

July 26, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing

Colossians: Christ: Our Lord, Our Life, Our Love

Part 2: Jesus Christ is Lord

Today we continue our series in the Book of Colossians. Paul writes Colossians, probably around 60-62 AD. While he was under house arrest in Rome. Colossians is labeled one of Paul's 'Prison Epistles', along with Philemon, Ephesians and Philippians. Colossians is described as a spiritual "chart and compass," reminding believers that Christ alone is our true North—our Supreme Lord and sufficient Savior.

Below is an overview chart by Dr. Charles Swindoll.

COLOSSIANS

	Christ Is Our Lord		... Our Life	... Our Love
	<u>Lord of creation</u>	<u>Lord of our walk</u>	<u>Our mind</u>	<u>Love for "outsiders"</u>
	<u>Lord of the church</u>	<u>Lord of our salvation</u>	<u>Our body</u>	<u>Love for believers</u>
	<u>Lord of ministry</u>	<u>Lord of our growth</u>	<u>Our attitude</u>	
			<u>Our actions</u>	
	CHAPTER 1	CHAPTER 2	CHAPTER 3	CHAPTER 4
Subject	Instruction	Warnings	Exhortations	Reminders
Christ	His person and work		His peace and presence	
Emphasis	Doctrinal and corrective		Practical and reassuring	
Theme	Christ is our supreme Lord and sufficient Savior.			
Key Verses	2:9–10			
Christ in Colossians	Jesus is the supreme Lord of the church and the world, the all-sufficient Savior in whom the fullness of Deity dwells (1:13–20; 2:9).			

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Colossians 1:13-23... ¹³ For God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, ¹⁴ Who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. ¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶ for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together. ¹⁸ Christ is also the Head of the Church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, He is first in everything. ¹⁹ For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through Christ 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. ²³ But 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. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Sermon: Christ—Our Supreme Lord

Introduction

In our culture, we often talk about things being "prominent." A building might be prominent on a skyline; a person might be prominent in a community. But Warren Wiersbe reminds us that the false teachers in Colossae didn't necessarily deny Jesus' *importance*—they just wanted to give Him *prominence* without giving Him *preeminence*. They saw Jesus as one of many "emanations" from God—just one rung on a ladder. But Paul writes this letter to show that Jesus isn't just a prominent figure in history; He is the **Supreme Lord**. He is not just one of many; He is first in everything. Today, as we look at Colossians 1:13–23, we are going to see why Jesus Christ deserves the place of preeminence in our lives, our church, and our world. Prominence means Jesus is important among many, but preeminence means Jesus is supreme over all—He alone holds first place in everything.

I. Christ: Lord and Savior (vv. 13–14)

Paul begins by grounding our faith in the "Good News Story" of what God has already done.

“For God has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.”

Wiersbe points out four specific saving actions here:

1. **He Rescued Us:** The word means to deliver from danger. We were trapped in the "domain of darkness," under the authority of Satan. We couldn't rescue ourselves.
2. **He Transferred Us:** This is a powerful image of "deportation." In the ancient world, a conqueror would move a whole population to a new land. God didn't just set us free to wander; He moved us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son.
3. **He Purchased Our Freedom:** This is redemption. It means to release a prisoner by paying a ransom. Jesus didn't pay Satan; He met the holy demands of God's law on our behalf.
4. **He Forgave Our Sins:** Wiersbe notes that this word means "to send away" or "to cancel a debt."

Application: If Jesus is your Savior, He is also your Lord. He didn't just save you *from* something; He saved you *for* Himself. Is there any area of your life still acting like it belongs to the "kingdom of darkness," or are you living as a citizen of the Kingdom of Light?

II. Christ: Lord and Creator (vv. 15–17)

Paul then widens the lens from our personal salvation to the entire universe.

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, ¹⁶for through Him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth... He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together.

Wiersbe explains that "Firstborn" (v. 15) doesn't mean Jesus was the first *created* being. It refers to **rank and status**. He is the "Firstborn" because He is the Creator of all things.

