

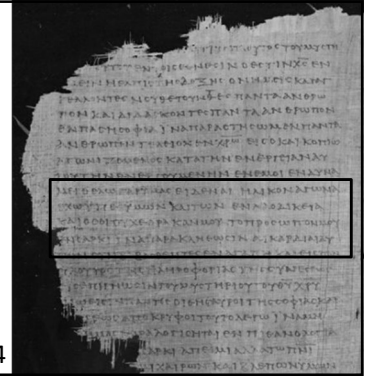
# Colossians

Proclaiming the  
Supremacy of Christ

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The Gaze of the Soul.

Colossians 3:1-4



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## Outline of Colossians

1. Introduction and prayers (1:1-14)
2. The supremacy of Christ and Paul's work proclaiming Him (1:15-2:5)
3. Encouragement to hold firmly to Christ and a warning about false spirituality (2:6-23)
4. Instructions about new life in Christ and the renewed relationships it produces (3:1-4:6)
5. Closing greetings (4:7-18)

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## The Chapter 3-4 Transition

1. "Christology" is the theological heart of Colossians (1:15-20)
2. Christ is **PREEMINENT!**
3. Christ is the head of the body, the Church (1:18)
4. We live and grow only as connected to the head (Christ) (2:19)
5. A new life in Christ has to have consequences (2:6, 2:20-23)

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## The Chapter 3-4 Transition

1. "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him."—Colossians 2:6
2. "These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh."—Colossians 2:23

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## Looking to Jesus

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.—Hebrews 12:1-2

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## Our New Life in Christ

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.—Colossians 3:1-4

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## Verse 1 and 2— Our Heavenly Focus

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.—Colossians 3:1-2

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## Verse 1 and 2— Our Heavenly Focus

- If... (c.f. Philippians 2:1)
- Seek...
- Where Christ is seated at the right hand of God...
- Set Your Minds...

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## Verse 1 and 2— Past, Present, and Future

- Already AND Not Yet paradigm
- We are being transformed, (2 Cor 3:18, Rom 6:19, 2 Peter 1:8, Gal 2:20, ...)
- “I live by faith in the Son of God...”
- Faith...

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## Verse 1 and 2— Faith Rabbit Trail

- How does the Bible define faith?
  - Heb 11:1 (assurance and conviction)
  - More functional than philosophical
  - Heb 11 list of heroes of the faith
- Numbers 21:4-9

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## Numbers 21:4-9—Fiery Serpent

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.

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## Numbers 21:4-9—Fiery Serpent

Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.”

2/3

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## Numbers 21:4-9—Fiery Serpent

So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

3/3

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## John 3:13-15—Jesus Lifted Up

No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life

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## Looking and Belief (Faith)

- Jesus seems to be making the connection between “looking” and believing.
- Faith is the *Gaze of a Soul* upon a saving God!
  - Simplicity, anyone, any time, any place
- Does this speak to the Colossians and the false teachers?

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## Verse 3 and 4— Our Status, Now and Then

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.—Colossians 3:3-4

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## Verse 3 and 4— Our Status, Now and Then

- Died...
- Hidden...
  - Yet to be revealed
  - Kept in safe keeping
- Christ will appear, we will appear with Him!
  - 2 Corinthians 3:18
  - 1 John 3:2

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Where do we go from here?

- Next two weeks we will read about the “put-offs” and the “put-ons”
- So, is it “just do it!”??
- What should our motivation be for following these admonitions from Paul?
  - Knowing the list, keeping the list? Legalism??
  - Disciplining ourselves until we can keep the list? Asceticism??

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Where do we go from here?

- July 31—“Put-offs” v. 3:5-11
  - Explore in your Small Groups, or with others, what should be our desires and motivations for heeding Paul’s admonitions.
- August 7— “Put-ons” v. 3:12-17
  - We will be looking at how do we actually put this into practice and how we can know if we are making progress?

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### A Prayer to Take With

O Lord, I have heard a good word inviting me to look away to thee and be satisfied. My heart longs to respond, but sin has clouded my vision until I see thee but dimly. Be pleased to cleanse me in thine own precious blood, and make me inwardly pure, so that I may with unveiled eyes gaze upon thee all the days of my earthly pilgrimage. Then shall I be prepared to behold thee in full splendor in the day when thou shalt appear to be glorified in thy saints and admired in all them that believe. In Jesus’ name, Amen.—A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God, Chapter 7

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