

Saturday

Please read Colossians 1:15–29 in preparation for this weekend’s sermon. How does this passage encourage you? How does it challenge you?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Please pray for this weekend’s services, that they would honor God and be both an encouragement and challenge for those who attend.



PART 1

...FROM RELIGION THAT ENSLAVES ME

FEBRUARY 4 & 5, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

Why is Colossians helpful to study?

I. The Parallels

Similarities between Colossae and Santa Cruz:

- Natural beauty
- Earthquakes
- Industries: Fishing, tourism
- City to the north: Major commercial center
- City across river: Higher-end resort destination
- Launching pad for new religions

II. The Problem

Some elements of the Colossian version of Christianity:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Two Religious Systems:

Religion of _____ achievement (“do!”)

Religion of _____ achievement (“done!”)



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III. The Prescription

Christ _____, **not Christ** _____

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God...he holds **all** creation together.
Colossian 1:15

...by Christ God reconciled **everything** to himself. *Colossians 1:19–20*

You are **complete** through your union with Christ.” *Colossians 2:10*

So then, **just as you received** Christ Jesus as Lord, **continue to live in him...**”
Colossian 2:6

Example (Colossians 1:12–14):

Because of what Christ did for me...

1. I am _____

May you be filled with joy always giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified** you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:12*

2. I am _____

For he has **rescued us from the dominion of darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves... *Colossians 1:13*

3. I am _____

God has purchased our **freedom** with his blood and has **forgiven** all our sins.
Colossians 1:14

Bottom line:

Keep a _____ on Christ

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Romans 16:17–18, 2 Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 4:14 and Colossians 1:18.
According to these verses, what are the motives of those who seek to complicate the Gospel?

If someone asked you to explain the Gospel in two sentences, what would you say?

Take an honest look at your life and actions. How have you complicated the message of God's grace in your life?

What will you specifically do this week to live and rest in the simple truth of the Gospel?

*Thank God today for what he's done for you and His grace lavished on you.
Pray that God will help you to focus on the pure Gospel this week.*

Tuesday

Please read Colossians 1:15–17, 19–20, 2:6, 10 & 3:1, 16–17. What truths about living the Christian life do you learn in these verses? How do they apply to your life this week?

Describe what life is like when you try to “add to Christ.” When are you most tempted to do this?

What difference does it make when you live “Christ alone”? What helps you live like this?

Thank God today that you don't have to add to your life in Christ. Ask God to give you the faith to live in Christ alone. Fix your eyes on Jesus today and relax in His grace and love for you.

Wednesday

Read Ephesians 1:7–14 & Colossians 1:9–12. These verses are a prayer. Paul prays for the Ephesians and Colossians. What encouragement do you receive reading this?

According to these verses, what are you qualified to reap as a child of God? How have you seen this in your own life?

How do you think a person who believes they are truly qualified by God lives?
How can you apply this your life?

Thank God today for the blessings He has lavished on you as His child. Live today as a qualified child of the King.

Thursday

Please read Colossians 1:12–13. How does knowing that you're rescued from the kingdom of darkness help you feel safe? How can you apply the truth that you're safe to your life right now?

Thank God today that you've been rescued from darkness. Ask Him to remind you of this truth daily.

Friday

Please read Ephesians 1:7 & Colossians 1:14. How does knowing you're forgiven free you? What difference has this made in your life?

Even though you've been freed in what ways do you find yourself still living like a slave? What truths can you focus on that will help you live in freedom?

Thank God today that you've been forgiven of all your sins — past, present and future. Pray for the wisdom and desire to live in gratitude each day.



For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Colossians 1:13–14