

# Colossians 1-2 • Recognizing who comes first in everything

## Colossians 1:9-23

<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

## For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ How is **Colossians 1:9-10** a great snapshot of what it means to live as a citizen of heaven?
- ▶ **Colossians 1:13-14** reminds us where we are if we're not a part of the kingdom of Christ. The same sort of thing is said in **1:21-22**. What comes to mind as you read those descriptions?
- ▶ In **Colossians 1:10-11** we heard that we need knowledge, power, endurance, and patience with joy to live as citizens of heaven. Why? What difference do those things make in our everyday lives?
- ▶ Let's take a careful look at the way Jesus is described in **Colossians 1:15-20**. This lesson is all about recognizing who should come first in everything. Why is it Jesus?
- ▶ **Colossians 1:23** is an important reminder of what citizens of heaven must do. We must "continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel" that we heard. Why?

## Colossians 2:6-19

<sup>6</sup> Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

### For Class & Family Discussion:

- ▶ In your own words, what is it going to mean to be “rooted and built up in” Christ Jesus the Lord?
- ▶ We’ve heard a few times in this study how thankful we ought to be ([Col 2:7](#)). Why? Why does God even care whether or not we’re thankful? What might it look like to “abound” in thanksgiving this week?
- ▶ [Colossians 2:8](#) reminds us that not everything we may hear out in the world is worth listening to. Why?
- ▶ How does God “make us alive together with Christ”? Why do we even need to be made alive?
- ▶ The Holy Spirit is leading Paul to make a really important point in [Colossians 2:13-17](#). What is that point? How does it relate to us today?
- ▶ [Colossians 2:19](#) emphasizes the importance of “holding fast to the Head” of the body ([Col 1:18](#)). Why do we need a “Head,” even today? What’s it going to look like to put him first this week?