

# Paul's Letter to the

# COLOSSIANS



*You Are Here*

## **The Framework for Studying Colossians**

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.  
(Colossians 2:6)*

**You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

**You received Christ Jesus the Lord**

**Walk in Christ Jesus the Lord**

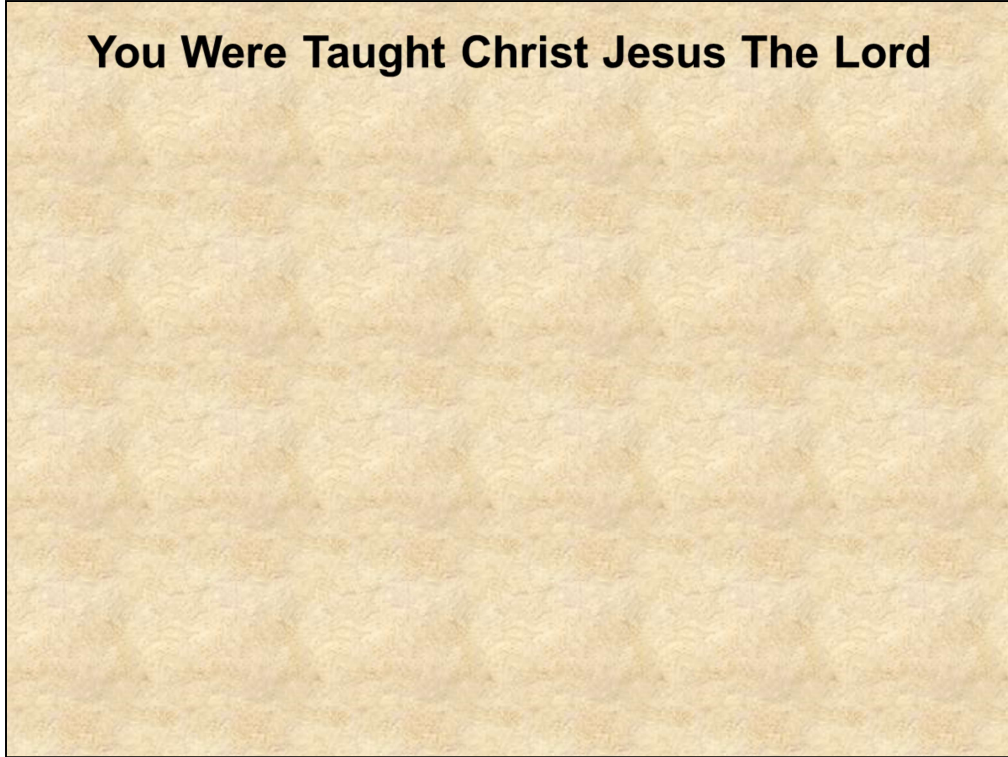
## **The Framework for Studying Colossians**

You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord  
You received Christ Jesus the Lord  
Walk in Christ Jesus the Lord

As we saw last week, the first two concepts are past tense, they have already happened for the believers in Colossae. The third one deals with their current and future lives. But their future current and future lives are predicated on their past experiences.

Paul uses this letter to expound to them again what it means to be a Christian.

## **You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**



### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

Colossians has a heavy emphasis on who Jesus is. And Paul does this almost straight out of the gate.

The first two sentences of the third paragraph of this letter describe Christ Jesus the Lord in phrases so sweeping, so laden with import, that their significance is too grand to truly grasp without the aid of the Holy Spirit.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2:12

*Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*

Pray that God would help us in our study

## **You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

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With just these few words we are given a portrait of Jesus that transcends the very universe we inhabit. At the risk of diminishing the grandeur of these verses, we are going to unpack the ideas here under some general headings.



## **You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**

*INCARNATE – God in the flesh*

*He is the image of the invisible God... (1:15)*

*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. (1:19)*

*For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. (2:9)*

(Hebrews 1:3a; John 1:18; John 14:9)

### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

Jesus is God incarnate, that is, God in the flesh. And the emphasis in Colossians brings out three things.

