

# Meeting Christ in Colossians

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C. Elijah Bronner: God strengthens us so that we can continue to do good work in the earth.

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(Music Playing)

And now for 7791, Meeting Christ in Colossians Part 2.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because brother you need the word. We welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com, Facebook Live. Thank you for tuning in and being with us today, always a wonderful delight joy to have you to join us.

Well, I would like to share just a little humor. A husband and wife were driving through Texas, and as they approached Nacogdoches they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town. They argue back and forth then they stopped for lunch. At the counter, the husband asked the cashier, he said, "Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?" She leaned over the counter and said, "Burger King."

For the last few weeks, we've been sharing different epistles and a teaching through different New Testament books, different epistles and we have shared some from First John, we have shared from Hebrews, we have shared from Philippians, and now we're studying the Book of Colossians. This is part two entitled, "Meeting Christ in Colossians."

And remember Colossians is a small book, only four chapters and is very similar in nature to the Book of Ephesians. And Paul wrote this book while he was in prison in Rome and he actually had never been to the City of Colossi up until this point. And so, he had held meetings in outreaches in the City of Ephesus and so Colossi was a small town probably about 110 miles away from the City of Ephesus where he held meetings.

So, someone who was in one of his meetings in Ephesus, they went back home to Colossi and they started a church. And so, this is

where we get this church in Colossi and this is where all his writing to the church in Colossi. And so, many scholars believe that Aphroditis or Epaphras was the one who started the church in Colossi.

And so, the entire Book of Colossians sinners around the preeminence of Christ that had a reason some false teaching in this church. And so, Paul was writing to bring some corrections, some balance to bring truth back to this church. And so, the essence of the book deals with the preeminence of Christ, that Christ is preeminent in creation, Christ is preeminent in redemption, Christ is preeminent in the church. Those are the three primary areas that he dealt with. His preeminence in creation that all things were created by Him or Him and without Him, it was nothing made that was made that He is before all things and by Him, all things consist.

And in redemption, He is the preeminent one, it is by Him that we have been reconcile to God, we've been restored the favor with God because of what Christ Jesus did for us. So, He's preeminent in our redemption and then He is preeminent in the church. He is the Lord of the church. He is the Lord evocate general chief of the body of Christ.

And so, He is God as what Paul was really stressing to this church at Colossi that never forget that Jesus is God. God is so awesome because God revealed himself. God is not a God who is not well-defined or He is not mystical, He is not foggy, He is not hidden, He's not distant, He is not unknown.

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No God revealed himself in the person of Christ Jesus so that the world can know God. And that's why Jesus came so the world can know God.

And so, there are other Gods that are very mystical and they're unknown. You don't know anything about them, but not our God, not God creator of heaven and earth. He made Himself known by coming and appearing as Christ Jesus. So, He was God, He walked among us so that we can see Him, so that we can know Him, so that we can know exactly what He is like. And so, when you see Jesus, you have seen God.

So, we know exactly what God is like by looking at Jesus. And oh man, after you look at Jesus you realized what a wonderful God we have. Praise God. Praise God. Praise God. God is so wonderful. Somebody said that, "If God of all the universe is like the man that died on that cross, He can have my heart without reservation." Well, that's exactly who God is. He is the one that died on the cross.

And so, Jesus, He came so that man could touch Him, handle Him, know Him. He revealed Himself clearly so that God could be known. And so, this is what Colossians brings out that Jesus is the express image of God. He is God Himself.

Well, we start sharing some things in Colossians and if you have your Bibles, open up. We'll read a set of scriptures, Chapter 1 beginning with Verse 9. We'll read down maybe five or six verses down to Verse 15, Colossians Chapter 1 beginning with Verse 9. And it reads there, it says, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins."

Verse 15, "Who is the image of the invisible God?" What we just talked about earlier, He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature, preeminent in creation, in redemption and in the church. And so, this is first the chapter of Colossians.

We left off last time and I'm kind of skipping around so I'm not really teaching through Colossians and/or to some kind of skipping around. But we left off last time, first Chapter, Verse 10 who says that this collection of scripture, it was actually a prayer that the Apostle Paul prayed for the church and this is one of the great prayers he prayed, two great prayers in Ephesians. And then, this is the third great prayer that he prayed in Colossians

Chapter 1. So, those verses we read there were part of the prayer that Paul prayed for us in the church.

