



COMPLETE

in

**jesus
Christ**



Pergamon

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Ephesus

Philadelphia

Colossae

Laodicea

Patmos



The Church of Colossae – A house-church that Paul had never met.

- the congregation was one of many that grew out of Paul's time in Ephesus.
- the church was “founded” by Epaphras
- Philemon was a member of the Colossae church, hosting the congregation in his home.
- **the Christians of Colossae were struggling two issues:**
 1. Syncretism: worrying whether faith in Jesus alone is enough to know God, or whether something more is necessary.
 2. Gnosticism: debating whether people are divine souls trapped in evil physical bodies.

Chapter 1: Paul's Encouraging Prayer. 1:3-14

³ **We always pray for you**, giving thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for you ... ⁶ for the gospel, that is changing lives all over the world, has also changed your lives from the day you first heard it, understood it and believed it.

⁹ **We have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you.**

1. **Asking God** to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. (v.v. 9-10)
2. ¹¹ **Asking God** to strengthen you with all his glorious power. (v.v.11-14)

The Point: - Paul believes that God is powerfully at work transforming the world (v.7), so he asks God to hold nothing back from them:

- a complete knowledge of His will.
- heavenly wisdom; supernatural understanding.
- **all of his glorious power!**

- The **false teachers** were telling the Colossians that “*deeper knowledge*” and “*alternative experiences*” were required to really know God.
- **Paul** knew that Jesus was enough ... and that He was all that they would ever need.
 - ... they didn't need more “intellectual knowledge”, but transformed lives through what they had already received, believed & embraced.
- **So he prayed for them:** continuously; specifically; confidently.

Last Week: The Supremacy of Christ.

¹³ God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵⁻²⁰ This King, Jesus, is Supreme:

- *over eternity,*
- *over creation,*
- *over the Church,*
- *over death,*
- *over redemption.*

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God ...

This Week: God's Reconciliation Through Christ.

*¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
²⁰ and through him God **reconciled**
everything to himself.*

*He made peace with everything in heaven and on
earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.*

*²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You
were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts
and actions. ²² Yet now he has **reconciled** you to himself
through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result,
he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy
and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.*

“Reconciled” - **katalasso** ending a battle and declaring each other friends again.

- 2x in the N.T. (Rom. & 2 Cor.)

apokatallasso (Colossians 1:20,22)

- intensifies the word (!)

In writing to other congregations in Rome & Corinth Paul is *explaining* the truth of God’s reconciliation with humanity ... but with the church of Colossae he is *repelling* the false-teachers who are insisting that it is impossible for anyone to be reconciled with God through Jesus alone.

Note: Reconciliation is one of the Five Key Aspects of Salvation.

1. Forgiveness: deals with the fruit of my sin.

- I stand before God as a debtor and the debt, having been paid, is forgiven.
- *¹³You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then, God made you alive with Christ by forgiving you all your sins.*

Colossians 2

Note: Reconciliation is one of the Five Key Aspects of Salvation.

1. Forgiveness: I stand before God as a *debtor*, and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten.

2. **Redemption:** deals with the root of my sin.
 - I stand before God as a slave and am granted freedom by a ransom paid for me.
 - *¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

1 Peter 1

Note: Reconciliation is one of the Five Key Aspects of Salvation.

1. Forgiveness: I stand before God as a *debtor*, and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten.
2. Redemption: I stand before God as a *slave*, and am granted freedom by a ransom paid for me.
3. **Adoption:** deals with my new identity in Christ.
 - I stand before God as a stranger and, in Christ, am made a son/daughter.
 - *¹⁵...You received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. ¹⁷And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.*

Romans 8

Note: Reconciliation is one of the Five Key Aspects of Salvation.

1. Forgiveness: I stand before God as a *debtor*, and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten.
2. Redemption: I stand before God as a *slave*, and am granted freedom by a ransom paid for me..
3. Adoption: I stand before God a *stranger* and, in Christ, am made a son or daughter.
4. **Justification:** deals with my new standing in Christ.
 - I stand before God accused, and am declared righteous.
 - *³³ Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. ³⁴ Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us, was raised to life for us, and is sitting at God's right hand, pleading for us.*

Romans 8

Note: **Reconciliation** is one of the Five Key Aspects of Salvation.

1. Forgiveness: I stand before God as a *debtor*, and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten.
2. Redemption: I stand before God as a *slave*, and am granted freedom by a ransom paid for me.
3. Adoption: I stand before God a *stranger* and, in Christ, am made a son or daughter.
4. Justification: I stand before God *accused*, and am declared righteous.
5. **Reconciliation**: deals with my new condition through Christ.
 - I approach God as an enemy and, through Christ, become His friend.
 - *You were God's enemy, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. ²²But now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body.*

God's Reconciliation – Four Points:

1. It's His plan, not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)

- *²⁰ ...in Christ God reconciled everything to himself. **He made peace with everything** ... ²¹ including you who were once far away from God. ²² ...**He has reconciled** you to himself.*
- God's intention for you is reconciliation!
 - not harm; not blame; not violence; not judgement.

God's Reconciliation – Four Points:

1. It's His plan not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
2. It's His power that accomplishes it, not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
 - ²⁰ ...God made peace with everything in heaven and on earth **by means of Christ's blood on the Cross.** ²²...He has reconciled you to himself **through the death of Christ in his physical body.**
 - God's power sets you free!
 - you don't possess the means to reconcile with Him, but He does.

God's Reconciliation – Four Points:

1. It's His plan not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
2. It's His power that accomplishes it, not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
3. It's your transformation, not His. (v. 22)
 - *22...God has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, **and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.***
 - You are *forgiven; redeemed; adopted; justified; reconciled.*
 - you are the one who changes.
 - God remains the same.

God's Reconciliation – Four Points:

1. It's His plan not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
2. It's His power that accomplishes it, not yours. (v.v. 20 & 22)
3. It's your transformation, not His. (v. 22)
4. You give evidence of what has happened. (v. 23)
 - *23 You must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News that is being preached all over the world ...*
 - **You become a Case Study of God's love & grace!**

Question:

- How do you continue and stand firmly in what you believe?
- How do you not drift away?

... that's what Paul writes about next!

hint ... Chapter 2:6-7

- *“Continue to follow Jesus.”*
- *“Let your roots grow down into him.”*
- *“Let your lives be built on him.”*