

Aug 9, 2026

God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
Colossians: Christ - Our Lord, Our Life, Our Love
Part 4: Life in Christ: Lived by Faith

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 as 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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Note: Outline adapted from R. Scott Pace. Christ-Centered Commentary. Holman Pub.

OUTLINE

Title: Life in Christ: Lived by Faith

Scripture: Colossians 2:16–3:17

1. Our Faith in Christ Releases from the Law

- Free from the Pursuit of Recognition (16,18)
- Free from the Bondage of Religion (16-19)
- Free from the Chains of Regulations (20-23)

2. Our Faith in Christ Raises us to New Life

- Jesus Redirects Life's Pursuits (3:1)
- Jesus Reshapes Life's Perspective (3:2)
- Jesus Redefines Life's Purpose (3:3,4)
- Jesus Renews Life's Purity (3:5-12)
- Jesus Restores Life's Peace (3:13-15)

3. Our Faith in Christ Redirects Our Ministry

- Jesus Refocusses Life's Proclamation (16a)
- Jesus Reignites Life's Praises (16b)
- Jesus Reframes Life's Practice (17)

The Christian life is not about keeping up appearances, following endless rules, or chasing after recognition. It's about living by faith in Christ—receiving His freedom, walking in His new life, and serving with His purpose. Paul's message to the Colossians is as urgent for us today as it was then: Don't let anything or anyone dethrone Christ from the center of your life. Let's discover what it means to truly live in Christ—by faith.

1. Our Faith in Christ Releases Us from the Law
Colossians 2:16–23... ¹⁶ *So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.* ¹⁷ *For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.* ¹⁸ *Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,* ¹⁹ *and they are not connected to Christ, the Head of the body. For He holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it.* ²⁰ *You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as,* ²¹ *“Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!”?* ²² *Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them.* ²³ *These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires. (NLT)*

a. We are free from the pursuit of recognition (vv. 16, 18)

No longer do we need to seek spiritual status or approval from others. Paul warns against those who “delight in false humility and the worship of angels,” who go on in detail about what they have seen (18).

Scripture: Galatians 1:10 – “*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?*”

b. We are free from the bondage of religion (vv. 16–19)

Paul exposes the emptiness of religious rituals that promise fullness but deliver bondage. “Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head...” (v. 18–19).

Scripture: Romans 8:1–2 – “*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.*”

c. We are free from the chains of regulations (vv. 20–23)

Paul says, “Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules...?” (v. 20). Rules may look wise, but “they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence” (v. 23).

FaithLife Application Take-Away:

Live free in Christ. Don't let others' opinions, empty rituals, or man-made rules define your faith. Christ alone is your approval, your righteousness, and your freedom.

2. Our Faith in Christ Raises Us to New Life

Colossians 3:1–15...¹ *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.* ² *Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.* ³ *For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.* ⁴ *And when Christ, Who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.* ⁵ *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.* ⁶ *Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.* ⁷ *You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.* ⁸ *But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.* ⁹ *Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.* ¹⁰ *Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him.* ¹¹ *In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.* ¹² *Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.* ¹³ *Make*

allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ *Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.* ¹⁵ *And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful*

a. Jesus Redirects Life's Pursuits (3:1)

Our ambitions are no longer earthly, but heavenly.

Scripture: Matthew 6:33 – “*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness...*”

b. Jesus Reshapes Life's Perspective (3:2)

“Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.” (3:2)

Scripture: Romans 12:2 – “*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.*”

c. Jesus Redefines Life's Purpose (3:3–4)

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

Scripture: Philippians 1:21 – “*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*”

d. Jesus Renews Life's Purity (3:5–12)

Paul calls us to “put to death” the old self and “put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.”

⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:17 – *“If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

e. Jesus Restores Life's Peace (3:13–15)

“Bear with each other and forgive one another... And over all these virtues put on love... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”

Scripture: Ephesians 4:32 – *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”*

FaithLife Application Take-Away:

Live new in Christ. Let Him shape your ambitions, your mindset, your purpose, your purity, and your relationships. The resurrection life is not just a future hope—it's a present reality.

3. Our Faith in Christ Redirects Our Ministry

Colossians 3:16–17... *¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

a. Jesus Refocuses Life's Proclamation (3:16a)

We are called to let Christ's word fill our lives and to teach and encourage one another.

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:2 – *“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season...”*

b. Jesus Reignites Life's Praises (3:16b)

Worship becomes the overflow of a grateful heart—singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

Scripture: Psalm 100:2 – *“Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.”*

c. Jesus Reframes Life's Practice (3:17)

“Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:31 – *“So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”*

FaithLife Application Take-Away:

Live purposefully in Christ. Let His word shape your ministry, let gratitude fuel your worship, and let every action reflect His name.

Summary Takeaway

The message of Colossians is clear: Life in Christ is not about chasing approval, keeping up with religious rituals, or being weighed down by rules. It's about living by faith in the One who has already set us free. Jesus canceled our sin on the cross—He is our “re-cancellation,” our rescue, our Redeemer. Because of Him, we are released from the law, raised to new life, and redirected for a purpose greater than ourselves. Our faith in Christ means we no longer live for recognition, for empty religion, or for the chains of regulations. We live for Jesus, who is our life.

So, as you go this week, let your faith in Christ shape every pursuit, every perspective, every purpose. Let Him renew your purity, restore your peace, and refocus your ministry. Whatever you do—whether in word or deed—do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Church, crown Him Lord of all, and live every day by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you.

Life in Christ is lived by faith—freed from the law, raised to new life, and redirected for ministry. When Christ is preeminent, faith is not just a belief but a way of living:

- **Free from bondage,**
- **Alive with purpose,**
- **Active in ministry.**

Let's crown Him Lord of all and live each day by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us. That is the life in Christ—lived by faith.

Invitation/Response:

Life in Christ, lived by faith, means we are set free from empty religion, raised to a new and holy life, and redirected to serve and represent Jesus with every word and deed—because He alone is preeminent and sufficient for all we need. So, Christian, let Christ have first place in every area of your life—crown Him Lord of all. And if you have never trusted Jesus as your Savior, today is the day to receive His forgiveness, freedom, and new life—come to Him by faith and let Him be Lord of your life.

Colossians 2:16–3:17...¹⁶ So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. ¹⁸ Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, ¹⁹ and they are not connected to Christ, the Head of the body. For He holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. ²⁰ You have died with Christ, and He has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, ²¹ "Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!"? ²² Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. ²³ These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires. **Chapter 3-** ¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. ² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. ³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ And when Christ, Who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. ⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual

immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. ⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. ⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. ⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. ⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. ¹⁰ Put on your new nature and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. ¹¹ In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us. ¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. ¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.