

## 51-Colossians-01-Transcript

[Music]

[Music]

well greetings once again brethren and  
welcome back to another wednesday night  
bible study

we are going to study god willing uh  
today in the next few weeks uh the book  
of colossians

and this is the last of the prison  
epistles there are four epistles written  
by the apostle paul

and they're called the prison epistles  
because he wrote them while he was  
in prison a few years ago actually i  
think

the very first study that we did was  
philippians

and we did that several years ago that  
was the first of the prison epistles  
that we covered

at the feast of tabernacles we covered  
the epistle to the ephesians

last week we covered philemon and god  
willing now we're covering colossians so  
those are the four

prison epistles and philemon and  
colossians

are both written to the brethren in the  
church at colossae

so let's open with a word of prayer and  
we'll get into this last

of the prison epistles our heavenly  
father we come before you and we're just  
so grateful to you lord

for your word we're so grateful to you  
father for jesus christ

and all that you have accomplished  
through him

and we just thank you god that you have  
placed us in him

especially in this time of great  
challenge for the church father

we just pray that you'll strengthen us  
by your word and we thank you again that  
we have access to it  
we ask your blessing in our study now in  
jesus most holy name  
amen so we are now  
uh studying this uh great book of  
the fee of um colossians the  
fourth of the prison epistles and it  
opens up saying  
paul and he identifies himself in this  
uh letter  
as an apostle of jesus christ and  
remember last week when we studied  
philemon he did not position himself as  
an apostle  
but here he's speaking to the brethren  
and this book he is tackling  
false doctrine and so he really wants to  
ensure that the brethren know  
he is speaking as an apostle of jesus  
christ  
and so you can compare his teaching now  
to the  
others who are you know whatever role  
they pretend that they're in  
they're not apostles of jesus christ and  
so he positions himself and it's  
important for us to know you know who  
has been ordained into what  
office and what uh because christ tells  
us we're going to be  
faced with false teachers so we want to  
know like who are  
the true teachers of christ uh we can  
and he says we shall know them by their  
fruits  
so we've got to be careful um first of  
all whom has god  
selected and ordained in the office of  
teacher  
official teachers on his behalf  
and then we shall know them by their  
fruits or we watch the fruits take time

so we watch over time to see what their  
fruit are  
but here paul says he's an apostle of  
jesus christ and he doesn't stop there  
he's an apostle of jesus christ by the  
will  
of god this this was by god's will  
that he has been placed into the  
apostleship  
and then included as offering the letter  
is timothy our brother but timothy is  
not an apostle  
uh christ is christ sent the apostle  
paul  
along with the other 11 apostles now  
this um notion that he's an apostle by  
the will or by the desire of god  
uh he really made that clear what he  
meant when he's brought to the galatian  
church  
where he says but when it pleased god so  
this is god's pleasure god's will  
who separated me from my mother's womb  
so god selected this particular  
messenger  
or tool of god right from the womb  
and called me by his grace to reveal his  
son and me  
that i might preach him among the  
heathen and then he says that he did not  
confer with flesh and blood  
so this is god's pleasure to separate  
paul  
from his womb and and use him as a  
vehicle so he identifies himself as the  
apostle of jesus christ  
uh by the will of god so god the father  
made this possible  
so that's who the letter's from it's  
from the apostle paul and our brother  
timothy to the saints and faithful  
brethren  
in christ which are at colossi  
so this is now to the church in colossi

to the saints and faithful brethren  
grace be unto you and peace and that's  
quite a typical  
reading from the apostle where he  
pronounces both grace  
and peace shalom the the hebrew greeting  
and then grace more of the the greek  
brethren's greeting  
and this letter truly is a lot about  
grace  
and our brother deacon jan just this  
past sabbath  
it's amazing the timing just this past  
sabbath  
gave a remarkable sermon entitled um  
i think it was what what is god's grace  
all about what is god's grace all about  
i would really encourage you if you did  
not uh if you were not tuning in on  
sabbath and did not hear  
that message to check out the archives  
and look up the sermon  
what is god's grace all about by deacon  
jan  
i think that um if if we read grace  
here and we don't have the understanding  
that our brother jan brought to us on  
sabbath  
then we can just be reading in the back  
of our minds or thinking in the back of  
our minds  
that this is what we'll call cheap grace  
cheap grace  
it's not rooted in the scriptures it's  
not rooted in the torah  
so i would really encourage you i'm not  
going to repeat what he taught there in  
his sermon  
but i'd really encourage you to listen  
to that sermon so you have a very strong  
understanding  
of what it means when we say god's grace  
so here he says grace be unto you and  
peace and that peace is an extension

then  
of true grace from god our father  
and the lord jesus christ so that's the  
introduction  
and he says now we give thanks to god  
and the father of our lord jesus christ  
praying always for you since we heard of  
your faith and hear this you  
is uh plural it's you in the plural  
speaking to the whole congregation  
since we heard of your faith in christ  
jesus  
and the love which you have to all the  
saints a very  
active congregation a very faithful  
congregation  
and the apostle paul did not found  
this congregation so this congregation  
was founded by  
other men and news came to to paul  
and timothy about the progress of this  
congregation  
and in that the apostle paul rejoiced  
and so he heard of their faith  
he did not establish this church so  
since we heard of your faith in christ  
jesus  
and of the love would you have to all  
the saints and we'll see later that it's  
most likely  
epaphras that brought this news to him  
so they heard of this and so he says  
we're giving thanks to god and the  
father our lord jesus christ  
praying always for you and what are they  
praying for verse 5  
for the hope which is laid up for you in  
heaven where have you heard  
before in the word of the truth of the  
gospel  
so this is all about the hope and the  
hope is not like oh i you know i hope i  
win a million dollars some people play  
lottery or they gamble and they hope

