

## LWC New Testament Survey: Colossians

1. **HOW DOES THIS BOOK FIT INTO THE BIBLE AS A WHOLE?** Colossians was written from imprisonment (along with Eph., Php, Philemon. 2 Timothy was written during Paul's last imprisonment in Rome.)

2. **OVERALL THEME OF THE BOOK:** The Sufficiency of Christ and our Completeness in Him.

3. **KEY WORDSPHRASE: "PAS" All or Every or All Things:** almost 10 X/chapter:

4. **BOOK OUTLINE:**

**Part 1: Doctrinal: ...that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will....**

**Chpt 1**

**Chpt 2**

**Part 2: Practical: ...That ye might walk worthy of the Lord...**

**Chpt 3**

**Chpt 4**

5. **DISTINCTIVES:** Both Gnosticism and Judiasm seemed to be present in this early church. Gnosticism "philosophized" Christianity to the end that matter was thought to be evil and the spiritual good. The goal became to seek to separate from matter and experience the spiritual. God, who must be very separate from evil (matter) was essentially unapproachable directly because of our material existence, however, the "initiated" had inside secret spiritual ninja knowledge passed down from Jesus and the disciples themselves. They, with their super secret insights that only really spiritually adept people would relate to (which is why there are not more of them and the knowledge they have is common day knowledge) could, as the 'initiated', ascend to spiritual states other cannot. This is done practically through different intermediate levels or personages (intermediaries) until you can level up to spiritual awesomeness. Probably level 7 or 70 or some really cool level. This is an Eastern mysticism that crept into the church. High level yogis claim the ability to levitate for example.

6. **ANCHOR VERSE:** Col 1:9-10 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; (10) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

7. **APPLICATION:** Understand the human tendency to "add to Christ" some other thing and recognize the foolishness of doing so.

Col 2:6 –8 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: (7) Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. (8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Philosophy, vain deceit, tradition of men, rudiments of the world....such as:

8. **A FAVORITE THING:** The fullness and sufficiency of Christ cannot be added to. Don't try to add to the ocean your spit or urine. Just sail further and dive deeper.