

Apostle Paul Epistles Doctrine Book Of Colossians



<https://www.apostle-paul-letters-to-the-christian-church/>

Paul's explanations in his epistles are crucial for us today because they lay the **doctrinal foundation of the Christian faith** and provide **practical instructions for daily living**. Here's why his teachings remain relevant:

1. They Explain the Gospel of Grace

Paul's epistles emphasize **justification by faith** (Romans 3:28, Galatians 2:16) and the **sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice** (Colossians 2:13-14). This message is essential in a world where many still seek salvation through works or religious rituals.

2. They Teach How to Live as Christians

Paul provides guidance on:

- **Sanctification** – Living a holy life (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4)
- **Love and Unity** – Bearing with one another in love (Ephesians 4:2-3)
- **Spiritual Warfare** – Standing against the enemy (Ephesians 6:10-18)
- **Christian Conduct** – Walking in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-25)

3. They Defend Against False Doctrines

Paul warns about false teachers (Galatians 1:6-9, 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and emphasizes the need to stand firm in sound doctrine (Titus 2:1). This remains critical today as many distort the gospel.

4. They Emphasize the Church's Role

Paul explains the **body of Christ** (1 Corinthians 12:12-27), the **role of pastors and elders** (1 Timothy 3:1-7), and the **importance of fellowship** (Hebrews 10:25). His teachings help believers understand how to function within the church.

5. They Give Us Hope for Christ's Return

Paul's writings on the **Second Coming of Christ** (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58) provide hope in troubled times, reminding believers of their future resurrection and eternal life with Christ.

Conclusion

Paul's explanations are essential today because they teach us **who we are in Christ, how to live by faith, how to resist falsehood, and how to prepare for Christ's return**. His epistles continue to **equip, encourage, and establish believers** in the truth of God's Word.

Elder W H Moody

****Doctrines in Colossians 1****

Colossians 1 establishes ****Christ's supremacy, redemption through His blood, and the mystery of the gospel revealed to the Gentiles****. Paul emphasizes that Jesus is the image of God, the Creator, and the head of the Church. He also prays for the Colossians to grow in spiritual wisdom and strength.

****1. Prayer for Spiritual Growth (Colossians 1:1-14)****

Paul begins by praying for the Colossians, thanking God for their faith and asking that they grow in wisdom and good works.

- "We give thanks to God... since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus" (v.3-4).
- Paul prays they may be "filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (v.9).
- "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His dear Son" (v.13).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Salvation in Christ**** – Believers are rescued from darkness and brought into Christ's kingdom (v.13).
- ****Growth in Spiritual Wisdom**** – Christians should seek to grow in understanding and obedience (v.9-10).
- ****Redemption Through Christ's Blood**** – Forgiveness of sins comes through Jesus (v.14).

****2. The Supremacy of Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)****

Paul presents a powerful declaration of Christ's deity and role as Creator.

- "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (v.15).
- "By Him all things were created... all things were created through Him and for Him" (v.16).
- "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together" (v.17).
- "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell" (v.19).
- "By Him to reconcile all things to Himself... making peace through the blood of His cross" (v.20).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christ is God**** – Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God (v.15).
- ****Christ is the Creator**** – All things exist through and for Christ (v.16).
- ****Christ Holds Everything Together**** – He sustains all creation (v.17).
- ****Christ is the Head of the Church**** – He has authority over His body, the Church (v.18).
- ****Reconciliation Through Christ's Blood**** – Jesus' death brings peace between God and humanity (v.20).

**3. Reconciliation and Salvation Through Christ (Colossians 1:21-23)**

Paul reminds the Colossians of their transformation through Christ's work.

- "You, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled" (v.21).
- "He has reconciled you... to present you holy, blameless, and above reproach in His sight" (v.22).
- "If you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast" (v.23).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Reconciliation with God**** – Sin separated us, but Christ has brought us back to God (v.21-22).
- ****Holiness in Christ**** – Jesus' sacrifice makes believers holy and blameless before God (v.22).
- ****Perseverance in the Faith**** – True believers remain steadfast in their faith (v.23).

