

# Meeting Christ in Colossians

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C. Elijah Bronner: Our lives are hid in Christ Jesus. So, when God sees you, he literally sees Christ.

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Female: And now for 7790, Meeting Christ in Colossians Part 1.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the word.

Well we welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you who are joining us online at brothersoftheword.com or Facebook Live. Thank you for tuning in to today's service, always delighted to have you to join us.

Well we'd like to share just a little humor. A teacher was giving little Johnny a grammar lesson and she said, "Now, little Johnny you must not say 'I ain't going' you should say 'he is not going, they are not going, we are not going.'" Little Johnny replied, he said, "Wow, ain't nobody going."

We've been sharing some of the Epistles of Paul, we showed the series entitled Meditating on God's Word and I started outlining certain Epistles in the New Testament and I want to just begin sort of teaching through certain Epistles throughout the New Testament as I've been going through and pulling out the nuggets and the principles from them, things that belong to us and Christ Jesus and our role in the Gospel, and so just pulling out whatever the Holy Spirit highlights to me out of each of the Epistles.

And so, today I want to begin looking at the Epistles of Colossians, and if you can open your bibles to Colossians and you can just sort of follow along as we highlight certain verses in this book. Colossians is only about four chapters, so very short book. This book was actually written while Paul was in prison. Most scholars believed that Paul was actually in prison in Rome and he wrote this book to the Church at Colossae. Many scholars believed that Paul had not been to Colossae up to this point, he had not been there.

He actually had done ministry in Ephesus and Colossae was a little town, that's about 110 miles from Ephesus. And so, Paul had done ministry in Ephesus and so, someone from Ephesus was from Colossae and so they carried the Gospel back to Colossae, started a church there and that's how the church was born. And so, the church was born in Colossae out of ministry that Paul did in Ephesus and that's where we get this church at Colossae.

So, Paul was riding into this little small church in Colossae. They are new believers and they've gotten into error(ph) in the Gospel. So, they have gotten over into some things that are not accurate and so, Paul writes to them to sort of put them back into correct doctrine. Put them back into the truth of the Gospel. And so, they had gotten off into certain things. They were kind of preaching that Jesus wasn't really God and that he was simply a prophet.

So, they had sorted downplayed the role of Jesus and that he was just a man in all of these things and so Paul was writing them to let them know that, "You all are mistaken. Jesus is the son of the living God and he's God himself incarnate and he is the Lord, advocate, General of the church. He is the commander-in-chief that all things were made by him and without him was nothing made. All things were made by him and for him. He is before all things."

And so, Paul just goes through this, just great, great composition, letting them know that no, Jesus is the preeminent one. He is the preeminent one and it is through him that we have life and our life springs out of here. So, in this book of Colossians, he opens up in verse four, talking about their faith in Christ and their love to all the saints. So, repeat after me, "I have faith in Christ and I love people." Now, that's what I gleamed from that, our faith is in Christ and we love people. Faith expresses itself by love. Faith expresses itself by love.

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So, our faith in Christ is expressed by the love that we have for people, how we treat one another that shows where our relationship is with Christ Jesus. So, faith is expressed by love. Say that with me, "Faith is expressed by love."

You can flip over and take a look at this one. You can see how love is expression of our faith in Colossians Chapter 3, flip over to Colossians Chapter 3 and you look at verse 12 and 13. You see, it says here, “Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.”

So, notice, it's saying, “Be merciful, be kind, be humble, humble yourselves, get along with one another.” You got to put up with some things, but get along, let the spirit of love govern your relationships and so notice that faith is always expressed by love and our relationship with Christ is shown by how we treat one another.

So, our confession is that our faith is in Christ and we love people. Say that with me again. My faith is in Christ and I love people. Turn to your neighbor and just smile. That's who you are. That's who you are. That's who you are. Your faith is in Christ and you love people. Your faith is in Christ and you love people. Praise God. Praise God.

Now, let's look at some other important nuggets here in the Book of Colossians. I picked up in Colossians. This is Chapter 1, still in Chapter 1, but in verse six and in verse 10, it talks about God's word bearing fruit in our lives and we are to be fruitful in every good work. So, here is our confession from that. Repeat after me, “God's word is fruitful in my life and I am fruitful in every good work.”