- Jesus allows us to behold and to know God, who is otherwise invisible. (Hebrews 1:3a; John 1:18; John 14:9)
- Jesus is not a man on whom divinity descended, rather he is God in all the fullness that is true of the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is a physical human being in which the fullness of deity abides.

## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord

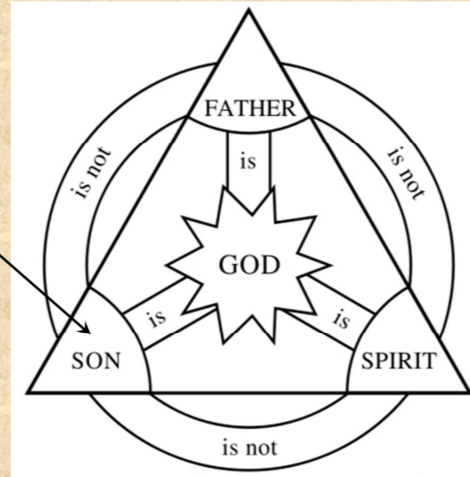
*INCARNATE – God in the flesh*

The Divine Son descended  
and became Incarnate,  
fully God and fully man.

He died, was buried,  
and was resurrected  
on the third day.

He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand  
of God the Father.

(Hebrews 2:14-18)



## You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord

Jesus is the most unusual, the most singular, being ever.

The Divine Son descended  
and became Incarnate,  
fully God and fully man.  
He died, was buried,  
and was resurrected  
on the third day.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand  
of God the Father.

Jesus is unique both among humans and among the members of the Godhead. He is forever fully God and fully human. There has never been or will be another being like him, ever.

Hebrews 2:14-18

## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord

*INCARNATE – God in the flesh*  
*PREEMINENT – Supreme over all*

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*He is... the firstborn of all creation... (1:15)*

*For by him all things were created...all things were created through him and for him. (1:16)*

*And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together (1:17)*

## You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord

Jesus is Preeminent, that is he is supreme over all things. First, he is supreme over creation

- *He is... the firstborn of all creation... (1:15)*
- *For by him all things were created...all things were created through him and for him. (1:16)*
- *And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together (1:17)*

Firstborn – a title, not necessarily conferred due to birth order, but given to the one who is to be the heir. Psalm 2:7-8; 89:27-28

Jesus is the Source and Sustainer of all creation. All things are derivative, not having independent sources of being. The fabric of our existence finds its substance in the being of Jesus.

What are the implications of this?

## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord

*INCARNATE – God in the flesh*  
*PREEMINENT – Supreme over all*

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*He is the head of the body, the church. (1:18a)*

*He is the beginning... (1:18b)*

*[He is] the firstborn from the dead (1:18c)*

(Ephesians 1:19-23; Hebrews 2:8-9)

## You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord

Jesus is Preeminent over the church as well.

- *He is the head of the body, the church. (1:18a)*
- *He is the beginning... (1:18b)*
- *[He is] the firstborn from the dead (1:18c)*

Within his supremacy over creation, Jesus is also supreme over his church. Let's look at another passage that deals with this - Ephesians 1:19-23

Why this additional emphasis on Jesus being the head of the church?  
What do you see when you look at the "thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities" around you?

Hebrews 2:8-9 – ties back into the firstborn from the dead...



## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord

|          |  |
|----------|--|
|          | <i>INCARNATE – God in the flesh</i>                    |
|          | <i>PREEMINENT – Supreme over all</i>                   |
| <b>T</b> |  |
| <b>H</b> |  |
| <b>E</b> | <i>He is the head of the body, the church. (1:18a)</i> |
| <b>C</b> | <i>He is the beginning... (1:18b)</i>                  |
| <b>H</b> |  |
| <b>U</b> | <i>[He is] the firstborn from the dead (1:18c)</i>     |
| <b>R</b> |  |
| <b>C</b> | <i>...and through him to reconcile to himself all</i>  |
| <b>H</b> | <i>things, whether on earth or in heaven, making</i>   |
|          | <i>peace by the blood of his cross. (1:20)</i>         |

## You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord

Herein lies the tension that we will see Paul address throughout this letter.