**4. The Mystery of Christ in Us (Colossians 1:24-29)**

Paul speaks of his mission to make known the mystery of Christ, especially to the Gentiles.

- "The mystery which has been hidden from ages... but now has been revealed to His saints" (v.26).
- "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (v.27).
- "We preach Him, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ" (v.28).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed**** – Salvation through Christ is now offered to all, including Gentiles (v.26-27).
- ****Christ Lives in Believers**** – "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (v.27).
- ****Spiritual Maturity in Christ**** – The goal is to present believers fully mature in Christ (v.28).

**Summary of Doctrines in Colossians 1:**

1. ****Salvation Through Christ**** – We are rescued from darkness and forgiven through His blood (v.13-14).
2. ****Christ's Deity and Supremacy**** – Jesus is God, Creator, and sustainer of all things (v.15-17).
3. ****Christ is the Head of the Church**** – He has authority over the body of believers (v.18).
4. ****Reconciliation Through the Cross**** – Christ's death restores us to God (v.20-22).
5. ****The Mystery of the Gospel Revealed**** – Salvation is for all, including Gentiles (v.26-27).
6. ****Christ in Us**** – Believers have the indwelling presence of Christ, the hope of glory (v.27).
7. ****Spiritual Growth and Maturity**** – Christians must continue in faith and grow in Christ (v.28-29).

**Main Message:**

Paul proclaims ****the supremacy of Christ, salvation through His blood, and the mystery of the gospel now revealed to all people****. Believers are called to grow in faith, remain steadfast, and recognize Christ as their Lord and Savior.

****Doctrines in Colossians 2****

Colossians 2 emphasizes ****the completeness of believers in Christ, the dangers of human philosophy and legalism, and Christ's victory over sin and spiritual forces****. Paul warns against false teachings and urges believers to remain rooted in Christ alone.

****1. The Fullness of Christ and Spiritual Wisdom (Colossians 2:1-7)****

Paul desires for believers to grow in understanding and remain steadfast in Christ.

- "That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love" (v.2).
- "In [Christ] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (v.3).
- "As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (v.6).
- "Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith" (v.7).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christ is the Source of True Wisdom**** – All knowledge and wisdom are found in Him (v.3).
- ****Spiritual Growth in Christ**** – Believers must be rooted and built up in Him (v.6-7).
- ****Encouragement and Unity in Love**** – Spiritual maturity comes through love and truth (v.2).

****2. Warning Against Deceptive Philosophy (Colossians 2:8-10)****

Paul warns against false teachings that rely on human tradition rather than Christ.

- "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit" (v.8).
- "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (v.9).
- "You are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power" (v.10).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christ's Deity**** – Jesus is fully God in bodily form (v.9).
- ****Believers Are Complete in Christ**** – No other philosophy or system is needed (v.10).
- ****Rejecting False Philosophy**** – Human traditions cannot replace Christ's truth (v.8).

**3. Circumcision of the Heart and New Life in Christ (Colossians 2:11-15)**

Paul explains that believers have been spiritually circumcised through Christ, symbolized in baptism.

- "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands" (v.11).
- "Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith" (v.12).
- "He has made you alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses" (v.13).
- "Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us" (v.14).
- "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them" (v.15).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Spiritual Circumcision**** – The believer's heart is changed, not just outward actions (v.11).
- ****New Life Through Baptism**** – Symbolizes our death and resurrection with Christ (v.12).
- ****Forgiveness of Sins**** – Christ has removed our sins and legal condemnation (v.13-14).
- ****Victory Over Spiritual Powers**** – Jesus has defeated demonic forces and the law's condemnation (v.15).

**4. Freedom from Legalism and Religious Rules (Colossians 2:16-23)**

Paul warns against being judged by Old Testament laws and human traditions.

- "Let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths" (v.16).
- "These are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ" (v.17).
- "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels" (v.18).
- "If you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why... do you subject yourselves to regulations?" (v.20).
- "These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom... but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh" (v.23).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Freedom from Religious Rituals**** – Old Testament laws were a shadow of Christ (v.16-17).
- ****Rejecting False Humility and Mysticism**** – Worshiping angels and man-made rules is not from God (v.18).
- ****Legalism is Powerless to Stop Sin**** – Outward rules do not change the heart (v.23).