that they win  
this is not what the apostle means by  
the word hope  
it's it's the earnest expectation this  
is the faith  
so this this expectation of this  
entrance into the kingdom which is laid  
up for you in heaven it doesn't mean  
that we're going to heaven  
it means that god is in heaven and our  
destiny is with him  
and christ is returning to earth to  
establish his kingdom on earth  
and our hope is in that kingdom that  
christ will establish  
on earth he says for the hope which is  
laid up for you  
in heaven whereof you heard before  
in the word of the truth of the gospel  
so the gospel was preached to them and  
that's how the church was established  
which has come unto you as it is in all  
the world  
so this apostle paul himself went all  
through  
asia asia minor preaching the gospel and  
others have been taken up and this  
gospel is spreading and brings forth  
fruit  
as it does also in you  
since the day you heard of it and knew  
the grace of god in truth and again that  
word grace and that understanding of  
what  
what grace actually means and how it's  
brought about  
uh in the in the sermon what is grace  
all of what is god's grace all about  
as you also learned of epaphras our dear  
fellow  
servant so this is the indication we  
have that it was perhaps epaphrous who  
helped found this church  
because they learned from him who is

your faithful minister  
of christ who also declared unto  
us your love in the spirit so epaphras  
declared unto them the gospel  
but then epaphras came to the apostle  
paul while he was in prison  
and gave a very good report of the  
brethren in colossae  
as well as perhaps some of the issues  
they were facing with false doctrines  
creeping in  
and so that's what prompted paul to  
write to them and first of all give  
thanks  
for their faithfulness and for their  
love of the brethren  
now he will talk about apophis later  
in chapter four where he says apophis  
who is one of you he's of colossi  
a servant of christ so paul is an  
apostle of christ epaphras is a servant  
of christ  
he salutes you always laboring fervently  
for you  
in prayers so this is a faithful  
minister and he's can  
and paul and him together would most  
likely be praying and he just seeing  
how the love that apophis has for these  
brethren and always laboring fervently  
for them in prayers what and what is he  
praying  
that you may stand perfect and complete  
in all the will of god so they really  
that they're a young church  
they're more primarily a gentile church  
they've got to come  
into the full understanding of the will  
of god and stand perfect and complete  
in that understanding back to chapter  
one  
for this cause we also and so this calls  
let's go back to verse 8.  
so verse 7 as you also learned of

epaphras our dear fellow servant who is  
for you a faithful minister of christ  
who also declared unto us your love in  
the spirit  
for this cause because of this very good  
report about the brethren  
since the day we heard it we do not  
cease to pray for you  
and to desire that you might be filled  
with the knowledge of his will  
so epaphras was praying that they'd be  
filled with the knowledge of his will  
and they'd be complete in the knowledge  
of his will  
and this is what the apostle paul has  
been praying this young this young  
church  
and possibly the apostle paul paul heard  
of their establishment  
uh and and their faithfulness and their  
love for the for the truth and for the  
brethren  
from the moment he heard of this church  
he has not ceased or he and timothy  
have not ceased to pray for them and to  
desire  
that they might be filled with the  
knowledge of  
his will so a lot of people a lot of  
christians  
discount knowledge and because they  
discount knowledge they discount  
teachers  
and they think it's just all it's just a  
hard thing just just feel just me and  
the lord  
and i just feel good about my service in  
the lord and my relationship with god  
it's just a good feeling and i  
i just feel the spirit whereas paul the  
apostle  
to the gentiles primarily was just  
constantly constantly praying  
that they would mature in the knowledge



that they'd be  
filled with the knowledge of his will  
that they really come to understand with  
what he is doing what is god's will what  
is he doing in the earth  
so that they can be in alignment with  
his will not working against his will  
and unfortunately it's sad to say many  
christians  
are actually working against god's will  
because they haven't taken the time to  
understand  
what is it and they're allowing false  
doctrine to creep in and to divide the  
body of christ  
and to turn them against their own  
brothers and sisters in christ  
because they do not understand what is  
the will of god  
and desire that you might be filled with  
the knowledge of his will  
in all wisdom and spiritual  
understanding so this is  
this this is what matters that we have  
all wisdom and spiritual understanding  
so that we can fully appreciate and  
understand the knowledge of his will  
what is he doing  
now this is quite similar to what we  
studied in the book of ephesians and i  
don't want to repeat the study of  
ephesians here that is in the archive  
but i i have to mention it so that we  
can see the  
the alignment these this is also another  
prison epistle  
and we can see the deep understanding  
that the apostle paul has  
that he's trying to impart to the  
brethren  
not only in ephesians ephesus but also  
in colossi  
so he's saying here that he wants them  
to come to this

uh to be filled with the knowledge of  
god's will  
in all wisdom and spiritual  
understanding in ephesians three and  
verse  
beginning in verse four and i just  
wanted to take one verse and i said no i  
need the verse before  
and i just need to take a passage here  
in verse 4  
whereby when you read you may understand  
my knowledge in the mystery of christ  
so he wants the brethren at ephesus to  
understand how much the apostle paul  
understands of the mystery of christ  
that most people don't understand  
what is going on but paul understood and  
he wanted the brethren in ephesus to  
understand  
which means that they must first  
acknowledge how much he understands  
which in other ages was not made known  
unto the sons of men  
as it is now revealed unto his holy  
apostles  
and prophets by the spirit so this is  
the mystery of the ages  
this is the mystery that nobody  
understood that in other ages it wasn't  
made known to the sons of men  
but now it's been revealed to the holy  
apostles and prophets through the holy  
spirit and this is the mystery  
that the gentiles should be fellow heirs  
that this thing that was completely cut  
off from the gentiles had  
nothing to do with the gentiles in fact  
i shouldn't say had nothing to do with  
the gentiles  
the only participation that the gentiles  
had  
in this will of god was to be the  
enemies  
of the covenant people to be the the

tool or the mechanism  
through which he would cause the  
persecution and the suffering  
of the people of god and then they in  
turn  
would be punished for their evil  
work  
and evil works and their their  
persecution of the covenant people  
that's it they had no inheritance  
with the saints and with the covenant  
people but it was a mystery from the  
beginning  
that god had intended always to bring  
the gentiles into this fellowship  
and that's what he wanted the brethren  
at ephesus to understand and that's what  
he wants the the  
gentile brethren and colossi to come to  
understand as well  
that the gentiles should be fellow heirs  
and of the same body and partakers of  
his promise in christ  
by the gospel through this preaching of  
the gospel  
their minds can be opened and they can  
be grafted in  
whereof i was made a minister according  
to the gift of the grace of god  
given unto me by the effectual working  
of his power  
so this is the will of god to place the  
apostle place paul  
into the apostleship as a slave of god  
just according to the gift of his grace  
unto me  
whom less than the least of all things  
is this grace given  
that i should preach among the gentiles  
the unsearchable riches of christ  
that this truth is mind-blowing  
it is hard to comprehend and you would  
never find it out by yourself  
the only way we could come to know this