And then, in Verse 10, he prayed that we would walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. Say this with me, "I walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing." Now, this is really a tall order. This is a tall order to walk worthy unto the Lord and unto all pleasing. This is saying that we desire to please God with our actions, we desire to please God with our thoughts, we desire to please God with our words, we desire to please God with the intent of our heart. So, that's a very tall order to walk worthy unto God unto all pleasing. To please God and everything is a tall order.

Well, I don't think it is possible for us to do it without His help. I believe we need His help. Anybody else agree with me? We need His help to walk worthy on him unto all pleasing. And you know, he helps us and so we can only do this through Christ, we can only do this through the Holy Spirit and we can only do this through God's word working in us.

In fact, Philippians puts it this way. Philippians Chapter 2, Verse 13 says, "God worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

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"God works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." So, notice that the things that please Him is good pleasure. God puts the will in you to want to please Him and He gives you the ability to do those things that please Him. He puts the will in you and He gives you the ability to do. So, that's why I know that that's not something we can really do in and of ourselves. It has to be the Holy Spirit helping us. It has to be Christ Jesus Himself helping us.

In fact, if you think about it living holy and living righteous, all of it is allowing Christ to live through you. Christ is holy, Christ is righteous and He lives on the inside of us and so all we are doing is allowing Him to live out of us. He's the one that's holy. He's the one that's righteous. And so, Christ is in us and so we simply allow Him who is holy, He who is righteous, we allow Him live out of us. And so, He furnishes us, we are made righteous and He is righteous and then we simply let His righteousness live out through our lives. I don't believe it's possible without Him.

So, we need Him. We need the Holy Spirit and we need Christ Jesus and we need God's word.

So, notice this. We walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing. And say that again that with me. "I walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing." Now, this walk that's called worthy is characterized by four things, four things happened as a result of this walk, the scripture teaches us. Number one, it pleases the Lord. Number two, we are fruitful in good works. He prayed for us and we will walk worthy on all pleasing being fruitful in every good work. So, that means we should be doing as much good work as possible.

Now, keep in mind, we aren't saved by works but we are saved for works. You are saved to do good. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You are saved to do good." And so, we got to be fruitful in good works. John Wesley, he said this, he said, "Do all the good you can by all the means you can, and all the ways you can, and all the places you can, and all the times you can, to all the people you can as long as you ever can." So, we are put here to be fruitful in good works. So, we're supposed to be doing good works wherever we can, by all means we can do, to whoever we can, in all the places we can, and all the times we can. So, that's one of our chief aims in life, is to be pleasing unto the Lord and to be fruitful in good work.

Number three, the third characteristic of this worthy walk is that we grow in the knowledge of God. All pray that that we would walk worthy on all pleasing being fruitful in every good work increasing in the knowledge of God. So, we increase in the knowledge of God through times spent with Him, through the study of His word, we get to know Him.

And then the fourth characteristic of this worthy walk, we are strengthened by God's -- how? He prayed that we would be strengthened with all might. Everybody say, "All might."

Now, all might in the Greek, it actually means strength or might that is derived from another. So, this is not your strength, it's not your might, this is strength that comes from God. So, He prayed that we would be strengthened with might that is derived from God, God's strength. So, God strengthens us that were He strengthens us, it also means to enable, it means to make strong, it means supernatural power. Remember, it is might that is derived from another. So, this is literally God's strength, so it

means to enable, to make strong, it means supernatural power, it means to be mighty, it means to be powerful and it means to reign.

So, He prayed that we would be strengthened with all might. Now, for the means that we're to be strengthened with all the might that we need at that time. You'd be strengthened with all the might that you need.

Now, there are three primary reasons that we get the strength. We get the strength, number one, for every good work. So, God strengthens us so that we can continue to do good work in the earth. So, the power of God comes on our lives, it enables us, it's really the power of God. Honestly, it's the grace of God. Grace is God's enabling power that comes on your life to do something that you couldn't normally do. And so, that's the grace of God, that's the power of God. So, God strengthens us so that we could do good work. So, He strengthens us for every good work.

Number two, He strengthens us so that we can stand against temptation.

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So, God's strength comes on us to be able to resist temptation, to resist the evil one we always tempted in life, you always tempted with different things. And so, God's power is available to us, so we have the strength to resist temptation. In some temptation, you don't resist some, you're in from. So, you have to know the -- you have to know when you need to run and when you need to stand and try to be so strong. So, sometimes you don't need just try to be strong, you need to run. Tell your name and said, "Run Foris(ph), run."