*...and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (1:20)*

We live in the time of reconciliation, where the church exists as an outpost of the rule of Christ Jesus the Lord. He is the head of the church, the founder of the church, and his resurrection is the hope of the church.

What happens when your body does not act in accordance with your head (mind/will)?

1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us that “we have the mind of Christ”.

## **You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**

*INCARNATE – God in the flesh  
PREEMINENT – Supreme over all  
SOPHOTHEON – The Wisdom of God*

*Him we proclaim, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (1:28)*

*...to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (2:2-3)*

### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

I had to invent a word for this category. Christ Jesus the Lord is the Sophotheon, the Wisdom Of God, to the church.

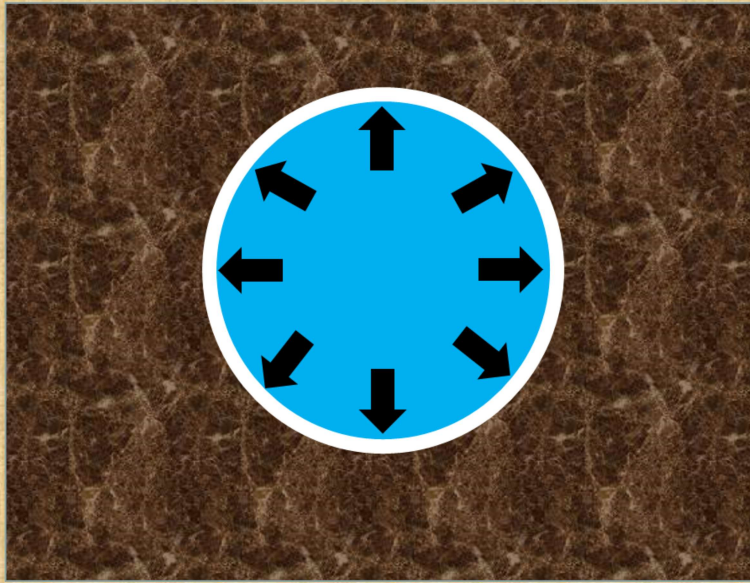
*Him we proclaim, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (1:28)*

*...to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (2:2-3)*

Paul will go on to address the issue of succumbing to the false wisdom that comes from the world. Christ Jesus the Lord is the antidote to being infected by the world's wisdom.

An absorbed understanding of Christ Jesus the Lord keeps us from having to boil the water of our lives... let me explain.

## **You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**



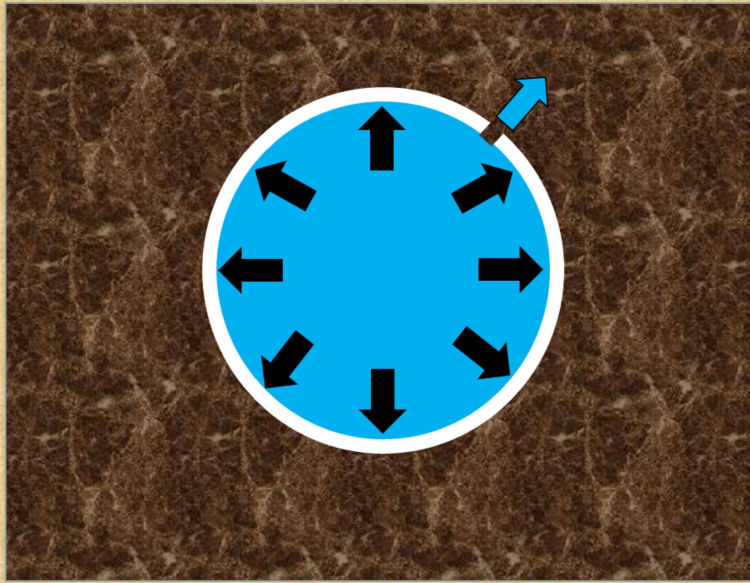
### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

This represents a water pipe buried under the ground. The water pressure in the pipe is higher than the pressure in the surrounding soil.