truth is by revelation  
it's unsearchable and to make all men  
see what is the fellowship of the  
mystery that we can come to understand  
his will what is the will of god what is  
he doing on the earth  
that that this through the gospel we can  
make all see  
what is the fellowship of the mystery  
which from the beginning of the world  
has been hidden god that it was intended  
from the very beginning but it's been  
hidden  
until now who created all things by  
jesus christ  
to the intent why was it hidden until  
now  
what's god's will to the intent that  
now unto the principalities and powers  
in heavenly places  
might be known by the church the  
manifold wisdom of god  
so so god has this incredible  
unsearchable wisdom that he has a will  
he has a plan it is inaccessible  
and it has been hidden to to the sons of  
men  
until he chose to reveal it in christ  
and now the apostle having this  
knowledge in christ  
has is now through the gospel making it  
known to the gentile world  
and god is taken from the gentile world  
and grafting them in  
to this covenant community and this is a  
great mystery that even the  
principalities and powers had no idea  
and again in this past sermon deacon jan  
speaks about this  
and how they had no if satan himself  
had no idea and ended up cutting his own  
throat  
when he when he was crucifying christ he  
didn't realize he was bringing about his

own destruction  
because he didn't know this great  
mystery  
but now the church knows and it's our  
job  
to make known to the principalities and  
powers  
in the heavenly this great mystery  
so back to colossians 1 so that insight  
that we see that he's trying to  
convey to ephesus he's trying to convey  
the same insight and understanding  
to colossae as well so he he says to  
them he wants him to come into this full  
understanding  
of god's will that you might walk worthy  
of the lord unto all pleasing being  
fruitful in every good work  
and increasing there it is again in the  
knowledge of god we must grow  
in the grace and knowledge of christ  
knowledge is huge for the christian  
we are students we study  
knowledge matters and and don't be  
around brethren who discount knowledge  
don't be around brethren and say oh you  
don't need to study it's just you just  
have to believe just believe  
these are the brethren that will be  
easily seduced these are the brethren  
they'll be easily  
hijacked and will run after nonsense  
because they haven't been able to  
root themselves in the knowledge of god  
now that they might walk worthy the same  
knowledge that he's conveying  
to to colossi the brethren colossi this  
is the same knowledge he was conveying  
to the brethren in ephesus so here he is  
in prison with his deep understanding  
and it's amazing how  
you would see how paul's been imprisoned  
what a horrible thing and yet  
that that enabled him gave him the time

to write these incredible epistles  
to go deep into thought and meditation  
and prayer  
and and fasting and write these things  
and and now they're recorded for  
thousands of years  
and we have access to this deep  
knowledge so the same way that he passed  
on this knowledge to  
um colossae he had passed the same  
knowledge onto ephesus  
and we saw in the first three chapters  
of ephesus he's really giving them the  
understanding  
so then in the last three chapters of  
ephesus uh the church to ephesus or the  
letter to ephesus  
uh he is telling them what to do based  
on this understanding  
and we see that here in colossi you have  
to have this understanding so that you  
can walk worthy  
and here in ephesians 4 verse 1 i  
therefore the prisoner of the lord  
i'm begging you that you walk worthy of  
the vocation  
wherewith you are called so there's a  
certain level of conduct  
that that this great mystery is so  
mind-blowing and so profound  
that there's a behavior that's required  
of us that is also profound  
that all the people around us we can't  
behave like them  
we have to be on a completely different  
level and that's what he was saying to  
that's what he's saying to ephesus and  
that's what he was saying here to the  
brethren at colossae  
so he wants them to walk worthy and then  
he says in verse 11  
strengthened with all might according to  
his glorious power and again he speaks  
of this glorious power

in the in the letter to ephesus  
strengthened with  
all might according to his glorious  
power it's not it's not physical might  
it's not  
you know egotistical might and i'm just  
going to be so great no  
it's spiritual and it comes from god  
himself the same power that he used to  
raise christ from the dead  
strengthened with all might according to  
his glorious power  
unto all patience and long-suffering  
with joyfulness brethren  
we should not be hysterical people  
we should not be people caught up with  
the here and now  
so we're in the midst now of this uh  
us election uh you know the election was  
uh last week uh here we are in  
in november early november 2020 and  
there's allegations of fraud  
and so they're in not in a position to  
declare  
who actually won the election yet the  
the the electoral college will do that  
um but the country's more or less  
divided 50 50.  
and uh you know if one candidate is  
successful  
half the country is elated the other  
half is furious  
if it turns out that that somehow  
conclusion was incorrect and the other  
candidate  
is going to be successful well that that  
half of the country is going to be  
thrilled  
and the other half is going to be  
furious  
but either way uh satan is doing his  
work  
of stirring up humanity to to violence  
and hatred and also tearing down america

destroying america and removing this the  
city on a shining hill  
the bastion of the last bastion of  
freedom for mankind  
it's satan's desire to destroy that and  
to bring america down  
so as all of this happens it's easy  
to get caught up in the hysteria but we  
must walk worthy  
of this vocation and our minds must be  
set on something much much higher  
than what happens in this world yes dark  
days are ahead  
oh yes very dark days are ahead if satan  
has his way  
and freedom is removed from the earth  
and marxism global marxism  
surrounds the earth along with all the  
other ideologies that want to remove  
freedom of choice from men and oppressed  
men  
it's going to be very dark days for  
christians  
but we don't get hysterical we don't get  
hysterical our sights are set on  
something much higher  
and because of that we are strengthened  
with this supernatural  
power from god and because of this  
supernatural power from god  
we are able to have patience  
and long suffering with joyfulness that  
even though  
this dark winter is coming upon us this  
great darkness is coming upon  
us we can still have joy  
and that joy comes from this patience  
and long-suffering  
which comes from this deep understanding  
we have of what god is doing  
on the earth he says giving thanks unto  
the father  
which has made us meet or able to be  
partakers