And number three, God strengthens us so that we have the ability to endure, the ability to last, the ability to endure, the ability to last. So, His strength comes on us so that we won't quit when things are tough. Life gets tough. There are some hard places in life. There are difficult times in life. And so, God's strength comes on us so that we will have lasting power so we won't cave in, we won't give up, we won't quit. So, God's strength helps us during difficult seasons, difficult times because life has some hard times. Life has very difficult seasons in it. And so, the strength of God strengthens us during difficult times so we won't quit, so we won't cave in and give up and be in despair and so forth. So, that's the

power of God. It comes on us to strengthen us so that we will endure, so we have power to endure, and not only to merely endure but to be joyful in all circumstances.

So, that's God's power. God gives us lasting power to go through any challenge, any circumstance and to have joy as we go through it. Joy so that we will be strengthened with might unto all patients with joyfulness. So, that's the power of God. He strengthens our lives so that we can endure with joy. So, those are the three things that God's strength does for us. It strengthens, number one, for every good work. Number two, to resist temptation, and number three, to endure tough times, to endure difficult times, to endure challenges and to endure those challenges with joy.

Now, flip over to Chapter 2 in Colossians Verse 6. The writer says something very interesting here. Chapter 2 Verse 6 in Colossians, he says, "As ye have received Christ, so walk ye in him." Just as you have received Christ, so walk ye in Him. Now, when you receive Christ, that was a one-time event. And so, when you receive Christ, this one-time event, he says, "Now, just as you received Him, now walk in Him." So, now you make it -- you change it from a one-time event to a continuing thing just as you exercise your faith to receive Christ one time, you now exercise your faith to trust Christ every day. You walk in Him. So, you walk in Him, trusting Him, saying where you believed on Him to be your savior. So, you believed on Him to be your savior.

One translation says, "Now, trust Him for everyday problems." You can trust Him for each day's problem just as you trusted Him to become your savior. So, that's walking in Him. So, walking in Him is a daily thing. That means that we can talk to Him, we can listen to Him, we can spend time with Him, we can trust Him, we can ask for wisdom. We can ask for His wisdom in Him. Colossians 2:3 tells us this, "In Him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." So, we can ask Him for wisdom, we can ask Him to lead us, we can ask Him to live big in us, to live through us.

Let Christ live big in you every day. That's walking in Him. Just as you received Him, also walk in Him. Let Christ live big in you every day. So, Jesus lived big in me today. Have that mindset to let Christ live big in you every day. That's walking in Him. The same way you received Him, you walk in Him. Praise God.

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In fact, we will close here with the verse, Colossians Chapter 1 Verse 27 says, “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” This is the great mystery. This is the great mystery that’s been hid since the beginning of time and Paul revealed it in Colossians 1:27. He said, “The great mystery that’s been hidden in all the ages, Christ in you, the hope of Glory. Christ in you.”

Turn to your neighbor and say, “Christ is in me.” He works in you mightily. So, Christ is in you, He’s working in you mightily. Say that with me. Say, “Christ is in me. He works in me mightily.” So, that word “works” is the word *energeia* which means working active operative power. So, Christ is in you and He’s working in you mightily. That’s Colossians Chapter 1:29. Christ is in you and He’s working in you mightily. Always remind yourself of that, the grace of Jesus is with you. “Christ is in me and He’s working in me mightily.” Praise God. “Christ is in me and He is working in me mightily.”

We’re going to stop right there. We’ve covered most of Colossians, but there are still some good nuggets I want to reveal but we’re talking about Meeting Christ in Colossians. It’s a wonderful book when we get this revelation of Christ in us, the hope of Glory and I pray that you let Him live big in you that you realize that His power is working mightily in you. He’s at work in you all the time. It’s no longer just you, it’s now you and Christ. You get the revelation of that wherever you go and whatever you do, it’s no longer just you, it’s now me and Christ because Christ is in me and He’s working mightily in me.

When you go to pray for someone, keep that in mind. It’s not just you praying, Christ is in you. When you lay hands on somebody, it’s not just you laying hands, Christ is in you. When you go to do good, it’s not just you doing good, Christ is in you and He’s working in you mightily. Praise God.

Give the Lord a hand for His word. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Praise God. We’re at some good stuff in the Book of Colossians and we will continue teaching through it and we will go through several of the epistles and we will meet Christ, we will meet Christ in this book of the New Testament. That’s a wonderful journey to encounter God through His word. Praise God. Amen.

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