

Kamloops Conference 2012

Bible Reading Colossians 3

The Preeminent Christ of Colossians:

Ch1: Christ is our Head - The preeminent Christ is declared in all His deity, He is the source of all supply for His Church; v18 “**And He is the Head of the Body, the Church: who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence**”.

Ch2: Christ is our fullness - The preeminent Christ is defended, He is the source & secret of all wealth & wisdom; v3 “**In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**”, v9 “**For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily**”.

Ch3v1-16: Christ is “our life” (v4) - The preeminent Christ is demonstrated in our lives, as we are identified “**with Him**”. He is the standard for our daily life & walk, He is the sufficiency & supply for our lives, v11 “**Christ is all, and in all**”.

Ch3v17-Ch4: Christ is our Lord - The preeminent Christ is displayed in our interpersonal relationships and in all our service. Various servants are named in ch4, and we appreciate that Christ is the Lord that every true servant seeks to serve; ch3v24 “**Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ**”.

“If any one desires to have a complete exhibition of Christian life, the life of Christ risen in us, let him study Colossians 3” - J.N. Darby

Colossians 3:

v1-4: Our Lives Identified with Christ our Life - Positional truth

- v1-2: Our identification with Christ in His past resurrection, “**risen with Christ**”.
- v3: Our identification with Christ in His present exaltation, “**hid with Christ**”.
- v4: Our identification with Christ in His future manifestation, “**appear with Him**”.

v5-16: Our Lives Controlled by Christ our Head - Practical truth

Headship emphasizes Christ’s care, support, supply & direction to the Body.

The truth of His Headship controls the character & behavior of our lives.

v5-7: Putting to death the impure practices of the old life.

v8-9: Putting off the character & behavior of the old man with his deeds.

We must “**put off**” (v8-9) the grave clothes of the old man and “**put on**” (v10,12,14) the grace clothes of the new man.

v10-16: Putting on the character & behavior of the new man in Christ.

Guiding practical principles for the lives of Christians:

- v11: The Sufficiency & Supply of Christ, “**Christ is all, and in all**”.
- v12: The Character of Christ, “**bowels of mercies ... longsuffering**”.
- v13: The Forgiveness of Christ, “**forgiving ... even as Christ forgave you**”.
- v14: The Love of Christ, “**above all these things put on charity (love)**”.
- v15: The Peace of Christ, “**let the peace of Christ preside in your hearts**” (JND).
- v16: The Word of Christ, “**Let the word of Christ dwell in you ...**”.

v17-25: Our Lives Controlled by Christ our Lord - Practical truth

Lordship brings in Christ’s authority & sovereignty over our lives.

The truth of His Lordship controls all we do and all our interpersonal relationships.

- v17: The upholding of His Name, “**do all in the Name of the Lord Jesus**”.
- v18: The submission of wives to their husbands, “**as it is fit in the Lord**”.
- v19: The devotion of husbands to their wives.
- v20: The obedience of children to parents, “**this is well pleasing unto the Lord**”.
- v21: The sensitivity of fathers to their children.
- v22: The obedience of servants to earthly masters, “**obey ... fearing the Lord**” (JND).
- v23: The zeal of believers for the things of God, “**do it heartily, as to the Lord**”.
- v24-25: The reward for service rendered to the Lord, “**for ye serve the Lord Christ**”.