of the inheritance of the saints in  
light and again go back to the study on  
ephesians  
where we see this incredible blessing of  
god  
opening up this inheritance to the  
gentile  
world and enabling those of us in the  
gentile world to be  
grafted in to the covenant community  
so we give thanks unto the father which  
has made us meet or able  
to be partakers of the inheritance of  
the saints in light  
who has delivered us from the power of  
darkness  
the whole world is under this power of  
darkness but god has hand-picked us  
and and he's delivered us and this is  
part of the process of salvation is to  
deliver us from this power  
and again i refer that i think this the  
sermon that  
deacon jan did on sabbath with such a  
fantastic introduction  
to this study on colossians to show that  
part of the process of salvation  
is delivering us from the power of sin  
who has delivered us from the power of  
darkness  
and has translated us into the kingdom  
of his dear son and this is what this  
letter is all about  
his dear son and just how central  
jesus christ is to everything that god  
is doing  
and that if false doctrine is going to  
creep into a congregation  
it's going to creep into that  
congregation because they do not  
understand just how central  
jesus christ is to the plan of god and  
just how glorious  
jesus christ is and what a great marvel

it is  
for us to be grafted in to the body of  
jesus christ  
and so that's what paul is going to  
really get across to the brethren here  
at colossae is just how central  
and glorious jesus christ is to the plan  
of god and to the life  
of the christian so he's delivered us  
from the power of darkness  
and he's translated us into the kingdom  
of his dear son that's where we are  
now we are translated into his kingdom  
and we're waiting  
for that kingdom to be brought about  
by christ himself when he returns and we  
will be a part  
of that kingdom now concerning being  
delivered from the power of this  
darkness  
this again is the exact same thing the  
insight  
that he was writing to the brethren at  
ephesus where he says  
blessed be the god and father of our  
lord jesus christ  
who has blessed us with all  
not some but with all spiritual  
blessings in the heavenly  
in christ according as he has chosen us  
in him before the foundation of the  
world this was the mystery  
that gentiles have a place in this  
calling in this covenant  
but it was hidden it's been the mystery  
of the ages  
but now it's been revealed in christ  
that he has chosen us in him before the  
foundation of the world  
that we should be holy and without blame  
before him in love and then dropping  
down to verse 15  
wherefore i also after i heard of your  
faith in the lord jesus

and love unto all the saints so similar  
to to what he's writing to the cloth  
brother in a colossi  
i cease not to give thanks for you  
making mention of you  
in my prayers that the lord  
that the god of our lord jesus christ  
the father of glory may give unto you  
the spirit of wisdom and revelation  
in the knowledge of him the eyes of your  
understanding being enlightened this is  
his prayer  
very similar to what he's praying for  
the brethren of colossi that you may  
know what is the hope of his calling  
this is the apostles prayer that you'll  
know the hope of his calling  
and what the riches of the glory of his  
inheritance in the saints like  
brethren if we understand this we are  
not getting caught up  
in the affairs we're not getting  
entangled in the affairs of this world  
this is our focus the riches of the  
glory of his inheritance in the saints  
and what is the exceeding  
greatness of his power toward us  
this is incredible power we have to  
understand just how great this power is  
that we have access to  
no matter how dark it is around us  
there's a light that we have  
there's access to a powerful light that  
we have and he wants the brethren to  
come to understand this and  
us by extension we must come to  
understand this what is the exceeding  
greatness of his power toward us who  
believe  
according to the working of his mighty  
power which he wrought in christ  
when he raised christ from the dead that  
same power  
that raised from christ from the dead

that's the power that's working on us  
and set him at his own right hand in the  
heavenly  
and then in chapter 2 verse 1 he says  
and you has he made alive  
which were dead in trespasses and sins  
wherein in time past you walked  
according to the course of the world  
now we can walk worthy of this vocation  
but prior to having access to this power  
we were trapped  
under the power of darkness and we  
walked according to the course of this  
world  
according to the prince of the power of  
the air the spirit  
that now works in the children of  
disobedience so i unpacked that  
in detail in the study on ephesians if  
you missed that study  
i would encourage you to go into the  
archives and we have to study brethren  
soon we may not have access to the word  
of god  
we may have to be going from memory and  
and you know scraps or whatever we can  
find as electronic media may be removed  
from us  
uh who knows what the future this this  
dark winter uh and that's a good phrase  
that's being used by  
by uh one of the candidates to describe  
the future  
we are heading into a spiritual dark  
winter it's going to be dark and cold  
and we need to be ready brethren we need  
to be preparing for this  
and we need to be taking the study of  
the word of god seriously and you know  
maybe even downloading  
these messages so that we have them  
locally and we're not depending on  
what's in the cloud  
which can be easily cut off and turned

off and we can be  
cut off from it so we need to be  
studying and really getting this and  
being established in this truth so that  
the whole bible makes sense to us  
and we can go anywhere and when  
somebody's preaching something from from  
the  
so-called from the word of god we can  
say no that doesn't make sense that  
doesn't line up with what isaiah taught  
that doesn't line up with torah that  
doesn't line up with revelation  
that doesn't line up with what the  
apostle paul when jesus christ himself  
taught  
because we know the bible from genesis  
to revelation  
and that's why we do these studies so  
we have been released from this dark  
power  
and we have access to this incredible  
exceeding great power  
that god has given us access to through  
christ  
in whom we have redemption through his  
blood  
even the forgiveness of sins and this is  
something that again traditional  
christianity can take and cheapen  
this is very deep and very profound has  
everything to do with the covenant  
that we now have redemption through his  
blood that that the  
the the jewish community who have  
retained  
the covenant relationship with god  
northern israel being divorced  
uh the southern kingdom retaining the  
covenant  
but still being under the curse of the  
covenant  
and gaining redemption through the blood  
of christ that the curse would be upon

christ  
and they could gain redemption through  
his blood and we gentiles being grafted  
into all of this  
and we ourselves can gain redemption now  
through his blood even the forgiveness  
of sins  
who is the image of the invisible god  
that's what jesus christ is the very  
image of the invisible god if we've seen  
him we've seen the father  
our study of christ our understanding of  
christ helps us understand  
the father because christ is the image  
of the invisible god  
the first born the proto-takas  
of every creature he's the firstborn  
what does that mean if he's the image  
and man is made in the image and  
likeness of god but if he's the  
very image of the invisible god the the  
exact replica  
of the invisible god but he's also the  
firstborn  
of every creature then that he didn't  
say only born  
he said first proto that means there's  
going to be a second and a third and  
there's going to be others  
he's the firstborn for by him  
were all things created this again is  
the centrality of christ how central  
christ is  
to the plan of god and everything god is  
doing into the very glory of god  
for by christ we're all things created  
that are in heaven and that are in earth  
everything  
that the whole creative effort and  
function  
was delegated to christ christ created  
everything for by him were all things  
created  
and this is where you know uh we're

