

**COLOSSIANS**  
**Seminar: Ideas for Preaching Colossians**  
**by Bob Young**

**SERMON #1—Introduction to Colossians**

Purpose: to remind of structure and content of Colossians, to demonstrate focus on Christ  
Overall structure of the book  
Study of 1:1-14

**Sermon #2—1:15-22**

**It Is All About Jesus: He Is Our Peace**

Paul describes Jesus as our peace, redeemer, reconciler, hope, treasure, and life.... a partial list.  
Focus in 1:15-20, perhaps an early Christian hymn.

Background—

- 1:5 Faith, Hope, Love
- 1:5,23 The gospel bears fruit everywhere
- 1:9ff Prayer for the church—knowledge, wisdom, understand

Result is to live worthily; four aspects

1. bearing fruit
  2. Growing
  3. Strengthened
  4. giving thanks
- 1:13 Dominion vs. kingdom. Delivered, transferred, redeemed=forgiven.
  - 1:14/20: bookends, redeemer/peace.

**V.15--Consider his person.**

**He is the very REFLECTION of God.** The image/character of God, the visible manifestation of the invisible. Before all things--by position, in point of time. Firstborn, preeminent, creator--thus God. He is the cohesive, adhesive. In response, we worship.

**V. 18--Consider his position, preeminence.**

**He is the REIGNING one.** He is the head of the church, the beginning/firstborn, overcoming death. He is the bonding power as we share loyalty/allegiance. He is supreme. He is the very fullness of God in physical form. In response, we share fellowship, with one another and with him, we seek to grow in him and he in us.

**V. 19--Consider his power, purpose.**

**He is the RECONCILING one.** Redeeming, reconciling, making peace, through his blood. He is eliminator of alienation, the undoer of enmity, the solution to evil. He reconciles us, raises us to be God's, presenting us holy/blameless. In response, we share good news.

**Jesus is our peace, redeemer.**

### **Sermon #3—1:23-27**

#### **Jesus is Our Hope**

##### **The essence of hope—Christ**

Let us examine how a life is changed, Col. 1:21-23.

##### **The evidence of hope--perseverance**

We come now to the second part of this description of how a life can be changed, Col. 1:21-23.

##### **The enigma (mystery) of hope—Christ in us**

Christ in you means....that you have accepted Christ as Lord.

- You are possessed by Christ, owned by Christ.
- You are empowered by Christ.
- You are ruled by Christ.
- You are filled by Christ.
- You are transformed by Christ.

##### **The expression of hope, the effect of hope--we proclaim him**

### **Sermon #4—1:28-29**

#### **Jesus is Our Message**

The word in the original Greek text, energomai, is the root of our word energy

##### **Two kinds of “works”**

##### **What is at work within me?**

##### **Two humanities—which will I follow?**

-1- HIM

-2- WE

-3- PROCLAIM

### **Sermon #5—2:1-5**

#### **Jesus is our TREASURE of wisdom and knowledge**

We face the struggle; we come to unity; we come to truth; we come to Christ

Fellowship—a Spiritually Mature Church is united in Love

Faith Foundations—a Spiritually Mature Church Has Courage in Difficult Times

Facts not Fiction—a Spiritually Mature Church Uses Truth to Face Deceit

Firmness in the Faith—a Spiritually Mature Church Finds Firmness in the Faith of Christ

### **Sermon #6—2:6-19**

#### **Jesus is our HEAD**

Foundations, rooted and built up in Christ

Filled with Christ’s rule and authority, not following the world

Forgiven and alive through Christ

## **Sermon #7—2:20-3:4**

### **Jesus is Our FOCUS**

#### **Christ (2:20, 3:1, if then....)**

Past—you died with Christ, you died to the world (sun-)

Present—why keep on as though your life still depended on the world

Past—you have been raised with Christ, remember that fact (sun-)

Present—keep on....seeking things above where Christ is, thinking on things above, past-present summarized (sun-)

Future—Anticipate the result. Life is not “bios” but “zoa” (sun-)

## **Sermon #8—3:5-17**

### **Jesus is our EVERYTHING**

I. Look UPWARD, 3:1-4, changes our priorities

- When we look upward, we see Christ who is our LIFE.

II. Look INWARD, 3:5-9, leaving behind, changes our way of living

- Negatively, looking backward to what has been left behind, what has been put off and discarded.
- The second aspect of the inward look is positive, looking forward, putting on.
- When we see self clearly, we see that Christ is all and in all.

III. Look AROUND, outward, 3:12-17, changes the way we do church

- When we look around, we see Christ who is our authority and name.

### **Questions for Final Session**

What should we conclude about the importance of Jesus in the teaching of Paul?

Summarize the book of Colossians in a short paragraph (maximum = 100 words)

Thinking about the phrase, “Jesus is....”, some words that we typically use in our teaching are not included in Paul’s letter. What absences, if any, surprise you the most? Which of the words included surprises you the most?

How would one teach and preach this book?