

From the Domain of Darkness
To the Kingdom of Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:13-23

Colossians Theme: All-Sufficiency of Christ

Colossians Outline

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| I. Sufficiency of Christ | Colossians 1-2 |
| II. Submission to Christ | Colossians 3-4 |

Colossians Theme Verse: Colossians 3:1 - ¹Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Passage Theme Verse: Colossians 1:13–14 - ¹³For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Passage Theme Statement: God the Father has rescued unbelievers from the dark domain of Satan and has transferred them to the Kingdom of the preeminent Lord Jesus Christ. Those hostile in mind and evil doers have been reconciled through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and true believers will continue in the faith throughout the rest of their lives.



The South Pole experiences six months of darkness every winter. In late March, the sun sets, and it does not rise again until September. During this polar night, temperatures drop below -73°C (-100°F).





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#1 Genesis 1:2–4 - ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.

#2 Exodus 10:21–23 - ²¹Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even a **darkness which may be felt.**” ²²So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and there was thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days. ²³They did not see one another, nor did anyone rise from his place for three days, but all the sons of Israel had light in their dwellings.

#3 Matthew 27:45 - ⁴⁵Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.

Paul's explanation to King Agrippa
of the ministry commission given to Paul by Jesus Christ:

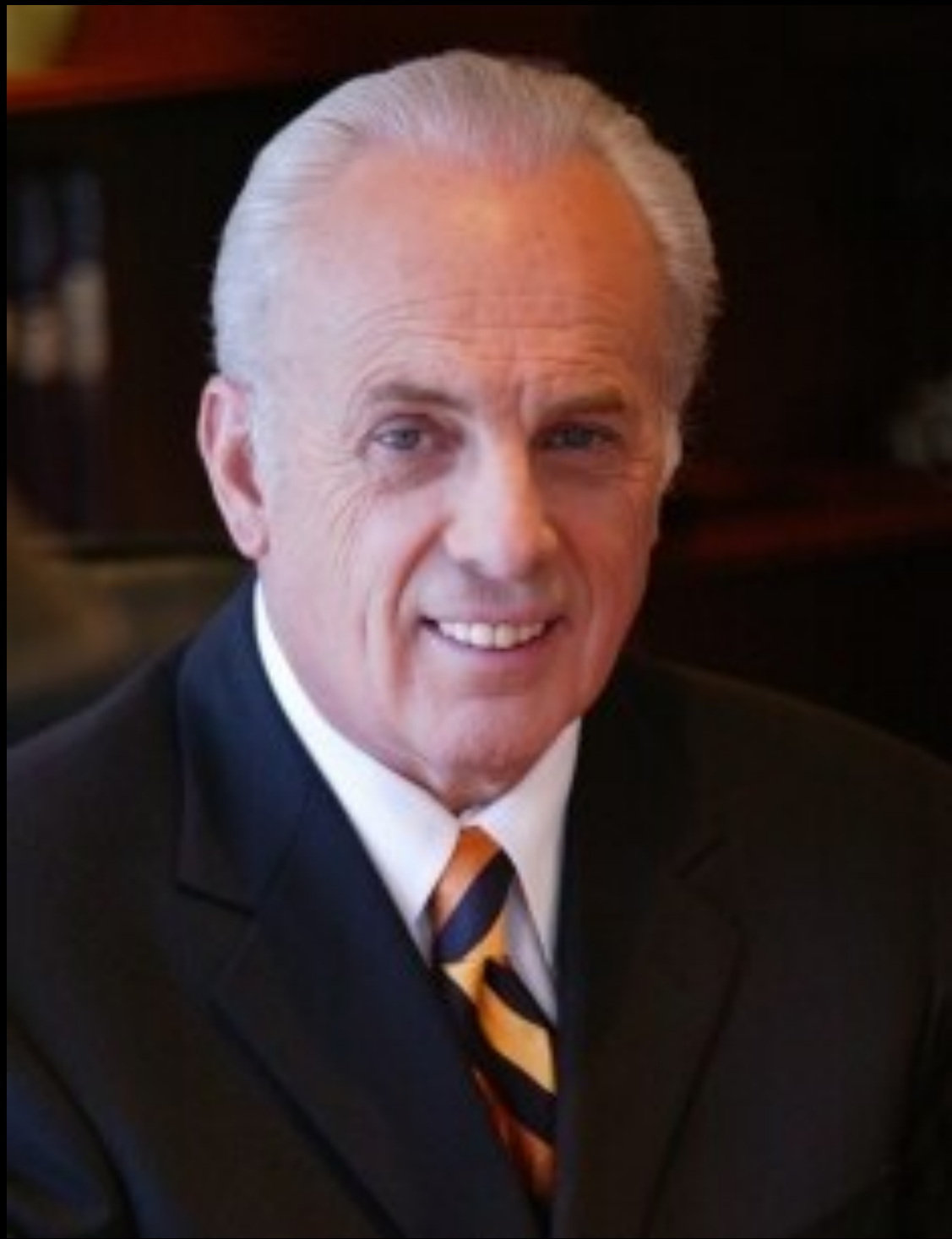
Acts 26:18 - ¹⁸to open their eyes so that they may turn from **darkness to light**
and from the **dominion of Satan to God**, that they may receive forgiveness of
sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