dealing with false doctrines  
false ideologies and we are going to  
withstand  
and and and beat back  
all of these false ideologies with this  
single truth  
that by jesus christ all things were  
created  
that are in heaven and are in earth and  
you know one of these ideologies that's  
spreading like  
wildfire all over the earth and  
especially in the western world  
is islam and in this teaching christ is  
just a man  
he's a prophet oh we love this prophet  
but he's he's nothing compared to  
muhammad  
and he's just the prophet and we can't  
and people are going along with this and  
saying we've got to have chris slam and  
cooperate and find a way and  
and create this sort of syncretism uh  
with islam  
which the church of colossi was dealing  
with syncretism as well  
they were taking the understanding of  
torah and scriptures  
and mixing that with pagan uh teachings  
and that was beginning to infiltrate  
the brethren at colossae and paul is now  
giving them an an inoculation  
against false teachings and this is the  
inoculation when you get this  
no false teaching can overtake you that  
christ  
created everything in heaven and on  
earth  
visible and invisible so you know what's  
the same put that in your pipe and smoke  
it  
so we cannot cooperate or coordinate  
or or go alongside any ideology  
that is going to diminish jesus christ

because the truth is  
christ is above everything and everyone  
except god the father he's under the  
father  
but over everything else and he created  
everything else  
and that is the truth that we defend  
that we use to defend ourselves  
against satanic doctrine and teaching  
for by christ we're all things created  
that are in heaven  
and that are in earth visible and  
invisible whether they be thrones or  
dominions or principalities or powers  
and so islam i mentioned is spreading  
all over the earth  
the other ideology the other satanic  
ideology  
that is spreading all over the earth is  
marxism  
in one case we want to make this moon  
god  
the greatest god in the case of marxism  
we want to make the state  
the government the god and everybody  
must bow down and do as the state says  
and worship the state and the state has  
absolute control and both ideologies end  
up controlling  
every aspect of human life you can't  
sneeze you can't cough  
you can't wake up in the morning you  
can't go bad to bed at night you can't  
eat  
unless they dictate to you exactly how  
to do what and when and when where  
that that that is satan wants to be like  
the most high  
he wants to make he wants to prove that  
he is god and he wants to prove that by  
having control  
over those made in the image and  
likeness of god and to have complete  
control over every aspect



of our lives and so whether islam  
whether marxism  
whether false christianity whatever the  
false ideology is  
that is trying to creep in to destroy  
the church we are going to withstand it  
by this deep understanding of the  
central role  
of jesus christ so whether they be  
thrones or dominions or principalities  
or powers  
everything was created by him and for  
him  
and he is before all things and by him  
all things consist now  
that is jesus christ and even you know  
even in the  
the church of god tradition there has  
been  
an attempt to minimize christ  
and make it all about the father it's  
all about the father  
and we had one brother join us some  
years ago  
and we were singing a hymn that was  
praising christ  
and he was offended he was we shouldn't  
be praising christ we should only praise  
the father  
that is false we absolutely uh in the in  
in the gospel according to john christ  
himself says when we  
glorify uh christ we glorify the father  
but it's the pleasure of god that we  
glorify christ  
and that's what the apostle paul is  
showing us here just how central  
christ is to everything god has in mind  
and he is the head of the body the  
church  
the church is the body of christ who  
is the beginning  
again here it is again the first born  
from the dead

so first he's the firstborn of all  
creation of all creatures  
now paul is even more specific he's the  
firstborn  
from the dead it's as if to say the  
grave is a type of womb  
the the grave is pregnant with fetuses  
and it's given birth to the first one  
which is christ  
so he's he's the firstborn from the dead  
that in all things he might have  
preeminence that  
when there are others who are born from  
the dead who come up from the grave  
so so we're born once into this physical  
being and then we're born again  
first corinthians 15 into a new body  
a pneumatic spiritual body and that's  
our second birth but christ has already  
done this  
and it's in his resurrection that we  
have hope and confidence  
of our future and so he's the firstborn  
from the dead that  
in all things he might have preeminence  
that when others are also born from the  
dead  
none of us can say that we there can  
only be one first born from the dead  
so even though we all come into this  
incredible glory  
nobody can be higher than christ because  
he's the firstborn  
from the dead and in fact when he was  
writing to  
the philippians in the first prison  
epistle that we covered  
in philippians 2 and verse 9 he says  
wherefore god  
also has highly exalted christ  
the father has highly exalted christ  
it's the father's will that nobody  
or nothing is higher than christ except  
god himself

wherefore god also has highly exalted  
him and given him a name  
which is above every name that that at  
the name of jesus  
every knee should bow every being will  
worship christ  
so that that brother who came among us  
and we're singing him praising christ  
and he's offended he doesn't understand  
it's god's will that every knee  
bows to jesus christ of things and even  
all the angelic beings in heaven  
will bow to christ and we have even  
brethren now taking the knee  
taking the knee and bowing the knee to  
paganism  
to balin and the only  
knee that we will take is we will bow  
and bend the knee to jesus christ of  
things in heaven and things in earth  
and things under the earth now that we  
we are  
we acknowledge him as the first born  
from the dead  
listen to what christ revealed to the  
apostle john in revelation and we  
this is also in the archive revelation 1  
and verse 5  
and from jesus christ who is the  
faithful witness  
and says here the first begotten but  
it's the same word prototakas  
he's the firstborn of the dead  
the faithful witness and the firstborn  
of the dead  
and the prince of the kings of the earth  
unto him that loved us  
and washed us from our sins in his own  
blood same thing the apostle paul  
is teaching this is this is a big part  
of the gospel  
and notice now he's the firstborn from  
the dead  
and he's made us kings and priests