**Summary of Doctrines in Colossians 2:**

1. ****Christ is the Source of All Wisdom**** – True understanding comes from Him (v.3).
2. ****Believers Are Complete in Christ**** – No other philosophy or religion is needed (v.10).
3. ****Spiritual Circumcision Through Christ**** – Our hearts are transformed, not just outward rituals (v.11).
4. ****New Life in Christ**** – Baptism symbolizes our death to sin and new life in Him (v.12).
5. ****Forgiveness of Sins**** – Jesus has completely removed our guilt and condemnation (v.13-14).
6. ****Victory Over Satan and the Law's Curse**** – Christ triumphed over all powers (v.15).
7. ****Freedom from Legalism**** – Following Old Testament laws and human traditions is unnecessary (v.16-17).
8. ****Rejecting False Religion**** – Mysticism, asceticism, and rituals cannot replace Christ (v.18-23).

**Main Message:**

Paul urges believers to ****reject false teachings and legalism, remain rooted in Christ, and live in the freedom and fullness found in Him alone****.

****Doctrines in Colossians 3****

Colossians 3 emphasizes ****living a Christ-centered life, putting off sinful behaviors, putting on godly virtues, and maintaining godly relationships****. Paul instructs believers to seek heavenly things, walk in holiness, and live in love and unity.

****1. Seek the Things Above (Colossians 3:1-4)****

Paul begins by calling believers to focus on their new identity in Christ.

- "If you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is" (v.1).
- "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth" (v.2).
- "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (v.3).
- "When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (v.4).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Heavenly Mindset**** – Believers should focus on eternal, not worldly things (v.1-2).
- ****Union with Christ**** – Our life is hidden in Him, and we will share in His glory (v.3-4).
- ****The Second Coming of Christ**** – When He returns, believers will be glorified with Him (v.4).

****2. Put Off the Old Life (Colossians 3:5-11)****

Paul urges believers to reject sinful behaviors.

- "Put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry" (v.5).
- "Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience" (v.6).
- "You yourselves once walked in these, when you lived in them" (v.7).
- "But now you must put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language" (v.8).
- "Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds" (v.9).
- "And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him" (v.10).
- "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew... but Christ is all and in all" (v.11).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Sanctification**** – Christians must actively put away sinful behaviors (v.5-9).
- ****Renewal in Christ's Image**** – The "new man" is transformed into Christ's likeness (v.10).
- ****Unity in Christ**** – In Christ, all believers are equal, regardless of background (v.11).

**3. Put On the New Life (Colossians 3:12-17)**

Paul lists the godly virtues believers should embrace.

- "Put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering" (v.12).
- "Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another... even as Christ forgave you" (v.13).
- "But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" (v.14).
- "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (v.15).
- "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom" (v.16).
- "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (v.17).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christian Character**** – Believers must put on love, humility, and patience (v.12-14).
- ****Forgiveness in Christ**** – We should forgive as He forgave us (v.13).
- ****The Peace of Christ**** – His peace should rule our hearts (v.15).
- ****The Authority of Christ**** – Everything must be done for His glory (v.17).

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**4. Godly Relationships (Colossians 3:18-25)**

Paul gives instructions for relationships within the Christian household.

- "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord" (v.18).
- "Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them" (v.19).
- "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord" (v.20).
- "Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (v.21).
- "Bondservants, obey in all things your masters... as to the Lord and not to men" (v.22).
- "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (v.23).
- "But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality" (v.25).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Biblical Marriage**** – Wives submit, and husbands love sacrificially (v.18-19).
- ****Parental Responsibility**** – Parents must not discourage but guide their children (v.20-21).
- ****Godly Work Ethic**** – Everything should be done as service to the Lord (v.22-23).
- ****God’s Justice**** – He will repay wrongdoing without favoritism (v.25).

