

COLOSSIANS

"THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST"

"He is also head of the body the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead;
so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything."
Colossians 1:18

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
March, 2008

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- A1 THE PROLOGUE TO THE COLOSSIANS 1:1-14
- A2 THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST 1:15-23
- A3 THE PROTECTION FOR THE COLOSSIANS 1:24 - 2:23
- A4 THE PRACTICE FOR THE COLOSSIANS 3:1 - 4:6
- A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

Major Divisions of Colossians
Based on the ANALYSIS OF COLOSSIANS
Prepared by James T. Bartsch
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A1 THE PROLOGUE TO THE COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

B1 Paul's Greeting to the Colossians 1:1-2

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B2 His Conveying of Greetings 4:10-15

B3 His Closing Instructions 4:16-18

Condensed Outline of Colossians

Based on the ANALYSIS OF COLOSSIANS

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B1 Paul's Greeting to the Colossians 1:1-2

- C1 The writers 1:1
- C2 The addressees 1:2
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B2 Because of His Activity: The Creator 1:15b-17

- C1 Creator of all things 1:15b-16
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B3 Because of His Position: The Head of the Church 1:18a

B4 Because of His Victory over Death: The "First-Born" from the dead 1:18b

B5 Because of His Priority 1:18c

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C3 Toward God 4:2-4

C4 Toward unbelievers: A wholesome walk 4:5-6

A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

B1 His Commendation to the Colossians of Tychicus and Onesimus 4:7-9

C1 Regarding Tychicus 4:7-8

C2 Regarding Onesimus 4:9

B2 His Conveying of Greetings 4:10-15

- C1 From fellow prisoner Aristarchus 4:10
- C2 From Barnabas' cousin Mark (whom welcome)
- C3 From Jesus called Justus 4:11
- C4 From Epaphras 4:12-13
- C5 From Luke, the beloved physician 4:14
- C6 From Demas
- C7 To other "brothers" 4:15

B3 His Closing Instructions 4:16-18

- C1 For a Pauline letter-exchange with the Laodiceans 4:16
- C2 To tell Archippus to fulfill his ministry from the Lord 4:17
- C3 His personal signature 4:18
- C4 His urging them to remember his imprisonment
- C5 His bequest of grace upon them

Outline of Colossians

Based on the ANALYSIS OF COLOSSIANS

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B1 Paul's Greeting to the Colossians 1:1-2

C1 The writers 1:1

D1 Paul

D2 Timothy, "the brother"

C2 The addressees 1:2

D1 To those in Colosse

D2 Who are saints and faithful brothers in Christ

C3 The blessing from God our Father

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B2 Paul's Prayer for the Colossians 1:3-14

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A2 THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST 1:15-23

B1 Because of His Essence: The Image of God 1:15a

B2 Because of His Activity: The Creator 1:15b-17

- C1 Creator of all things 1:15b-16
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B6 Because of His Fullness 1:19

B7 Because of His Work: The Reconciler 1:20-23

- C1 The extent of His reconciliation: All things 1:20
- C2 The means of His reconciliation: The blood of His cross 1:20
- C3 The location of His reconciliation 1:20
 - D1 "Things on earth"
 - D2 "Things in heaven"
- C4 The present example of His reconciliation: The Colossian saints (The bright prospects of His former enemies if they continue in the faith.) 1:21-23
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A3 THE PROTECTION FOR THE COLOSSIANS 1:24 - 2:23

B1 The Ministry / Service of Paul: The proclamation of a secret hitherto unrevealed (Christ within the believing Gentiles) 1:24-29

- C1 Paul's joy at his suffering for the Colossians 1:24
 - D1 His present filling up in his flesh that which is lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions
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 - D2 His warning against **enticing words** 2:4-7
 - D3 His warning against **human philosophy** 2:8-10
- C2 Not Legalism, But Christ 2:11-23
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 - D3 The required practice of the Colossians because of the Cross 2:16-23

A4 THE PRACTICE FOR THE COLOSSIANS: His Strategy for Applied Living 3:1 - 4:6

B1 In Their Attitude: Think Heavenly ("As one risen with Christ, set your affection on heavenly things") 3:1-4

C1 "Keep seeking the things above": Reasons for obeying this command 3:1

D1 The believers' post-death condition: If (as is true) "you were all raised up with Christ"

D2 Christ's heavenly location: Christ is "seated at the right hand of God"

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B2 In Their Lifestyle: (In everyday living) 3:5-17

C1 Put to death your earthly members (as resurrected ones) 3:5-7

D1 The death list 3:5

D2 The motivation: It's because of these things God's wrath is coming 3:6

D3 The need: The Colossians used to walk in these things when they lived in them 3:7

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- C1 In the home 3:18-21
 - D1 Submissive wives 3:18
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- C2 Toward God 4:2-4
 - D1 The importance of prayer 4:2
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- C3 Toward unbelievers: A wholesome walk 4:5-6
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A5 THE PAULINE CONCLUSION 4:7-18

B1 His Commendation to the Colossians of Tychicus and Onesimus 4:7-9

- C1 Regarding Tychicus 4:7-8
 - D1 His qualifications 4:7
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 - D1 He is a "faithful and beloved brother"
 - D2 He is one of them

B2 His Conveying of Greetings 4:10-15

- C1 From fellow prisoner Aristarchus 4:10
- C2 From Barnabas' cousin Mark (whom welcome)

- C3 From Jesus called Justus 4:11
 - D1 These three are Jewish
 - D2 These are the only fellow-workers for God's kingdom who proved to be a comfort to Paul
- C4 From Epaphras 4:12-13
 - D1 One of them 4:12
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- C5 From Luke, the beloved physician 4:14
- C6 From Demas
- C7 To other brothers 4:15
 - D1 Those in Laodicea
 - D2 To "Nympha and the church that is in her house"

B3 His Closing Instructions 4:16-18

- C1 For a Pauline letter-exchange with the Laodiceans 4:16
- C2 To tell Archippus to fulfill his ministry from the Lord 4:17
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