

**Introduction:** One of the most important letters Paul wrote was his letter to the Colossians. The key ideas in Colossians are the preeminence and sufficiency of Jesus Christ in all things. The believer is complete in him plus nothing. Dr. Wiresbe writes: *The church today desperately needs the message of Colossians. We live in a day when religious toleration is interpreted to mean "one religion is just as good as another." Some people try to take the best from various religious systems and manufacture their own private religion. To many people, Jesus Christ is only one of several great religious teachers, with no more authority than they. He may be prominent, but He is definitely not preeminent.* Colossians will teach us what we have in Christ, what is available, and how we can access it. I am going to examine Colossians using the model outlined in Dr. Dino Pedrone book entitled "He must be the one". In the book he teaches who Jesus is and how we can get the most out of our fellowship with Him. The main idea is there needs to be a focus on the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **I. We must focus on our faith, on what we believe about God.**

**1. We understand we are saved by the will of God.** (1)<sup>1</sup> **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus *our* brother,** God determined before the foundation of the world that he was going to save us by Jesus Christ. **Ephesians 1:4-5** *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,* Those two verses teach us that God the Father and God the Son is involved in our salvation. Later in Ephesians 1 we learn that we are redeemed by the Son and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

**2. We access God through our faith in Jesus.** (2-4)<sup>2</sup> *To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* <sup>3</sup> *We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,* <sup>4</sup> *Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,* Dr. Pedrone suggest that we look at the discourse with Nicodemus in **John 3**.

**A. Our relationship began as we were drawn to Jesus.** **John 3:1-2** *There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God *be* with him.* Nicodemus was drawn by the miracles but within was the desire for truth.

**B. We focus on what it means to be saved.** **John 3:3;5-6; 8** *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit...The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.* The kingdom of God is where God reigns and rules. Unless we have the Holy Spirit living within us we can't recognize God as He is working in our lives. To be saved means we realize Jesus is the Christ, that He saved our souls and that He is with us as we go through this life. **John 3:16** *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.* This verse tells me God loves me so much that he gave his only begotten to give me everlasting life. But if we never think about God's love we take it for granted and lose our conscious contact with him. Remember we see Him by faith.

**II. We must focus on the fraternity, and of the love *which ye have to all the saints*** The saints are anyone who has accepted Jesus as their Savior. I see this as love for all fellow believers. Keswick teaches me that I have brothers and sisters in Christ who go to different churches. The Colossians knew the importance of the mission of the church. We are all in this spiritual war together.

**III. We must focus on producing spiritual fruit.** <sup>5</sup> *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;* <sup>6</sup> *Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:* Notice again the importance of the scriptures. Paul is saying to them you heard about the grace of God and you had the faith to believe it. Because you believe it you have eternal life, a glorious future in heaven and an increased love for God's people. There are two kinds of fruit Paul could be talking about. One is external and one is internal.

**1. The fruit of being used by God to win a soul to Christ.** Part of our responsibility is to be ambassadors for Christ. God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** *And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;* <sup>19</sup> *To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.* <sup>20</sup> *Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.* They realized their responsibility to tell folks about Christ they did so and people got saved.

**2. The fruit of the Spirit in their lives.** **Galatians 5:22-25** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* <sup>23</sup> *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* <sup>24</sup> *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* <sup>25</sup> *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance which is self-control is available to us all. Galatians gives us the key; walk in the Spirit. The believers at Colossae are being commended for being receptive to the gospel which resulted in faith, love, and hope. Once they understood what God had made available to them they yielded their will to Him and allowed God to produce fruit in them and through them. That same God that changed their hearts can change ours.

**IV. There is a need to focus on family. (7-8)** <sup>7</sup> *As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;* <sup>8</sup> *Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.* **Dr. Pedrone writes:** *Not only was the pastor faithful, but so were the people. There are institutions ordained by God that draws us together. There is the institution of the home and the family, which is really a special place. There is the church, which should be enjoyed by the entire family together. Don't send your children to church take them with you. If you get involved in a solid local church, you will make some of the greatest friends. We need each other but most of all we need Him.*