

Colossians: “How to be a Christian”

Book Outline

Taken from Tim’s sermon outlines (still a work in progress!)

1. **Greeting: “Grace to you, and peace” 1:1-2**

1.

Author: Jesus Christ sent Paul to you 1

2.

Recipients: You are Christ’s church 2a

3.

Greeting: Grace to you, and peace 2b

4. Receiving Christ: Christian Fundamentals 1:3-2:5

1. Be Encouraged by Your Past Conversion & Progress in Christ, Who Provides: Life-Giving Hope 3-8

1.

This hope gives you faith and love 3-5a

2.

You heard of this hope in the gospel. So remember... 5b-8

1.

...When the gospel came to you
6a

2.

...The gospel's fruitfulness in all
the world 6b

3.

...Your growth in your faith 6c

4.

...Your growth in your love 7

5. Trusting Christ for Your Future, Pray to be Filled 9-14

1.

With a knowledge of God's will 9

2.

To walk worthy of the Lord
10-14

1.

To grow in good works &
knowledge 10b

2.

To be strengthened to

endure 11

3.

To give thanks for being
qualified 12, delivered and
transferred 13, and
redeemed 14

4.

Recognize that: Jesus Christ is Lord 15-20

1.

Jesus is Lord over all creation

15-16

1.

In divinity & priority 15

2.

Because He created all
things 16

3.

Central summary 17-18a

4.

Jesus is Lord of salvation
18b-20

1.

In its production 18b

2.

In its product 19-20

3. Recognize Your Need for Growth: Reconciliation Accomplished must be Applied 21-23

1.

Reconciliation accompli shed 21-22

1.

You once were
alienated 21

2.

But now have been
reconciled 22

3.

Must be applied 23

1.

In the endurance of
faith – stable, steadfast,
not shifting 23a

2.

In the hope of the
gospel – God reconciles
through conversion,
missions, and ministry
23b

3. The Pattern of A Christian on Display in Paul: “ So Walk in Him ” 1:24-2:5

1.

I will rejoice to suffer
for the church v. 24

2.

I will serve the
church with the gifts
God has given me v.
25

3.

I will grow in my
knowledge of the
gospel v. 26

4.

I will further the

proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ v. 27

5.

I will pursue every
member's
sanctification v. 28

6.

I will work hard at
this in God's strength
v. 29

7.

I will pray for the

members of the church v. 1

8.

I will pray for their
spiritual maturity vv.
2-3

9.

I will not be led away
from Christ v. 4

10.

I will rejoice in the
church's unity and
faithfulness v. 5

11. Walking in Christ: Implementing Christian Growth 2:6-4:18

1. BRIDGE:
Exhortation: “
As you have
received Christ,
so walk in Him
” 2:6-7

2. Overview:

The Central Contrast: A Worldview According to Christ 2:8-10

1.

Non-Christian
worldview: Do
not be taken
captive by a
worldview that is
according to the
world 8

1.

Its method of
capture (ethics):
Philosophy and
empty deception
8a

2.

Its source
(epistemology):
The traditions of
men 8b

3.

Its ultimate
basis
(metaphysics):
The basic
principles of the

world 8c

4.

Christian

worldview:
Instead, you
need a
worldview that is
according to
Christ 9-10

1.

Metaphysically:
A Christian is
centered
on Christ 9

2.

Epistemologically: A Christian
is filled with
Christ 10a

3.

Ethically: A
Christian is ruled
by Christ 10b

4. You Need to be Freed from A Non-Christian Worldview

2:11-23

1. Metaphysi
cally: A
Heart
Freed by
Christ Is A

Heart... 11-15

1.

Metaphysically:
Freed from
the principle of

sin 11-12

1.

Through
(heart-)

circumcision 11

2.

Through
baptism (=

regeneration/un ion with Christ)

12

3.

Epistemological
ly: Freed
from the guilt of
sin 13b-14

4.

Ethically: Freed
from the pow
er of
sin inside you

13a and
outside you 15

5. Epistemo

logically: A Mind Freed by Christ Is A Mind... 16-19

1.

Metaphysically: Freed from error: Jewish legalism & pagan religion 16, 18

1.

Jewish legalism 16

2.

Pagan religion 18

3.

Epistemologica
lly: Devoted
to Christ 17,
19a

1.

Not to
ceremonies &
self-righteousn
ess, but a

spiritual relationship with Christ 17

2.