Wiersbe shares a story of a guide in an atomic laboratory explaining that matter is made of rapidly moving particles. A visitor asked, "What holds it all together?" The guide had no answer. But the Christian does: **Jesus Christ**.

The Three Causes of Creation:

- **Primary Cause:** He planned it ("through Him").
- **Instrumental Cause:** He produced it ("by Him").
- **Final Cause:** He did it for His own pleasure ("for Him").

Application: If Jesus holds the stars in place and keeps the atoms from flying apart, can He not hold your life together? When we feel like our world is falling apart, we must remember that the One who created the universe is the One who sustains it.

III. Christ: Lord of the Church (v. 18)

Now Paul brings the focus to the local assembly—the "Church Alive and Growing."

"Christ is also the Head of the Church, which is His body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So, He is first in everything."

Warren Wiersbe emphasizes that "Head" means both **Source** and **Leader**.

- **The Source:** The church was born in Him and finds its life in Him.
- **The Leader:** No human leader is the head of the church. That position is reserved exclusively for Jesus.

He is the "Firstborn from the dead." While others were raised before Him (like Lazarus), they died again. Jesus rose to never die again, making the tomb a "womb" from which He came forth in victory.

Application: In our church, do we give Jesus prominence or preeminence? Do we seek His will as the Head, or do we try to run the body according to our own plans? A church is only "alive and growing" when it is perfectly submitted to its Head.

IV. Christ: Lord of Reconciliation and Sanctification (vv. 19–23)

¹⁹ For God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ, ²⁰ and through Christ 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. ²³ But 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. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

Paul now lifts our eyes to the breathtaking scope of Christ's work:

The Fullness of Christ: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ, and through Him, to reconcile everything to Himself. This reconciliation is not partial or temporary—it is perfect, complete, and final. The peace Christ made was not through His example or His teaching, but by the blood of His cross.

Wiersbe reminds us that the false teachers in Colossae offered a kind of reconciliation, but it was always incomplete, always requiring something more. In contrast, the reconciliation we have in Jesus is total: He has canceled our sin, removed every barrier, and brought us near to God.

But Paul doesn't stop at reconciliation—he moves to sanctification.

From Reconciliation to Sanctification:

- Paul reminds the Colossians they were once alienated, hostile in mind, and separated from God by their actions.
- Now, through Christ's physical body and sacrificial death, believers are brought into God's presence.

The result:

- We are presented to God as holy (set apart), unblameable (without blemish), and unproveable (free from accusation).
- This is not just a legal standing, but a call to personal holiness—God reconciled us so we could share in His life and holiness, not continue in rebellion.

Paul's Charge to the Church:

- Continue in this truth—stand firm in the assurance of the gospel.
- Don't drift away from the hope you have received.
- The Good News is for the whole world—a message of reconciliation and sanctification for all who believe.

Application:

Let's live each day anchored in the assurance that Christ has fully reconciled us to God and called us to walk in the holiness He has already secured for us—standing firm in the gospel and refusing to drift from its truth.

Conclusion & Invitation

Jesus Christ is the Savior who rescued us, the Creator who sustains us, the Head who leads us, and the Lord who reconciles us. Jesus Christ is not just prominent—He is preeminent. He is our Savior, our Creator, the Head of the church, and the Lord of all. If you have never trusted Him, today is the day to step out of darkness and into His kingdom. For those who believe, let's give Him first place in every area of our lives. Let's be a church alive and growing, rooted in the supremacy of Christ. Warren Wiersbe

makes this statement: "*If Jesus Christ is not Lord of all, He cannot be Lord at all.*" Is He preeminent in your life today?

The Call:

- **To the Unbeliever:** Come out of the darkness and into the Kingdom of the Son. Your debt can be canceled today.
- **To the Believer:** Stop trying to add "something more" to your faith. You are "filled full" and complete in Him. Stand firm on the foundation of the Good News.