

Approximately Expository 40 minutes



Sermon Title: “Jesus Is Supreme”

Colossians Chapter 1 (NIV)

Opening Prayer

Father God,

We come before You today in the mighty name of Jesus. We thank You for Your Word.... That is living, active, powerful, and true. Lord, as we open Colossians chapter 1, please allow us to open our hearts before you. Remove distractions. Break chains. Strengthen faith. And if there is anyone here who does not yet know You, may tonight be the night they are born again.

**Holy Spirit, teach us. Jesus, be exalted.
Father, be glorified.**

**In Jesus' name,
Amen.**

Historical Setting

The book of Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul around AD 60-62 while he was under house arrest in Rome. He had never personally visited Colossae. The church was likely planted by Epaphras  **eh-PAF-ruhs or (bed-half-rus)**, a convert from Paul's ministry in Ephesus.

Colossae was a small city in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). It was not a political powerhouse like Rome. It wasn't a cultural giant like Athens. It was an ordinary town filled with ordinary people but something extraordinary was happening there.

False teaching had begun creeping into the church. A mixture of **Jewish legalism**, **mysticism**, and early **Gnostic** thought was spreading. These teachers claimed Jesus was important but not supreme. They taught that believers needed special secret knowledge, strict religious rules, or other spiritual beings to help them become spiritually complete. So Paul writes this letter with one powerful theme:

- **Jesus is enough.**
- **Jesus is supreme.**
- **Jesus is above all.**

👉 And church.... that message is just as urgent today.

1. A Church Known for Faith, Love, and Hope (Colossians 1:3-8):

Paul begins with thanksgiving:

Colossians 1:3-5, (NIV) ³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel

Notice the order: faith, love, hope.

- Faith in Christ.
- Love for believers.
- Hope in heaven.

Hope fuels everything.

Paul says this hope comes from “**the word of truth, the gospel**” (v.5). ***Colossians 1:5 (NIV) ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have***

already heard in the true message of the gospel

The gospel isn't self-help. It's not religion. It's **good news**.

And that gospel was “bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world” (v.6). **Colossians 1:6** (NIV)⁶ **that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.**

That's what the true gospel does — it produces fruit.

Let me ask you:

- 👉 Is the gospel bearing fruit in your life?
- 👉 Is your faith active?
- 👉 Is your love visible?
- 👉 Is your hope alive?

Because when Christ is truly supreme in your life, transformation follows.

2. Paul's Prayer: Spiritual Strength and Knowledge (Colossians 1:9–14):

Paul then shares how he prays for them:

Colossians 1:9 (NIV)⁹ *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,*

- He doesn't pray for comfort.
- He doesn't pray for wealth.
- He prays for spiritual understanding.

Why?

(v.10)

Colossians 1:10 (NIV) ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Paul lists four results:

- Bearing fruit in every good work
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Being strengthened with all power
- Giving joyful thanks

And then he reminds them of the gospel:

Colossians 1:13-14 (NIV) ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

You did not rescue yourself.

You did not climb out of darkness.

👉 God rescued you.

You were transferred from darkness to light.
From disapproval to forgiveness.
From slavery to freedom.

👉 That's grace.

3. The Supremacy of Christ (Colossians 1:15-20):

Now we come to one of the most powerful Christ-centered passages in the entire Bible.

Paul lifts our eyes high.

Colossians 1:15 (NIV) ¹⁵ *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Jesus is not a created being.
“Firstborn” speaks of rank and authority
not origin.

Colossians 1:16 (NIV) ¹⁶ *For in him all things were created: things in heaven*

and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

Jesus created everything.

- Galaxies.
- Angels.
- Atoms.
- Time itself.

“....All things have been created through him and for him.” (v.16)

👉 You were created for Him.

Life makes no sense apart from Christ because He is the reason for your existence.

Colossians 1:17 (NIV) ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus is sustaining the universe right now.
If He withdrew His power for one second
....everything would collapse.

Colossians 1:18 (NIV) ¹⁸ **And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**

- Not the pastor.
- Not tradition.
- Not culture.

Jesus is the Head.

Colossians 1:19 (NIV) ¹⁹ **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,**

All the fullness of God.
Not part of God.
All of God.

Colossians 1:20 (NIV) ²⁰ **and through him to reconcile to himself all things,**

whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Peace did not come cheaply.
It came through **blood**.

- The cross is where justice and mercy met.
- The cross is where sin was crushed.
- The cross is where reconciliation was secured.

👉 Jesus is not one option among many.

He is supreme.

4. From Alienated to Reconciled (Colossians 1:21-23):

Paul brings it personal.

Colossians 1:21 (NIV)²¹ **Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in**

your minds because of your evil behavior.

That is every one of us before Christ.

We were not neutral.

We were enemies.

But listen:

Colossians 1:22 (NIV) ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

- Holy.
- Blameless.
- Free from accusation.

How?

Through His death.... Christ death.

- Not through religion.

