



**COLOSSIANS -
CHRIST SUPREME I**



BIBLICAL EPISTLES

1. *PERSONAL - Individual (Philemon)*
2. *OCCASIONAL - Local (Colossians)*
3. *GENERAL - Cyclical (Ephesians)*



BIBLICAL EPISTLES

Read between the lines:

- ❖ *Circumstances*
- ❖ *Situation*
- ❖ *Crisis*
- ❖ *Need*



BIBLICAL EPISTLES

- *WHAT* does he correspond to?
- *WHO* does he correspond with?
- *WHY* does he correspond at all?



BIBLICAL EPISTLES

PATTERN:

SENDER

RECEIVER (address)

GREETING (prayers / wishes)

COMPLIMENT (or thanks)

SUBSTANCE (one or more topics)

SUMMARY

GREETING



BIBLICAL EPISTLES

TWO DIMENSIONS:

- ✓ ***REALITY (Past): Actual Practice...***
- ✓ ***RELEVANCE (Present): Applied Principle...***





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The circumstances, context and challenges of first century Colosse does not differ much from the modern church era in which we live today. Therefore the Letter to the Colossians is still highly relevant for believers gathered together in local congregations.



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Hardly anyone who hears the full story of Jesus and learns the true facts of His life and teaching, crucifixion and resurrection, walks away with a shrug of the shoulders, dismissing Him as unimportant. People ignorant of the facts or misinformed about it, of course, regularly dismiss Him. But with few exceptions, the others acknowledge that they are dealing here with a most remarkable greatness.



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But unfortunately it's quite common for those who consider Him truly important to include others or aspects of others who seem to be equally important in his company – Buddah, Moses, Socrates and Mohammad for a historical start, along with some personal favorites. For these people - even believers in Christ - Jesus is important, but not everything, He is important but not central; His prestige is considerable, but He is not pre-eminent.



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The Christians in the local church of Colosse, or at least some of them, had been taking this line. For them, cosmic spiritual forces of one sort or another were getting equal billing with Jesus and were therefore mixed into the true gospel message of Jesus Christ.



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Through Colossians the Holy Spirit gives believers the confident conviction that Christ, without peers occupies the centre of creation as well as salvation. It's all about the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ.



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Religious pluralism and spiritual syncretism – the diluting of the truth for the sake of unity – is common practise today among many communities of faith. Christ's Lordship and pre-eminence gets either denied or undermined by a church that places the Christian stamp upon a fusion (and confusion!) of beliefs drawn from different spiritualities.



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In Colossians Christ is at the centre and circumference of all that exists, exactly where He belong. He is the exact revelation and representation of the Father. He is Lord in creation, the church and salvation. The supreme Sustainer of all things is also sufficient Savior for all people.



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