



## Outline of the Book of Colossians by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

**Colossians = Christ Answers Gnosticism**  
**Acts 19:10; Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13**

**[God Is Perfect]**  
**Blueprint for Redemption**

### **I. Jesus Christ Is God Believed Colossians 1:1-29**

**A. By Saints and Faithful Brethren in Christ 1:1-2**

**B. By Convictions of:**

- 1. Prayer to Father of our Lord Jesus Christ 1:3**
- 2. Faith in Christ Jesus, Love for all the saints, Hope in heaven 1:4-5**  
**I Corinthians 13:13**
- 3. Obedience to the Gospel of Christ 1:6-8**

**C. By Progress in:**

- 1. Knowledge of His will, Wisdom, Spiritual Understanding, walk worthy of the Lord, Fully pleasing 1:9-11**
- 2. Certain of qualifications to:**
  - a. Partake in the inheritance of saints in light 1:12**
  - b. Be delivered from darkness into kingdom of His Son 1:13**
  - c. Possess redemption and forgiveness of sins 1:14**

**D. By Evidence of and Faith in Christ as:**

- 1. Creator**
  - a. Invisible God preceded creation 1:15** **Hebrews 11:3**
  - b. Visible creation with invisible rules 1:16** **Romans 1:20**
- 2. Church's Head**
  - a. Planner before finished 1:17**
  - b. Preeminent after finished 1:18-23**
    - 1) "In Him" all fulness dwells 1:18-19**
    - 2) "By Him" all reconciliation resides 1:20-22**
    - 3) With Him gospel hope continues 1:23**
  - c. Price paid**
    - 1) In fleshly afflictions 1:24-25a**
    - 2) In fulfillment of mystery of God's word 1:25b-27**
    - 3) In flawless performance of duty 1:28-29**

## II. Jesus Christ Is God Worshipped 2:1-23

- A. Colossians Believed In The Unseen 2:1-7
  - 1. Paul had not personally been to Colossae 2:1-5
  - 2. Christ had not personally been to Colossae 2:6-7
- B. Faith Fact Not To Be Confused 2:8-23
  - 1. By love of thinking, but not factual conclusions 2:8-10
  - 2. By observing Moses, not Christ 2:11-17
  - 3. By keeping pagan rules, not God's 2:18-22
  - 4. By serving false standards of conduct 2:23

## III. Jesus Christ Is God Served 3:1-4:18

- A. Christ Came To Elevate Life's Ambition 3:1-3
- B. Christ Came To Bring Death To Worldliness 3:4-9
- C. Christ Came To Lift Conduct Above Carnality 3:10-17
- D. Christ Came To Show Better Service At Home And Work 3:18-4:1
- E. Christ Came To Let Christians Be Examples 4:2-15
- F. Christ Came To Teach All Christians His Word 4:16-18

### Collating Colossians:

- **Ephesians** and **Colossians** were probably written at the same time and are almost identical. In both, Jesus Christ is supreme, but in **Ephesians** His *Church* is defined, and in **Colossians** *He* is defined.
- Paul probably wrote from his house arrest in Rome (**Acts 28:16-31**) letters in the following order: **Colossians, Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians**.
- Evidently there was being taught "a Colossian heresy" which wouldn't permit someone to believe that Jesus Christ came in the flesh (**Cf I John 4:1-6**). There is inference that Jewish false teachers taught in Paul's absence the necessity of binding Jewish law (of Moses) upon Gentiles who would obey the Gospel of Christ (**Cf Galatians 2:11-3:1; 5:1-9**), one might also infer from **Colossians** Gentile philosophers had laid down the following premises:
  - 1) Matter was evil;
  - 2) Ritualism and mysticism was supreme; and, therefore
  - 3) One must abstain from all enjoyment in fleshly living.

*The conclusions thus drawn must have included:*

- 1) *Christ could not have been an actual physical person;*
- 2) *Temple rituals and gradually revealed "knowledge" were the appropriate methods of serving a god (and Jewish laws contained many of these);*
- 3) *Asceticism, monasticism, spartanism, complete abstinence from fleshly desires was the only means of spiritual purification.*

The first conclusion was **Anti-Christ**, the second **Judaism**, the third **Paganism**. This combination today is exactly what Roman Catholicism or Greek Orthodoxy are all about (and those denominations which have sprung from them!).