Not to
speculation &
lies, but Christ
and His
wisdom 19a

3.

Ethically:
Growing in
Christ's
wisdom 19b-d

1.

The place
of growth:
Growing in His
body 19b

2.

The means
of growth:
Growing in His
nourishment &

fellowship 19c

3.

The nature
of growth:

Growing in His godliness 19d

4. Ethically: A Life Freed by Christ Is A Life... 20-23

1.

Metaphysically
: Freed from
the basic
principles of
the world

20

1.

The fact
20a

2.

The
implication 20b

3.

Epistemologic
ally: Freed
from human
regulations

21-22

1.

Their
nature 21

2.

Their
evaluation 22

1.

Their
focus: attempt
to solve
enduring
spiritual

problems with perishable physical solutions 22a

2.

Their
origin: man
rather than
God 22b

3.

Ethically:
Freed from

slavery to the

flesh

23

1.

The lie
about their
reputation 23a
and methods
23b: Victory!

2.

The truth
about their
reputation 23c
and methods
23d: Defeat!

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3. You Need A Christian Worldview 3:1-4:18

1.

Metaph

ysically:

Christian

Character

3:1-17

1. The Ground of Christian Character: “ Set your mind on

things above

” 1-4

1.

Metaphysicall

y: Seek th
e things
that are
above 1

1.

Ground:
Union
with Christ 1a

2.

Exhortation:

Seek! 1b

3.

Location:

Heaven

1c

4.

Epistemologi

cally: Set
your mind on
things above
2

5.

Ethically:
Because
your life is
hid with

Christ, and Christ is your life 3-4

1.

This
union has
begun 3

2.

This
union will be
completed 4

3. Put

Off the Old Man 5-11

1. Individu
ally: Put
Evil Desires

to Death (love of self) 5-7

1.

Metaphysically:
What: Evil
(deeds 5a
stemming
from) desires
5b

2.

Epistemologi
cally: Why:
God's

evaluation and response: Wrath! 6

3.

Ethically:
How: Your
walk 7a and
your life 7b

4. Socially

: Put

Away S

ocial Sins

(hatred of fellow man) in 3 Aspects... 8-11

1.

Metaphysically: Their co
re
: Hatred 8

2.

Epistemologic ally: Their expression : Lies 9-10

3.

Ethically:

Their effe

cts :

Superficial

distinctions/di visions 1 1

4. Put On the New Man 12-17

1. Individu
ally: Put

On Christian Virtues (selfless love) 12-14

1.

(Ground: Christian identity 12a)

2.

Metaphysically: Virtues 12b

3.

Epistemologic ally: Reconciliation (forebear or forgive) 13

4.

Ethically:
Bound
together in
love 14

5. Socially: Express Christian Virtues by...

(thankful blessing) 15-17

1.

Metaphysically

: Peace and thankfulness in church 15

2.

Epistemologic ally: Biblical worship (teaching man, praising God) 16

3.

Ethically:
Whatever
you do 17

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4. Epistemologically: Christian Relationship s 3:18-4:1

1. Wives and Husbands 3:18-19

2. Children and

Fathers

3:20-21

3. Slaves and Masters

3:22-4:1

4. Ethically : Christian Community 4:2-18

1. Christia

n Witness

2-6

2. Christia

n

Greetings

7-18

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Discussion Questions:

1.

What position
does Christ
occupy in the
flow of the
main points in
1:3-2:5?

2.

How do the
Christian and
non-Christian
worldviews dif

fer

? What
Christian
things replace
non-Christian
things when

you become a
Christian?
Consider
especially the
summary
contrasts in

2:8-10, and
details in ch.
2.

3.

Extra credit:
What do the
Christian and
non-Christian
worldviews
share in com

mon

? Consider

Psalms 19:1-3;

Rom. 1:18-21.

4.

According to
3:5-11, what “
basic
principles
” “live” at the
center of an

unbelieving
life? What
things live at
the center of
a believer's
life? (3:12b)

How do these
come to
expression
in people's
relationships
(3:18-4:1)? In

their life in
their
community
(4:2-18)?

5.

Explain how
Paul's
critique in ch.
2 fits one

non-Christian worldview, and what parts of the Christian worldview

would be
distinctively
better than
that
non-Christian
worldview.

Example
worldviews to
consider: m
aterialism,
hedonism,
asceticism,

atheism,
secular
science,
Islam,
Hinduism,
Confucianism

;

Mormonism.