unto god and his father to him be glory  
in dominion forever and ever  
amen so he is going to be this great  
king  
and priest after the order of  
melchizedek he's the first  
born from the dead to to take on this  
this office  
but he's coming with this kingdom that  
we've been translated into  
and we ourselves will be born from the  
dead we will follow him  
and we will be kings and priests as well  
back to colossians 1  
for it pleased the father that in him  
should all fullness dwell this is god's  
pleasure  
so anybody who tries to take away from  
christ  
to diminish christ to say well christ is  
just an apostle  
or he's just the son of god don't pay  
attention to him  
focus entirely on the father any  
diminishment of christ  
is wrong and it's against the pleasure  
of god  
but any also it's wrong to diminish the  
father  
and say that christ and the father are  
on the same level  
and it's christ the father and the holy  
spirit and they're co-equal and the one  
is the same and not the same and all  
all this is trinitarian confusion this  
is  
equally wrong because christ made it  
clear  
that he is under the father and it's by  
the father's  
will that he's above all things and  
everything in heaven and in earth  
so it pleased the father this is this is  
god's good pleasure

that in christ should all fullness dwell  
and having made peace through the blood  
of his cross

this is again what we have to understand what  
is this grace what is this all about  
god's grace and how has he made peace  
through the blood of his cross and you  
know this movement of  
traditional christianity now going back  
to the first century

uh really i should say the fourth  
century although it started in the first  
century it really established itself  
in the fourth century it is a  
piece without understanding of the  
covenant

that christians today come into christ  
and if you were to ask them to explain  
the covenant to you

they have no idea if you test them on  
the torah

they have no idea so how is it that we  
come into christ

and we have no understanding of the  
torah we have no understanding of the  
covenant yet we're christians

when when it is through the blood of his  
cross that he has made peace  
and that that speaks directly to the  
covenantal relationship

that god has with his people and the  
anger

the wrath that they have incurred upon  
themselves

according to the covenant and that this  
curse for god to be faithful he has to  
carry out the curse upon them

and there is no peace for them except  
through the blood of christ

that that is how god can remain faithful  
to all the curses of the covenant

because he spoke them

and he never goes against his word so

how does he remain faithful to his word

and he's not a liar  
because you broke the covenant these are  
the cursed clauses that you must now  
live with  
god cannot just say i changed my mind  
that would make him a liar  
but at the same time he's made a promise  
to abraham  
and to isaac and to israel that  
their seed will abide forever  
and so how does he do this how does he  
solve this well he makes this  
resolution and this peace through the  
blood of the cross  
by him to reconcile all things unto  
himself by him i say  
whether they be things in earth or  
things in heaven so let's just quickly  
again i've many many times sort of the  
go-to scripture  
in the torah let's go to deuteronomy 30.  
as mooses is bidding goodbye to the  
children of israel he will not be going  
into the  
promised land they will be going into  
the promised land but mooses was not just  
the great lawgiver  
he was also a prophet and as he looked  
at the children of israel about going to  
the promised land he could also see  
their future  
and he says in deuteronomy 3 and verse 1  
that it shall come to pass this will  
happen  
when all these things are come upon you  
you just finished reading out  
deuteronomy 28 and 29  
which shows all the blessings of  
faithfulness to the covenant  
but it also reveals all of the curses  
severe  
severe curses of the covenant of  
breaking the covenant  
and then he says to them it shall come

to pass when all the blessings that i  
just pronounced to you  
have come upon you but also all the  
curses  
when all these things are come upon you  
the blessing and the curse  
which i have set before you and you  
shall call them to mind among all the  
nations where the lord your god has  
driven you  
meaning the curse will come after you'll  
enjoy the blessings for a little bit  
but then because of the curse clauses  
you will be scattered  
among all the nations because that's in  
the curse  
that's in the curses that when you're  
scattered and humiliated and despised  
and and and just debased  
that you then shall return you'll repent  
and return when you realize that there's  
no hope for you except in god  
and you are brought to this final what's  
called the darkest hour of the soul  
you're brought to this point where you  
realize there's nothing else for you  
except god the only the only way out of  
this  
is through god's mercy when you finally  
reach that point and stop relying upon  
yourself  
and your self-righteousness that you  
shall return  
to the lord your god and shall obey his  
voice  
according to all that i command you this  
day so everything that he commanded them  
he's also seeing a day when they  
actually will obey it  
so so the prophet moises is looking into  
the future  
and he's actually seeing a spiritual  
conversion  
of the children of israel he's seeing

them receiving the holy spirit and the  
holy spirit enabling them  
to be faithful finally to everything  
that he has taught  
that you shall obey his voice according  
to all that i command you this day  
you and your children with all your  
heart  
and with all your soul this is spiritual  
language  
this is holy spirit realization  
that then when you finally reach this  
point that god pours out his holy spirit  
upon you in the end time  
after you've suffered that then the lord  
your god  
will end your captivity there will be  
peace  
because all of this captivity was in  
god's anger and wrath toward you as his  
covenant people  
but he can't let go of you he's made a  
covenant with you he's not just going to  
drop you  
because then he would be breaking his  
promise to abraham  
so how does he make this how does he end  
this well there seems to be a  
moses seems to understand that there's  
going to be some mechanism  
through which god will accept repentance  
from the covenant people  
and that had been determined from the  
foundation of the world  
that the lamb of god would be slain and  
through his blood he would make peace  
with his own people that then the lord  
your god will end your captivity  
and have compassion upon you and will  
return  
and gather you from the nation so we're  
waiting now for christ's return  
and when he returns he's going to send  
his angels to the four corners of the



earth  
and they're going to gather them from  
all nations  
but we now are the first fruits of this  
fall harvest  
that when he's gathering them from all  
the nations from the four corners of the  
earth  
this is the fall harvest we are the  
spring harvest  
we're the first fruits of this  
reconciliation  
and this peace between israel and god  
that he will gather you from all nations  
where the lord your god has scattered  
you  
and so now what happens in verse 7 and  
the lord your god  
will put all these curses upon your  
enemies upon the gentiles  
this is this great mystery now that the  
gentiles had no part in this covenant  
but because of this great mystery of  
god's will gentiles are being grafted  
into the first fruits harvest  
and we're being spared the fate that has  
been determined  
that the gentiles will be punished by  
god that the wrath of god  
will transfer when he makes peace with  
his people  
that wrath will transfer to mankind  
to the gentiles and they will be brought  
into subjection and humiliation  
that they will finally have to  
acknowledge the god so first the people  
of israel  
must acknowledge the god of israel and  
after the people of israel acknowledge  
the god of israel  
then the gentiles will be brought to  
humiliation  
and they will have to acknowledge that  
god the holy one