Now, the bible calls God's word as seed, S-E-E-D, and when God's seed is planted in our lives, it produces a harvest. So, it produces good things, it produces after his own kind. And so, when the seed of God's word takes root in our lives and we nurture it and we put it in good soil. You remember Jesus gave the parable of how the source souls the word, the word is the seed, the seed is the word of God, the source souls the word and it falls on various types of ground, but when it hits good ground, it produces a harvest. It produces good fruit and so this is letting us know that God's word is fruitful, God's word is to bear fruit in our lives. It produces good things in our lives. So, it produces Christ-likeness, produces the character of God. It produces godliness; it helps us with our patients and our joy and all of these things.

So, God's word is producing good things. It produces humility. We become humble. We become serviceable. We become kind. We become gracious. All of these are the offshoots or the produce of God's word producing in our lives. So, God's word is fruitful in our lives and we are also fruitful in every good work. So, once God's word takes root in our lives and it begins to produce good fruit, it changes us first. Notice that, it changes us first and then, as the word is changing us and producing good things in us, then we go about and do good things out in the world, out in life. We do good things.

So, it first produces in us and then we go out and we further produce. So, that's the word, still producing in our lives and then we go out and we start producing. We start doing good things in life. We start making a difference in the lives of others. We start making an impact in the world for God's kingdom, for good. We become agents of change and agents of good. We become people who add value to other people. We become companionate and merciful and so, we're spreading love and goodness and all of these things out in the world because we're bearing fruit.

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We're fruitful in good work because the word has become fruitful in us first. So, first, becomes fruitful in our lives and then we go out and we are fruitful in every good work.

I was reading a book recently entitled, "Is Your Bucket Full?" Is your bucket full? And what that book is about is basically saying that everybody is a bucket. Your life is basically a bucket and everybody has a deeper spoon to dip in that bucket. And so, basically what it's saying, every encounter you have with every human being, you're either putting something good in that bucket with your spoon or you're pulling something out of that bucket.

So, you're either increasing that bucket or you're decreasing that bucket. Everybody you encounter, no matter how small or how brief, it is significant and so, the book is basically saying, "Everybody you encounter everyday, you either add to their bucket or you diminish their bucket" and is your bucket full? And it goes on the premise to say that when you add something good to someone, you're filling up their personal bucket, but also, it fills up your bucket because when you do good to others, it's also

adding to your own bucket. You become more fulfilled, you become happier and so, it also adds to your bucket. It changes your emotional state.

So, when you do good to others, you're not only blessing others filling their bucket, but you're filling your own bucket. And so, that's why the book is called, "Is Your Bucket Full?" Is your bucket full? Turn to your neighbor say, "Is your bucket full? Is your bucket full?"

It's about bearing good fruit. It's about being fruitful in every good work, blessing people, making the world better, adding value to people, being a blessing, just being an extension of God out in world. Everybody we encounter, you have the opportunity to say something kind, to even smile at them. Even smiling at them is a gesture that adds to their life, just a smile or a compliment. Anything, a gift, opening the door for someone or letting somebody over in traffic or letting somebody go in front of you in line in the grocery store.

All of those smile gestures, you're actually adding to someone's bucket. You're filling their bucket. So, is your bucket full? Is your bucket full? But this is a part of being fruitful in every good work. Being fruitful in every good work. If you have the video I brought, you can roll it. I brought a little five-minute video just showing how you can impact a person's life.

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C. Elijah Bronner: Praise God, that's an example of making a difference, making a deposit into someone's bucket. And every act of kindness that you do will come back to you. It will come back to you. It will come back to you. And so, God's word is fruitful in our lives and we are fruitful in every good work, praise God. And here's the next principle I wanted to pull out. This is Colossians Chapter 1 verse nine, it talks about us being filled with the knowledge of his will, being filled with the knowledge of his will, is God's will for you to know his will. It's God's will for you to know his will.

His word is his will; God's word is his will. Say this with me, "I'm being filled with a knowledge of his will" and it's God's will for us know his will. His word is his will, in fact further in the Book of Colossians, he actually prays for us to be made perfect and complete and all the will of God that we would be perfect and

complete in all the will of God. And Romans 12:2 says, “Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of God.”

