

Thursday

Please read Colossians 1:21–23. Paul is not suggesting in this language that the Colossians lose their salvation every time they slip up, but rather that the benefits of living in Christ are only enjoyed if we continue to stay grounded in Him, and not distracted. What helps you “continue in your faith”, staying grounded and focused on Jesus?

Think about your life right now. In what area are you hoping to see transformation?

How can embracing the truth of transformation in Christ change how you approach and measure transformation?

Thursday (continued)

Thank God today that He can bring true and lasting transformation. Talk to God about your reluctance to submit to His transforming ways and ask for faith to let God have His way in your life.

Friday

Please reread Colossians 1:15–23. Spend some time today meditating on this passage. Perhaps read it in a few different versions (www.biblegateway.com is a great place to access multiple versions of the Bible for free).

What truth from this passage do you most want/need to incorporate into your life and thinking?

How does this passage strengthen your faith today and how can you use it to encourage someone else?

Thank God today for His love for you. Pray that your life will reflect the truth of this passage.

Saturday

Please read Colossians 2 in preparation for this weekend’s sermon. Polish up the memory verse and catch up on any devotions you may have missed.

Please pray that this weekend’s services will be a source of comfort, hope and challenge to all who attend.



TWIN LAKES
CHURCH
www.tlc.org



PART 2
**...FROM
DEADLY
DISTRACTIONS**
FEBRUARY 11 & 12, 2012 • RENÉ SCHLAEPFER

The Colossian Problem:

Paul calls the Colossians back with _____ in Colossians 1:15–23

This is an ancient song about the beauty and majesty of Christ!

Don't underestimate the transforming effect
of _____

Paul calls us to refocus on this:

1. **Jesus is the** _____
He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
Colossians 1:15 NIV
2. **Jesus is the** _____
For by him **all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. *Colossians 1:16*
3. **Jesus is the** _____
He is before all things, and in him all things **hold together**. *Colossian 1:17*
4. **Jesus is the** _____
And he is the **head** of the body, the church; he is the **beginning** and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in **everything** he might have the **supremacy**. *Colossians 1:18*
5. **Jesus is the** _____
For God was **pleased** to have all His **fullness** dwell in Him, and through him to **reconcile to himself all things**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making **peace** through his blood, shed on the cross. *Colossians 1:19–20*
...This all includes _____!
Once **you** were alienated from God and were **enemies** in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now **he has reconciled you** by Christ's physical body through death to present you **holy** in his sight, **without blemish** and **free from accusation**. . . *Colossians 1:21–22*

So find continued transformation in _____

You don't walk away from a gift like that! You stay **grounded and steady** in that bond of trust, **constantly tuned in to the Message**, careful not to be **distracted or diverted**. There is no other Message — just this one. Every creature under heaven gets this same Message. *Colossians 1:23a The Message*

Sermons and books used as resources:

The Main Thing and Inspiration, John Ortberg
What's So Great About Jesus, John Jackson
Study Notes: Colossians 1:15–20, Ron Daniel
Enlarging our View of Jesus, Rob Salvato
Master of the Universe, Ray Stedman
Word Pictures in the New Testament, A. T. Robertson

Monday

Please read Colossians 1:15–23. Look back over your notes from last weekend. What did you learn about Jesus from this passage?

How could “religious” activity distract someone from Christ, as was the case with the Colossian Christians? How can you guard against this?

When we add extra rules and rituals to our simple trust in Christ, how is the person and work of Christ, in effect, diminished?

How could we Christians in Santa Cruz particularly be tempted to do this?

Thank God today for sending Jesus to earth to die on the cross for us. Pray that you will grow in both understanding and awe as you study the book of Colossians.

Tuesday

Read Colossians 1:15–19, Isaiah 40:28, John 14:9, and Galatians 4:4. According to these verses, who would you say Jesus Christ is?

How has this — or could this — make a difference in your life?

How have you seen Christ's power and preeminence demonstrated in your life?

Thank God today that He came to earth as a human being. Thank Him for the amazing power He has and the desire He has to let you know who He is!

Wednesday

Please read Ephesians 1:4–5, Ephesians 2:13–14, and Colossians 1:20–21. These verses speak of God's plan to “reconcile to Himself all things.” Why do you think coming to earth as a human being was an important part of that plan?

What aspect of this plan to reconcile to Himself all things most amazes you?

Why do you think it “pleased God” to have Christ reconcile all things to Him? What does this say about how God feels about you?

Thank God for reconciling you to Himself! Ask Him to help as you continue in your faith.



For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.
Colossians 1:19