



**Hexham  
trinity**  
Methodist Church

# Sermon Notes & Questions

**Date:** 5th February 2017

**Readings:** Colossians 1:15-23

**Theme:** The Supremacy of Christ

## Points from the Sermon ...

- Who is Jesus?
- Two parts to this passage:
  - v15-20 - Who Jesus is.
  - v21-23 - What that means for those who follow Jesus.
- v15-20:
  - most probably a confessional hymn of who Jesus is which Paul quotes and sharpens.
  - tell us 10 things about Jesus.
  - two messages:
    1. In Jesus we discover who God is.
    2. By the cross Jesus reconciles the world to God.
- v21-23 - is a reminder of what it means to live as those who follow Jesus and what life was like before we choose to follow Jesus.
- Paul encourages the Colossians and encourages us to remain steadfast in our faith.

## Some questions to reflect on today's sermon further ...

- What have you learnt about Jesus from this passage?
- What stops you from being steadfast in your faith?
- How do you draw back to Jesus so you can keep following him?
- How has this sermon challenged your faith?
- What will you do differently because of this passage/sermon?



# Introduction to Colossians

## Key Facts:

- Where: Town in Turkey
- Who: Phrygian & Greek Settlers, also significant Jewish influence
- How: Imprisonment Epistles, probably Paul & Timothy

## Why did Paul write to the Colossians:

- False Teaching
- Challenge of syncretistic religions
- Hellenistic Culture
  - Phrygian nature worship
  - Iranian astrological speculation
  - Wisdom teaching of the mystery club
- We don't have any record of direct issues

## Key Messages:

- Uniqueness of Jesus Christ
- Redeeming and reconciling message of the cross
- Spiritual liberty and life enjoyed by people of faith
- Instructions for living as God's people



## Structure:

1:1-2	Opening greetings
1:3-12	Prayers for the Colossians
1:13-20	Christ, creator and redeemer
1:21-2:5	Paul's proclamation of the eternal mysteries of God
2:6-19	A new identity in Christ
2:20-3:17	The consequences in attitude to dying and rising with Christ
3:18-4:1	Implications of this for living in community
4:2-18	Closing prayers and greetings.

*Taken from Bible Society Bible Book Club Guide to Colossians*

[https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/bible\\_book\\_club/book\\_downloads/colossians.pdf](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/bible_book_club/book_downloads/colossians.pdf)

## Commentaries:

Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon by Ralph P. Martin  
Interpretation Commentary Series

The Prison Letters by Tom Wright  
Paul for Everyone Commentary Series

## Notes ...