And so, his word is his will, but God also leads us into his will and he will lead you by an unction(ph). He'll direct you by his spirit. He can speak to you by his voice. He can order your steps and so, God is always leading us in his will. So, his word is his will. So, there are things we know from God's word, that's his will. That is his will. The word tells us that, it's his will for you to give thanks and everything, that's the will of God concerning you and Christ Jesus. That is his will, so, God's word reveals his will. So, from his word, I know what his will is and then his spirit leads us also into his will.

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His spirit leads us into his will. And it can be an unction, it can just be something you feel or leading you feel, a nudging. It can be annoying, that can be, sometimes you know, you just know something all of a sudden, we'll that's God leading you into his will. So, he's always leading you. So he's filling us to the knowledge of his will. I remember my mother says, she woke up one day with a knowing that she needed to begin walking. She said she just woke up with a knowing that she needed to begin walking. But what was that? That was the spirit of God leading her into his will, it's God's will for you to exercise, in other words. That's God's will for you to exercise that is God's will, because it's God's will for you to exercise.

Well, the bible lets us know that exercise, profit is little, but we need that little profit. And what the bible is actually saying, the Bible is actually saying, “In light of all eternity, the little exercise and you do for 70, 80 years is little compared to all eternity.” It's a drop in the bucket. So, that's really, what it's saying, it's literally saying, “Bodily exercise profited for a little time, but it is profitable.” And then it goes on to say, “Exercise thy self, rather unto godliness.” Working out spiritual things in your life as well.

Well, one reason, the bible didn't really have to teach a whole a lot on exercise, because back in the bible days, they walked everywhere they wanted. All of their chores were manual. They didn't have dishwashers and washing machines. They did all of

that manually and so they were exercising. Even back in the creation, there were certain things built in creation in the atmosphere, there were certain atmospheric pressures, that when Adam walked, it was like getting a workout because of the pressure coming against his body. Someone that was destroyed after the flood, but back in the original creation that God built, exercise was already built into just living because they were working in outdoors and walking and so, they were constantly exercising. But exercise is the will of God.

How do I know that's the will of God? Because God wants you healthy and he wants you strong, that's God's will. God's will is for you to be healthy and his will is for you to be strong, for you to be active and vibrant and you know, you're not going to be that way fully without exercise. So, exercising is God's will. Turn to your neighbor say, "Exercise is God's will." That's God's will. So, when you go to Ringo's class, you're in the will of God. You're in the will of God when you exercise, that is the will of God. That is the will of God, God wants you strong and he wants you vibrant. He wants you youthful and he wants you energetic. And so, exercise is God's will. And so, we are being filled, say this again, "I'm being filled with the knowledge of his will." Praise God, we're being filled with the knowledge of his will.

We'll I'm going to stop right there. I just wanted to give you an introduction into the Book of Colossians. We'll pick up and continue next time, but Colossians is a powerful little book, it's a powerful little book. It's very close to the Book of Ephesians in terms of its content, but there are some things contained in Colossians that found nowhere else in the bible and there's some things that's said in Colossians that said nowhere else in the bible, so it's unique in its own right, but it is very close in kinship to Ephesians.

Colossians and Ephesians, they have a lot of the same content, but at the same time, there are some things that are said in Colossians that are unique to the Book of Colossians, praise God. Let me give you a couple more of confessions since we are done. This is from the Book of Colossians, say this with me, "He has delivered me from the authority of darkness and translated me into the kingdom of his dear son." Praise God, praise God. Well, we find that out in the Book of Colossians. Here's one, last one, I'll leave with you.

This is Colossians 1:22, say this with me, “I am presented holy, unblamable, and unprovable in his sight.” Well, that happens to us because we’re in Christ Jesus. And so God, sees us now in Christ Jesus and we’re presented holy, unblamable, and unprovable in his sight because our lives are hid in Christ Jesus. So, when God sees you, he literally sees Christ. Isn’t that good? Man, that’s good. God sees Christ when he sees you and we’re presented holy, unprovable, and unblamable in his sight, praise God.

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Give the Lord a handful of his love. Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. Praise God, praise God. Those of you watching us via television, I want you to go to [brothersoftheword.com](http://brothersoftheword.com) and you can listen to this message series in its entirety, absolutely free of charge. You can also email it to a friend. Thank you so much for joining us today at Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word. Amen, amen, amen, amen.

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