**Summary of Doctrines in Colossians 3:**

1. ****Heavenly Focus**** – Seek Christ and set your mind on eternal things (v.1-4).
2. ****Put Off Sinful Behavior**** – Reject immorality, anger, and deception (v.5-9).
3. ****New Identity in Christ**** – Be renewed into His image (v.10-11).
4. ****Put On Christian Virtues**** – Embrace love, peace, and forgiveness (v.12-17).
5. ****Godly Relationships**** – Live according to God’s design for marriage, family, and work (v.18-25).
6. ****Do Everything for Christ**** – Every action should glorify the Lord (v.17, 23).

**Main Message:**

Paul calls believers to ****live out their new life in Christ, walk in holiness, and reflect Christ’s character in their daily lives and relationships****.

**Doctrines in Colossians 4**

Colossians 4 concludes Paul's letter with **instructions on prayer, wise living, and final greetings**. He emphasizes the importance of **prayer, evangelism, Christian speech, and faithfulness in ministry**.

**1. Responsibilities of Masters (Colossians 4:1)**

Paul instructs masters (employers) on how to treat their servants (workers).

- "Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Justice in Leadership** – Employers must treat workers fairly.
- **God as the Ultimate Master** – Earthly leaders are accountable to Him.

**2. The Power of Prayer (Colossians 4:2-4)**

Paul urges believers to be **faithful in prayer**.

- "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (v.2).
- "Praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word" (v.3).
- "That I may make [the gospel] manifest, as I ought to speak" (v.4).

****Key Doctrines:****

- **Persistence in Prayer** – Prayer should be continuous and watchful (v.2).
- **Praying for the Gospel's Advance** – We should pray for evangelistic opportunities (v.3).
- **Clarity in Preaching** – Ministers must proclaim Christ clearly (v.4).

**3. Walking in Wisdom (Colossians 4:5-6)**

Paul gives guidance on how Christians should **interact with unbelievers**.

- "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time" (v.5).
- "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (v.6).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christian Witness**** – Believers must be wise in how they engage with non-believers (v.5).
- ****Time Management for God's Glory**** – "Redeeming the time" means making the most of opportunities (v.5).
- ****Gracious and Wise Speech**** – Our words should be filled with grace and truth (v.6).

**4. Faithfulness in Ministry (Colossians 4:7-18)**

Paul acknowledges faithful servants in Christ, showing the importance of ****teamwork in ministry****.

- ****Tychicus**** – "A beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord" (v.7).
- ****Onesimus**** – "A faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you" (v.9).
- ****Aristarchus**** – "My fellow prisoner" (v.10).
- ****Mark**** – "If he comes to you, welcome him" (v.10).
- ****Epaphras**** – "Always laboring fervently for you in prayers" (v.12).
- ****Luke**** – "The beloved physician" (v.14).
- ****Demas**** – Mentioned without praise (later abandoned Paul – 2 Tim. 4:10).
- "Say to Archippus, 'Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it'" (v.17).
- Paul closes with a personal signature: "Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen." (v.18).

****Key Doctrines:****

- ****Christian Brotherhood**** – Ministry involves teamwork and faithfulness (v.7-14).
- ****The Power of Intercessory Prayer**** – Epaphras labored in prayer for others (v.12).
- ****Encouragement in Ministry**** – Believers should support and exhort each other (v.17).
- ****Perseverance in Trials**** – Paul reminds them of his suffering for Christ (v.18).

**Summary of Doctrines in Colossians 4:**

1. ****Justice in Leadership**** – Employers should treat workers fairly (v.1).
2. ****The Power of Prayer**** – Prayer should be persistent, watchful, and gospel-focused (v.2-4).
3. ****Wisdom in Witnessing**** – Believers must use their time wisely and speak with grace (v.5-6).
4. ****Faithfulness in Ministry**** – Many serve together in God's kingdom, each with unique roles (v.7-17).
5. ****Perseverance in Suffering**** – Paul's imprisonment reminds us to remain steadfast (v.18).

**Main Message:**

Paul calls believers to ****devote themselves to prayer, live wisely, speak graciously, and remain faithful in ministry, no matter the challenges****.