“The Sufficiency of Christ: Christianity Centered in Christ”

Introduction to Colossians Sunday September 10, 2023

## INTRODUCTION READ Colossians 1:1-30

“To any astute observer of the contemporary scene . . .”

### Pray to See Christ More Clearly (Doctrine) . . . Love Christ More Dearly (Devotion)

###  . . . Follow Christ More Nearly (Duty)

Lightfoot says of the Epistle to the Colossians, “The doctrine of the Person of Christ is here stated with greater precision and fulness than in any other of Paul’s epistles . . . Without doubt Colossae was the least important church to which any epistle of Paul is addressed." Lightfoot

 Epaphras [4:12] . . . Tychicus [4:7-9] . . . Archippus [4:17]

“For many reasons, throughout the ages, this letter has served the church well. Probably the most significant reason is due to its great and glorious subject matter: the Lord Jesus Christ. From the incredible Christological text or hymn of Colossians 1:15-20, and in every subsequent chapter, the person and work of God’s own dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, is unpacked and unveiled before our eyes. Colossians, like no other Pauline letter, from beginning to end, presents the glory, supremacy, preeminence, and sufficiency of Jesus, the incarnate Son, as Lord of creation, redemption, the church, and every principality and power . . .”

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ For All Explained Chapter One Supremacy Over All **1:15-20, 28-29** “Christ . . . He . . Him . . . He . . . Him”

 He Is Lord of Creation and Lord of the Church

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ in All Christians Examined

Complete in Christ **2:4-7, 8-12, 17, 19** “Christ . . . in Him . . .with Him”

 His Is Lord of Salvation and Lord of the Christian Chapter Two

Sufficiency of The Person and Work of Christ in All Matters Experienced

Relationship With Christ **Colossians 3:1-4, 11,15-17, 24; 4:7, 9, 11-12**

“Christ . . .Christ is all and in all . . . all in the Name of the Lord Jesus . . .”

 He Is Lord of My Life & Lord of My Christian Ministry Chapters Three & Four

Paul outlines three areas in which Christ’s sufficiency does enable and should motivate believers to grow in grace . . . the fact of Christ’s sufficiency for sanctification (1) His sufficiency enables believers to grow individually—that is, in relation to the flesh (3:5-17), (2) Christ’s sufficiency enables believers to act responsibly [3:18-4:1]. and 3) Christ’s Sufficiency enable believers to focus on the needs of others [4:2-6] S. Lewis Johnson

Two Major Emphases Throughout the Book of Colossians

* Full Measure of Having and Experiencing Life in Jesus Christ As A Christian

*make full, that which fills up, fill (up) completely*; 1:9; 19, 25; 2:9-10; 4:17

* All Wisdom in Living and Choosing Life in Jesus Christ As A Christian

“wisdom” cf. 1:9-10, 28; 2:2-3, 23; 3:10, 16; 4:5 “understanding” “knowledge”

**READ Colossians 1:1-4** Writer . . . Readers . . . Greetings

1. Identity of the Writer and Revelation of the Writing cf. 1:4; 2:1

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God . . .”

Paul would emphasize his position as an apostle

the authority of God in this letter upon the life of the church and Christians

Christ [11x], Jesus [7x], “in Him/with Him” [10x] “He” 13x

Colossians 1:1-4 “Jesus . . Christ . . . Lord . . . Jesus”

“ . . . and Timothy our brother . . .”his disciple, his companion in ministry.

1. Identity of the Readers and Instruction of the Writing

**“**To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae”

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father.” benefits and blessings

CONCLUSION READ Colossians 1:9-12 Christianity Centered in Christ

* Putting Jesus Christ in the right place in your life and the life of this church body because of the Book of Colossians being centered in Christ
* Let each of us have many conversations and personal discussions about the sufficiency of Christ because of our teaching through this epistle
* With this epistle will encourage one another here in this church body as we grow in our knowledge of Christ together and teach each other more
* receiving this teaching and having this correction in our lives and life of the church body so that we are more and more centered in Christ
* Each week read the entire epistle throughout our time studying together