I. The Role of the Father

Colossians 1:13-14

- A. The Father rescues believers from the domain of darkness - v.13a
- B. The Father transfers believers into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ - v. 13b

Galatians 1:4 - ⁴who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,



MacArthur wrote - “Kingdom refers to more than the future millennial kingdom, when Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years. Nor does it speak merely of the general rule of God over His creation. The kingdom is a spiritual reality right now. Paul gives us a definition of it in Romans 14:17: “The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” The kingdom is the special relationship men in this age have with God through Jesus Christ.”

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 - 1. In the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, we have redemption- 14a
 - 2. In the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, we have forgiveness of sins - v. 14b

1 Peter 1:18–19 - ¹⁸knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.

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Colossians 2:13 - ¹³When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

Ephesians 1:7 - ⁷In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

II. The Role of the Son Colossians 1:15-20

A. HE IS **the image of the invisible God**, the first born of all creation - v. 15

John 1:18 - ¹⁸No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 14:9 - ⁹Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

II. The Role of the Son Colossians 1:15-20

A. HE IS the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation - v. 15

Romans 8:29 - ²⁹For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;

v. 16 - ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

II. The Role of the Son Colossians 1:15-20

- A. HE IS the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation - v. 15
- B. HE IS the creator and the sustainer of His creation - v. 16-17

John 1:3 - ³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Hebrews 1:3 - ³And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

MacArthur - “By studying the creation, one can gain a glimpse of the power, knowledge, and wisdom of the Creator. The sheer size of the universe is staggering. The sun, for example, has a diameter of 864,000 miles (one hundred times that of earth’s) and could hold 1.3 million planets the size of earth inside it. The star Betelgeuse, however, has a diameter of 100 million miles, which is larger than the earth’s orbit around the sun. It takes sunlight, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, about 8.5 minutes to reach earth. Yet that same light would take more than four years to reach the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, some 24 trillion miles from earth. The galaxy to which our sun belongs, the Milky Way, contains hundreds of billions of stars. And astronomers estimate there are millions, or even billions of galaxies. What they can see leads them to estimate the number of stars in the universe at 10 to the 25th power. That is roughly the number of all the grains of sand on all the world’s beaches.”

2 Peter 3:10–13 - ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. ¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! ¹³But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

II. The Role of the Son Colossians 1:15-20

- A. HE IS the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation - v. 15
- B. HE IS the creator and the sustainer of His creation - v. 16-17
- C. HE IS the head of the body, the church - v. 18a

Ephesians 1:22–23 - ²²And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:22–32 - ²²Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