is in israel so this wrath  
that is on the people of god because of  
the covenant these curses  
god is going to take those same curses  
and put them upon your enemies  
and on them that hate you which have  
persecuted you  
so that's the piece that he's talking  
about there  
there's no peace with god in his people  
except through christ because all there  
is with god and his people  
are the curses of the covenant now  
because god is faithful  
but because he's faithful to abraham  
he's made a mechanism  
to make peace with his people if they  
accept the blood of christ  
and you so that's what's happening and  
now the gentiles  
he says and you that were sometimes  
alienated and enemies in your mind by  
wicked works  
yet now has he reconciled so gentiles  
are also now  
included in this reconciliation  
and this is the same thing that he said  
to the brethren in ephesus  
where he says that at that time you were  
without christ  
being aliens from the commonwealth of  
israel and strangers  
from the covenants of promise having no  
hope  
and without god in the world so the same  
deep  
understanding that the apostle paul has  
as the apostle to the gentiles  
of the role of the gentiles in this  
covenant plan of god  
that same understanding that he was  
communicating to the brethren at ephesus  
he's communicating that same brethren  
that same understanding

to the brethren at colossae verse 22  
verse of chapter 1 in the body of his  
flesh  
through death to present you holy and  
unblameable and unprovable in his  
sight  
so jew and gentile in the covenant  
accepting the blood of christ the body  
that the body of his flesh through death  
can now we can now all together be  
presented before god  
holy and unblameable  
and unprovable in god's sight  
if you continue in the faith  
so again there's no one saved always  
saved here  
there's a big if this is the case  
and of course this is the case if you  
continue  
in the faith grounded and settled so now  
there's a concern that paul is having  
that these false doctrines are creeping  
into  
colossae and the faithful minister  
epaphrist yes he gave a good report  
of the brethren colossi and their faith  
and their love of all the brethren  
but he also shared a concern about these  
false teachers  
and false doctrines that are creeping in  
and so paul is now making  
clear now look this is your state  
in christ if you continue  
in the faith grounded and settled and be  
not moved away from the hope of the  
gospel and satan is  
subtle we're seeing it today  
brethren our own brethren in christ  
are being seduced by  
carnal ego  
carnal agendas and they're putting this  
i  
even saw one brother one one of our  
brethren say that their race is above

their religion  
wow are you kidding me christ is above  
all and this hope that we have in him  
must be above everything and we must not  
allow satan to come in and through our  
ego and pride  
and foolishness and lack of knowledge  
move us away  
seduce us away from the hope of the  
gospel  
which you have heard and which was  
preached to every creature which is  
under  
heaven whereof i paul  
am made a minister who now rejoice in my  
sufferings for you so you should be  
so paul is being imprisoned for this  
work of the gospel  
and you should rejoice we should rejoice  
in his sufferings for us  
and fill up that  
so let me just read this go back  
so if you continue in the faith grounded  
and settled  
and be not moved away from the hope of  
the gospel so that's that's the  
seduction  
so it's possible paul wouldn't write  
this if it was impossible  
for the brethren to be moved away from  
the hope of the gospel but we're seeing  
it today it's possible  
satan is very wildly very clever and so  
he gets people thinking about different  
things and prioritizing different things  
and brethren can be moved away when  
christ returns there's going to be  
weeping and gnashing of teeth  
there's going to be a great  
disappointment when christ returns and i  
gave a sermon called the great exchange  
that that's what we're in the process of  
this great exchange  
that brethren will be out of this

covenant  
and the jews who were deaf dumb and  
blind and  
had no knowledge of this covenant didn't  
care they will be grafted in  
and again in their own is their own  
olive tree so he's able to graft them in  
again  
so be not moved away from the hope of  
the gospel which you have heard  
and which was preached to every creature  
which is under heaven where  
i paul am made a minister  
who now rejoice in my sufferings for you  
so sorry this my  
my now rejoice in my sufferings paul is  
rejoicing  
in his sufferings for the brethren so  
all of this persecution that has come  
upon paul  
he's rejoicing in it i now rejoice in my  
sufferings for you  
and fill up that which is behind of the  
afflictions of christ  
in my flesh for his body's sake which is  
the church  
what is he saying here so he's rejoicing  
in in his persecution  
for the brethren and what he's doing  
what he realizes in this persecution  
is that he is filling up that which is  
behind  
of the afflictions of christ so jesus  
christ was afflicted  
jesus christ was persecuted but  
there's more that in the plan of god  
that the body of christ must undergo  
more persecution must undergo more  
suffering  
and paul in his understanding of the  
afflictions of christ  
and that the christ is the head of the  
body and the body must  
undergo more affliction paul is saying

he is  
rejoicing in his sufferings and that he  
has this opportunity  
to fill up excuse me to fill up what's  
left behind  
of the afflictions of christ so  
this is where brethren we must not be  
fearful  
we have to overcome our fears yeah we're  
heading into a dark winter  
a spiritual dark winter and  
it's going to be very very difficult all  
those who desire to  
live godly in christ shall suffer  
persecution but we have to have this  
understanding that paul had is that  
that's what the body of christ does  
that we have a mission and we are  
christians we follow christ  
and as christ suffered so also must we  
suffer  
and paul is like i'm good that i'm  
rejoicing because i see the fruit of my  
work  
and the fruit of my sufferings and so  
i'm rejoicing in this  
and i'm realizing that i'm simply  
filling up  
that which is determined upon the church  
upon the body of christ  
and i fill up that which is behind of  
the afflictions of christ in my flesh  
for his body's sake which is the church  
so christ so paul is happy to be  
persecuted and suffer  
for the sake of the church realizing  
this is this is for ordained now  
i gave a sermon many years ago called  
discerning the lord's body it was around  
passover time and i spent time in first  
corinthians  
and some brethren just did not it was  
the first time they're hearing this they  
didn't like what they were hearing

