

The Person of Christ

Lesson 16

Colossians 1:15-29

Paul wrote this letter to a church that he had never visited although he had heard about their faith. He gave thanks to God for their faith in Christ and for their love of all Believers which spring from the hope which is the Gospel.

Christ and Creation - Colossians 1:15-17

1. How did Paul describe Jesus Christ in verse 15?

2. Using Colossians 1:16:
 - What was Christ's role in creation?

 - What was included?

 - Why were these things created?

3. Paul reminded the Colossians that Christ existed before all things. What is Christ's on-going relationship to creation? (Colossians 1:17)

4. **Reflect:** Reread your answers to questions 1-3. What do you think was the point Paul was making about Christ in these verses?

Christ and Redemption - Colossians 1:18-20

5. How did Paul describe Christ in verse 18a & b?

- Why? (Colossians 18c)

6. What was God pleased to:

- Have (Colossians 19)

- Do (Colossians 20a)

- Where (Colossians 20b)

- How (Colossians 20c)

The Colossians' Spiritual Condition - Colossians 1:21-23

7. In the past, how were they described spiritually and why? (Colossians 1:21)

8. Using Colossians 1:22:

- What was their current spiritual condition?

- How was that possible?

- Because of this, how were they now presented to Christ?

9. The Colossians were growing in their faith and love (Colossians 4-5), but without a solid understanding of Christ and His work, false teaching could cause them to turn away from the truth they knew. What did Paul encourage them to do? (Colossians 1:23a)

- What did Paul remind them about the gospel of Christ? (Colossians 1:23b)

Paul and the Church - Colossians 1:24-29

10. Using Colossians 1:24:

- In what did Paul say that he rejoiced?
- How did Paul view his life in regard to Christ?
- For whose sake was he willing to do this?

11. Paul was a servant of Christ by God's will. What was his commission? (Colossians 1:25)

12. How was God's plan viewed in the past ages? (Colossians 1:26a)

- How is it viewed now? (Colossians 1:26b)

13. Using Colossians 1:27:

- To whom has God made His plan known?
- What did He make known?

14. Verse 28 begins "we" proclaim "him" meaning Christ.

- Who did the "we" refer to? (Colossians 1:1)

- How was Christ being proclaimed?
- To whom were they proclaiming Christ?
- What was the goal?

15. Look closely at each word in verse 29. Paul said "I" labor to this end.

- How did he describe his labor?
- What was Paul's power source to keep proclaiming in spite of opposition?

16. **Reflect:** Paul's ministry as an apostle included great hardship and suffering, including prison from which he was writing this letter. Yet, in Christ and by His power, Paul was able to continue proclaiming the gospel. Is that same power and source of energy available for believers today, or was it just for the apostles? Explain your answer.