

“The Supremacy of Christ in the Advance of the Gospel” **Colossians 1:1-14**

Why would we choose the book of Colossians as the first book to work through as a church? Because we need to build our church on the same foundation Paul laid for this young church at Colossae, the supremacy of Christ.

In order to get an idea of the centrality of Christ in this letter, you should take 10-12 min and read through the whole letter and note how often Paul mentions Jesus, and more importantly, how many times he touts the supremacy of Christ. He makes huge statements like:

- Jesus is the image of the invisible God (1:15)
- Jesus created all things and all things were created for Jesus (1:16)
- Jesus is the head of the church (1:18)
- In Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (2:3)
- Fullness of deity dwells bodily in Jesus (2:9)
- Jesus is all and in all (3:11)
- Jesus is to be preeminent or some translations say “supreme” in everything (1:18)

The Point: The gospel of Jesus Christ is loaded with power to transform lives.

I. Give thanks to God for his transforming work in the gospel (1-8)

1. The gospel is the word of truth.

- The claim of the Bible is that there is “absolute truth that is accessible and universally relevant for all peoples in all times.” (Sam Storms)

2. The gospel brings transformation

- We see that the gospel produces the cardinal virtues of faith, love, and hope. Paul says that their lives look different now. They have love for one another, “all the saints.” Added to that they have a new perspective. They have hope.
- Here’s the beautiful thing: Paul says that the gospel is growing deep *and* wide.
 - When he says that the gospel is “bearing fruit” in Colossae and the whole world, he means that the lives of people who have embraced the gospel are displaying the fruit of good works.
 - Growing” refers to the gospel spreading to more and more people embracing Jesus as the Lord of their lives.
 - **App:** This is exactly what we want to happen at Redemption Hill. We want to simultaneously grow deep and wide.

II. Pray that people would live for the pleasure and glory of God (9-14).

Request: “God, I’m asking that you would fill these followers of Jesus in Colossae with the knowledge of your will”

Why?

“so that they might live for your pleasure and your glory.”

How?

1. Bear fruit in every good work.
2. Increase in the knowledge of God
3. Be strengthened to persevere?
4. Give Thanks for the gospel

Paul provides a great model for prayer. We should pray the Word and let the Word trigger our prayers.