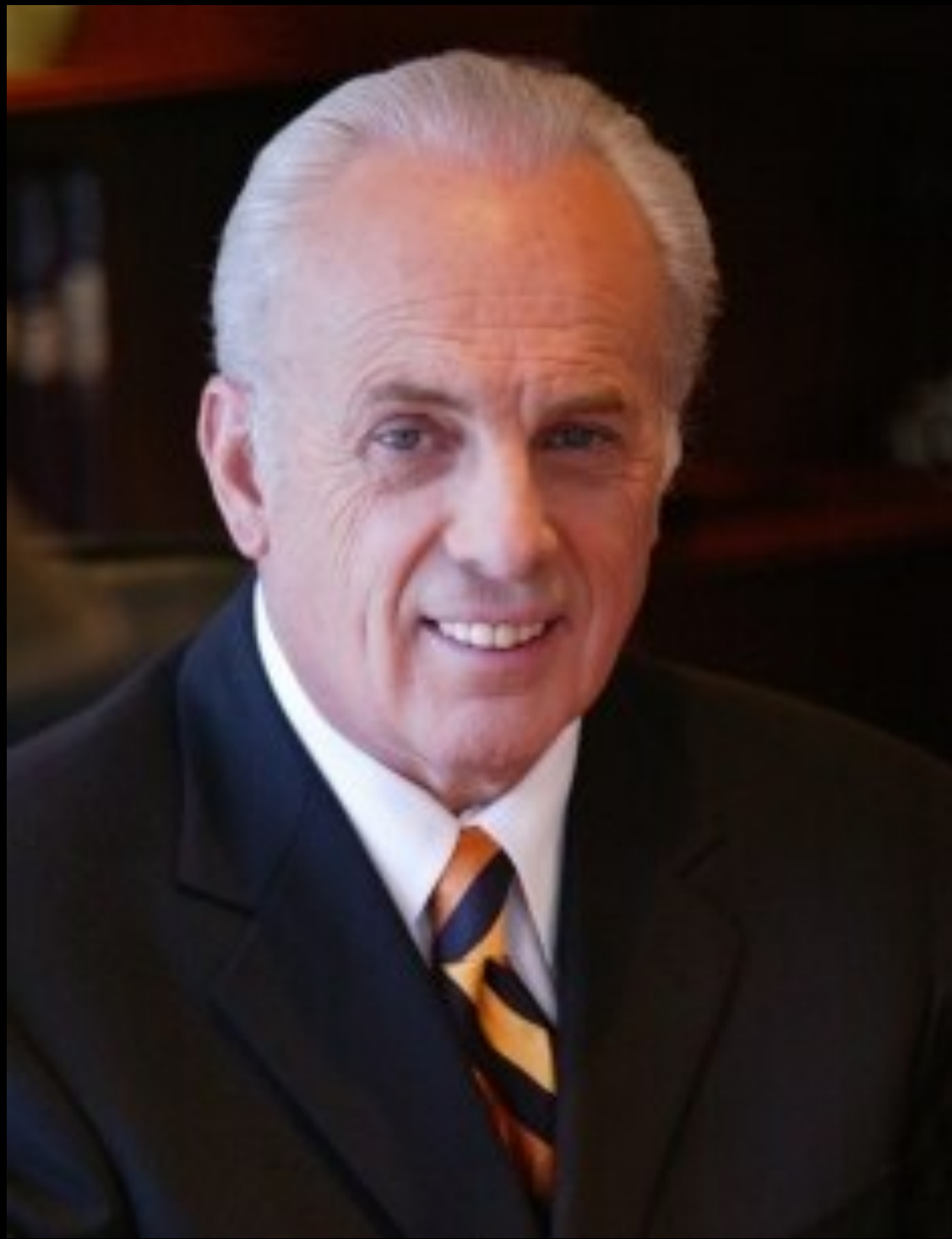
²³For the husband is the head of the wife, as **Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.** ²⁴**But as the church is subject to Christ,** so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as **Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,** ²⁶**so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,** ²⁷**that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.** ²⁸So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹for no one ever hated his own flesh, **but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church,** ³⁰**because we are members of His body.** ³¹For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³²**This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.**

II. The Role of the Son Colossians 1:15-20

- A. HE IS the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation - v. 15
- B. HE IS the creator and the sustainer of His creation - v. 16-17
- C. HE IS the head of the body, the church - v. 18a
- D. HE IS to come to have first place in everything - v. 18b-19
- E. HE has reconciled all things to Himself - v. 20

Colossians 1:20 - ²⁰and through Him to **reconcile** all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.



MacArthur wrote: “The word **reconcile** is one of the most significant and descriptive terms in all of Scripture. It is one of five key words used in the New Testament to describe the richness of salvation in Christ, along with **justification, redemption, forgiveness, and adoption.**”

2 Corinthians 5:18–20 - ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be **reconciled** to God.

reconcile = ~~apata~~allasso

MacArthur wrote: “Paul no doubt used this stronger term in Colossians as a counterattack against the false teachers. Because they held that Christ was merely another spirit being emanating from God, they also denied the possibility of man’s being reconciled to God by Christ alone. In refuting that denial, Paul emphasizes that there is total, complete, and full reconciliation through the Lord Jesus. Inasmuch as He possesses all the fullness of deity (1:19; 2:9), Jesus is able to fully reconcile sinful men and women to God (1:20).

III. Salvation for You Colossians 1:21-23

A. YOU were formerly deeply separated from God - v. 21

Romans 3:23 - ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 - ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 2:12 - ¹²remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

III. Salvation for You Colossians 1:21-23

A. YOU were formerly deeply separated from God - v. 21

B. YOU have been reconciled through Christ's shed blood on the cross (v. 20)
and through Christ's sacrificial death on the cross - v. 22

Mark 1:14–15 - ¹⁴Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel.**”

Ephesians 2:8–9 - ⁸For by grace **you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; ⁹not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

III. Salvation for You Colossians 1:21-23

- A. YOU were formerly deeply separated from God - v. 21
- B. YOU have been reconciled through Christ's shed blood on the cross (v. 20) and through Christ's sacrificial death on the cross - v. 22
- C. YOU will continue in the faith as evidence of true saving faith - v. 23

Romans 6:22–23 - ²²But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 7:22–23 - ²²“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.’

Luke 8:13 - ¹³“Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.

John 8:31 - ³¹So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

1 John 2:19 - ¹⁹They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

1 John 5:13 - ¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, **so that you may know that you have eternal life.**

Obedience: Practicing righteousness and keeping God's commandments is the natural fruit of knowing Him.

Brotherly Love: A genuine, selfless affection for other believers

Separation from the World: A lack of affection for the sinful, worldly systems that oppose God.

Sensitivity to Sin: Confessing, repenting, and grieving over sin rather than continually practicing it.

Right Doctrine: Confessing Jesus Christ as God Incarnate and holding to the truth of the Gospel.

