

THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 5: An Advisory Threat Alert

Colossians 2:1–7

- I. **Engaging in a spiritual battle:** The apostle wanted his readers to realize that he was engaged in a great battle for the believers in the Lycus Valley (*Colossians 2:1*).
- II. **Cultivating a support base:** Paul wanted to prepare his readers to withstand spiritual assaults by cultivating a community based on mutual devotion and a pursuit of Jesus Christ as the source of all wisdom (*Colossians 2:2–3*).
 - A. A community of like-minded believers provides strength for each individual in the group (*Colossians 2:2a*).
 - B. The first of the two foundational components of such a community is a mutual commitment to each other's well being (*Colossians 2:2b*).
 - C. The second of the two foundational components of such a community is a shared pursuit of Jesus Christ as the source of all wisdom (*Colossians 2:2c–3*).
- III. **Being on high alert:** The apostle warned his readers not to be deceived by verbal wizardry, which has the potential to erode unity and stability in Jesus Christ (*cp. 1 Corinthians 2:4–5*) (*Colossians 2:4–5*).
 - A. Paul warned his readers not to be taken in by the forceful arguments of those who reject the preeminence of Jesus Christ (*Colossians 2:4*).
 - B. He assured his readers that his physical absence did not invalidate his commitment to stand with them in their faith in the preeminent Christ (*Colossians 2:5*).
- IV. **Maintaining the proper course:** The simplicity of believing in Jesus Christ for eternal life determines the course for our continuing growth as His disciples (*Colossians 2:6–7*).
 - A. His readership's reception of eternal life was based on the centrality of Jesus Christ and His unique provisions (*Colossians 2:6a*).
 - B. They were to continue to live with that same focus on His preeminence as they matured as His disciples (*Colossians 2:6b–7*).