the struggles you face each day?

Day Two – Reconciled in Christ

Read Colossians 1:19-22

Reconcile – verb: to bring back to a former state of harmony; to change from enmity to unity and peace.

1. God did not accomplish reconciliation through a display of His power and glory, but by His Son. What phrases in Colossians 1:20-22 describe this?

2. What else do you learn from the following verses regarding our reconciliation?

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Colossians 1:20

1 Peter 3:18

a. What does this mean to you personally?

3. Describe the conflict in Colossians 1:21 that made reconciliation necessary.

a. Use a dictionary to help you understand what the word alienated means.

b. Alienation from God does not always mean open and gross sin, but rather a heart in opposition to Him – even in small ways. Give some examples of how this might be evident in our everyday life.

“...but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.” Romans 5:11

Day Three – Transformation in Christ

Read Colossians 1:21-23

1. Verse 21 draws a stark contrast between who we once were and who we are now in Christ. Use what you learn in Colossians 1:21-22, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Titus 3:3-6, and 1 Peter 2:9-10 to help you complete the chart below.

I was once	I am now

a. How can these verses keep you from condemning the unbelieving world around you?

2. When we look back at our own lives, it can be shocking to remember from where we have come. How does 2 Corinthians 5:17 encourage you?

3. Jesus' purpose in physically enduring the cross was to present to the Father a consecrated people – holy, blameless, and above reproach. How can we accomplish this in our everyday life?

Romans 12:1-2

Philippians 2:14-16

Titus 2:3-5

a. How is the Holy Spirit speaking to you through the above verses?

b. List at least one specific area that you need to change to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

4. Take this opportunity to meditate on what you have learned today. Write a prayer asking Him to help you live in such a way that reflects all that He has done for you. After you have finished, spend time giving thanks to the Lord for His great and mighty works!

“In the cross of Christ, I see three things: First, a description of the depth of man’s sin. Second, the overwhelming love of God. Third, the only way of salvation.” Billy Graham

Day Four – Abiding in Christ

Read Colossians 1:23

1. The word *if* in Colossians 1:23 might lead you to assume that our salvation is conditional, but this Greek word means *since*. The true meaning of the verse is this: since you have been reconciled, your life now needs to reflect it. How does verse 23 say this is possible?

2. Compare Colossian 1:23 with Luke 6:46-49 and explain what it means to be grounded and steadfast.

3. What would cause a person not to remain grounded or continue in the faith?

Matthew 13:22

James 4:2-4

2 Peter 3:17

4. What do you learn about remaining grounded in every situation according to Jeremiah 17:7-8?

5. The pressures of life can make us feel as though God has forsaken us making us want to walk away from Him. How can you use the following scriptures to encourage someone who is feeling this way?

Deuteronomy 31:6

Jeremiah 29:11

Hebrews 10:23

6. Like the apostle Paul, we have received a new assignment in life and we need to live accordingly (Colossians 1:23). What do you learn about sharing the gospel from the following verses?

Mark 5:19

Acts 1:8

1 Peter 3:15

Who will you share the gospel with this week? Write their name below and commit to pray for an opportunity and an open heart.

A minister of the gospel is an ordinary person who Jesus Christ has saved, knows the gospel, and proclaims the gospel to others with a joyful heart. It is our duty to believe it, receive it, live it and spread it.