Now imagine the pipe represents a church with a good grasp on Christ Jesus the Lord and the soil represents the world and its pressure on the church.



## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord



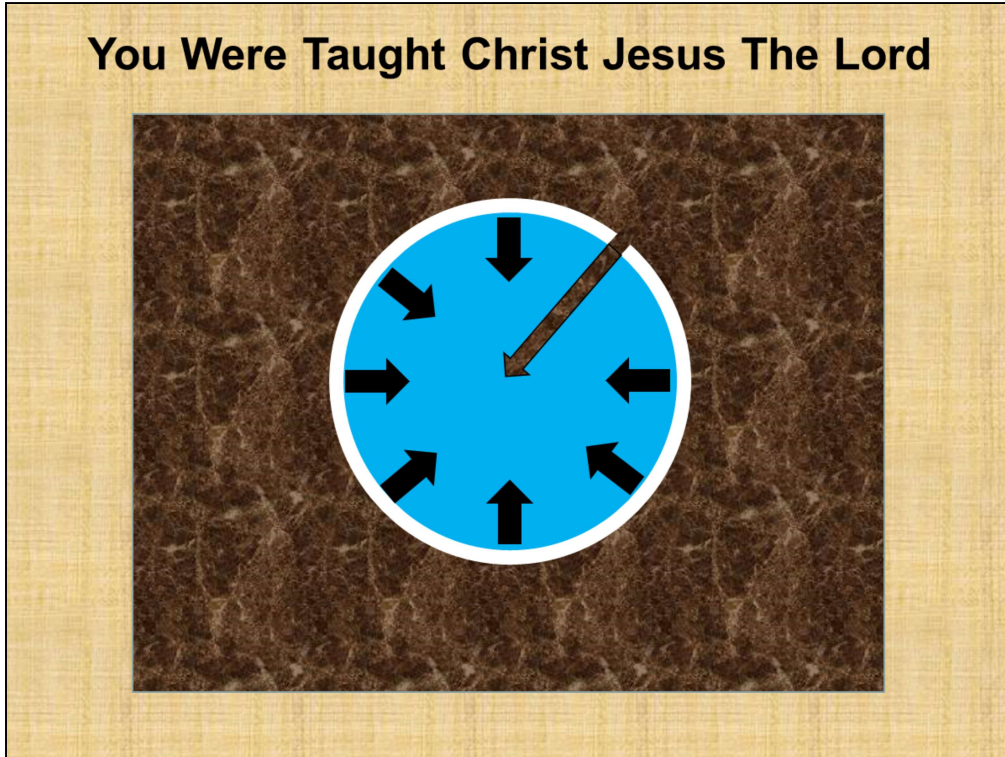
### **You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

When there is a break in a water pipe, and the pressure inside the pipe is higher than outside the pipe, then the water flows out.

For a healthy church, the congregation is influencing the surrounding culture, rather than succumbing to the worldly pressure.



## You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord



### You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord

However, if the water pressure drops, then soil and contaminants can leak into the pipe from the outside, and you have to boil your water to make it safe to drink.

If a church becomes unhealthy, forgetting who Christ Jesus the Lord is, then the worldly pressures, which come in various forms, will leak into the church and influence it in a negative manner.

The pressure in the Colossian church was dropping, and the surrounding cultural influences were leaking into the church, so Paul was strengthening the church by emphasizing Christ Jesus the Lord and exhorting them to remember what they had been taught concerning him.

**You Were Taught Christ Jesus The Lord**

*INCARNATE – God in the flesh*

*PREEMINENT – Supreme over all*

*SOPHOTHEON – The Wisdom of God*

**You were taught Christ Jesus the Lord**

**You received Christ Jesus the Lord**

Next week we will look at the change that occurs when someone receives Jesus.