and i was basically saying that the brethren were suffering in corinth because they could not discern the lord's body and that taking the passover and not discerning the lord's body was an egregious error this was an egregious error that you cannot abuse the body of christ and then take the body of christ in the passover ceremony that this is not discerning the lord's body and this is exactly what christ what paul is saying here that he is taking on these afflictions for the sake of the body of christ which is the church so the body of christ is the church so when he's writing to corinth with this understanding that the body of christ is the church he says for he that eats and drinks unworthily eats and drinks damnation to himself not discerning the lord's body so i would encourage you to go back and read first corinthians 11 with this understanding that the church the whole church every member of the church is the body of christ and look at what the corinthian brethren were falling into by not discerning the lord's body and as we are now heading into these winter months and soon the passover will be upon us again make sure brethren that we are not taking the passover and not discerning the lord's body which is his church and then in second corinthians 1 and

verse 5 speaking of these sufferings  
that he is filling up he says  
for as the sufferings of christ abound  
in us  
so our consolation also abounds by  
christ  
so paul had a very rich understanding of  
the role of suffering  
in his ministry so as the sufferings of  
christ abound in us  
so our comfort also abounds by christ  
so and and christ will give us this  
comfort  
as we face these dark days and whether  
we be afflicted  
it is for your consolation and salvation  
which is effectual  
in the enduring of the same sufferings  
which we  
also suffer for whether we be comforted  
it is for your consolation and salvation  
so we will suffer this persecution but  
we must stay true to our ministry  
we must stay true to edifying the body  
of christ  
and as we do that christ will comfort us  
christ will give us comfort so that we  
can be effectual  
in this ministry and our hope of you is  
steadfast  
knowing that as you are partakers of the  
sufferings  
so shall you be also of the  
constellation  
so this is the body of christ and we are  
suffering you know  
paul is saying we are being afflicted  
but we are being afflicted knowing that  
our ministry is effective  
and you are now being edified and that  
you also may have to partake  
partake in this affliction but when you  
do  
you also will be comforted



for we would not brethren have you  
ignorant of our trouble  
which came to us in asia which by the  
way all of these churches in asia  
uh today we call this area turkey they  
had they all suffered the persecution  
of the muslim hordes and and many of  
them  
who were not slaughtered were forcibly  
converted  
to islam so this whole all these  
congregations that we're reading of in  
asia  
today asia minor today they're all  
muslim  
cities that's persecution  
and he says we we would not brethren  
have you ignorant of our trouble which  
came to us in asia  
that we were pressed out of measure  
above strength in so much that we  
despaired even of life  
and then dropping down to verse 25  
coming back to colossians 1  
sorry so you see just the sense of  
suffering that he's writing to the  
brethren  
in corinth about now and just how he  
understands even though they were even  
the spirit of life it got to they got to  
that point where they were just in such  
deep sorrow still christ comforted them  
and enabled paul and the ministers the  
faithful man to continue  
to comfort the brethren knowing that  
they also would be subjected  
to this despair but they also would be  
comforted and here we are today  
we we don't really know how to suffer  
we've had it good in the western world  
we've had it really good and people are  
complaining  
complaining they don't have enough well  
what we have is about to be taken away

from us  
and we we better understand that there's  
more to life  
than material goods and material things  
and we need to be very very focused on  
this calling the hope  
of this calling verse 25 whereof i am  
made a minister  
according to the dispensation of god  
which is given to me  
for you and when we were studying the  
epistle of the ephesians we came to  
understand that this grace of god which  
is given to all of us  
these gifts of god that are given to all  
of us  
are given to us for the for the  
edification of the church  
so any gift that we have it's given to  
us  
for you and any gift that you have it's  
given to you for  
us wherever i am made a minister  
according to the dispensation of god  
which is given to me for you to fulfill  
the word of god even the mystery  
which has been hidden from ages so this  
mystery  
of the gentiles being grafted into the  
covenant community  
which was hidden from the beginning of  
the world this mystery that that  
paul deeply understands this this gift  
of ministry which has been given to him  
to fulfill the word of god which is what  
even the mystery which has been hid from  
ages and from generations  
but now is made manifest to his saints  
and that's what he said again we read  
that earlier we just read ephesians 3  
verse 9  
to make all men see what is the  
fellowship of the mystery  
there's a fellowship of the mister

between jew and gentile  
which from the beginning of the world  
has been hid in god  
who created all things by jesus christ  
so that's what he's referring to here to  
the colossians  
that this mystery has been hidden from  
ages and from generations  
but now it's it's apparent it's obvious  
to the saints  
to whom god would make known what is the  
riches of the glory of this mystery  
there's a riches of glory of this  
mystery among the gentiles  
which is christ in you the hope  
of glory so this glory that was  
determined  
by uh by the promise to abraham which  
israel inherited  
which was to be in israel this same hope  
of glory  
has now been extended to those gentiles  
that have been grafted in to the  
covenant  
which is christ in you the hope of glory  
whom we preach  
warning every man and teaching every man  
in all wisdom  
that we may present every man perfect in  
christ jesus so this is a real  
contention  
we have to contend earnestly for this  
faith which was once delivered  
and so paul is contending and he's  
warning and he's teaching and he's  
preaching  
so that he may present all those who  
have been called  
into this covenant mature in  
christ jesus where unto i also labor  
striving according to his working which  
works in me  
mightily so the apostle paul was very  
very clear

about how powerful this mighty power of  
god  
was working in him enabling him to do  
this great ministry  
knowing that despite all the sufferings  
the ministry was effective  
and brethren were being edified and  
strengthened in it  
who in turn may have to suffer  
persecution  
but in all of this we have to withstand  
false teaching  
and false doctrine and the key to that  
is understanding the central role  
of jesus christ in the plan of god so  
as we continue to unpack the um  
book or the letter here to the  
colossians i'm hoping that we get a  
deeper understanding  
of the central role of jesus christ and  
we become  
deeply rooted in this truth and all of  
the nonsense  
that is surrounding us that we're not  
distracted by it and i understand yes  
people are hurt and people are  
persecuted  
in all of this and this is nothing  
compared to the persecution that we will  
face  
in christ and if we are already  
stumbling  
over hurts and past defenses some of  
which we never even experienced  
ourselves  
if we're already stumbling over that how  
will we stand  
against the persecution that's coming so  
let's study these words these words  
let's study this epistle line by line  
let's let's really ground ourselves in  
the central role  
of jesus christ he's above all and he's  
in us all

and we are his body and we're here to  
edify each other  
so that at the end of the day we all  
stand  
in christ the hope of glory  
jesus christ is lord amen  
you