- Not through effort.
👉 Through the cross.

But Paul adds:

Colossians 1:23 (NIV) ²³ ***if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.***

True faith endures.

True faith holds to the gospel.

5. Christ in You The Hope of Glory (Colossians 1:24-29):

Paul talks about suffering for the sake of the church. And then he reveals a mystery:

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Not Christ near you.

Not Christ motivating you.

👉 Christ in you.

The indwelling presence of Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

- That is the believer's power.
- That is the believer's security.
- That is the believer's hope.

Paul says:

➤ **Colossians 1:28 (NIV)²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.**

- That is ministry.
Ministry is not about personalities, programs, or platforms. **Ministry is about Jesus.** Paul keeps Christ at the center of everything.
- We must Proclaim Christ.

Paul begins with, **“He is the one we proclaim....”**

The message of the church is not self-improvement, philosophy, or politics. The message is **Jesus Christ.**

To proclaim Christ means we boldly tell people:

- Who Jesus is
- What Jesus has done
- Why Jesus came
- How people can be saved through Him

The early church did not preach complicated systems. They preached a person**the risen Lord Jesus Christ.**

Acts 4:12(NIV) reminds us:

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

When ministry drifts away from Christ, it loses its power. But when Jesus is lifted up, lives are transformed.

Every sermon, every lesson, every Bible study, every conversation should ultimately lead people **to Jesus.**

As Jesus said in **John 12:32**(NIV):

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

Ministry begins by proclaiming Christ.

➤ So we must Teach Christ.

Paul continues: (v.28)

“...admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom...”

Teaching is essential because people must grow in their understanding of Christ.

Proclaiming Christ introduces people to Jesus.

Teaching Christ helps them walk with Jesus.

Teaching includes two parts:

Admonishing:

Admonishing means **warning, correcting, and guiding** believers when they drift away from truth.

Sometimes ministry involves encouragement.

Sometimes it involves loving correction.

Hebrews 12:11(NIV) says:

“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

A faithful ministry does not ignore sin or error. It lovingly points people back to the truth of God's Word.

Teaching:

Teaching means helping believers understand:

- The Word of God
- The character of Christ
- The will of God
- How to live as followers of Jesus

 Good teaching builds strong believers.

Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 3:16-17**(NIV) **¹⁶ All Scripture is God-**

breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

👉 Through biblical teaching, believers grow in wisdom and spiritual stability.

➤ We must Grow in Christ.

Paul reveals the goal of ministry: (V.28)

“...so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ.”

The goal is not simply conversion **it is spiritual maturity.**

God wants believers completely **transformed.**

Spiritual maturity means believers grow to look more like Jesus in:

. Character

- . Faith
- . Love
- . Obedience
- . Wisdom

Ephesians 4:13(NIV) explains this beautifully:

“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

A mature believer:

- . Knows the Word of God
- . Walks in the Spirit
- . Serves others
- . Stands firm in truth
- . Reflects the character of Christ

True ministry helps people move from **spiritual babyhood to spiritual maturity.**

It is about helping believers grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus.

➤ Exalt Christ.

When Christ is proclaimed, taught, and lived out, the result is that **Christ is exalted.**

Ministry ultimately exists to glorify Jesus.

Paul said in **Colossians 1:18**(NIV) **18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.**

Jesus must be the center.

- Not the preacher.
- Not the church brand.
- Not the ministry leader.

👉 **Christ alone deserves the glory.**

John the Baptist expressed the right heart for ministry in **John 3:30**(NIV) ***“He must become greater; I must become less.”***

Every faithful ministry points upward and says:

- Look at Jesus.
- Follow Jesus.
- Trust Jesus.
- Worship Jesus.

And Paul says he labors with Christ’s energy working powerfully within him (v.29).

Colossians 1:29 (NIV) ***29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.***

- 👉 It’s (Christ strength) His strength.
- 👉 His power.
- 👉 His glory.

Invitation: Be Born Again:

Maybe today you realize something.

- Maybe you have believed about Jesus but you've never surrendered to Him.
- Maybe you've known religion ... but not understanding.
- Maybe you've attended church but never been transformed.

The Bible says you were once alienated or isolated.

But Jesus died to reconcile you.

- He shed His blood.
- He paid your debt.
- He rose again.

You cannot earn salvation.

You receive it.

👉 Jesus said you must be born again.

That happens when you:

- . Repent of your sin

- . Believe in Jesus as Lord
- . Surrender your life to Him

If that is you today, this very moment please pray this in your heart with Faith:

“Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for me and rose again. Forgive me. Rescue me from darkness. Be my Lord and Savior. I surrender to You. Fill me with Your Spirit. I want to follow You.” Amen!

👉 “If” you honestly meant that the Bible says you are forgiven.

You are relocated.

You are reunited.

You are His.... YOU are Born Again!!!

👉 Welcome to the Family of God!!!

Closing Exhortation:

Church Jesus is supreme.

- Above false teaching.
- Above fear.
- Above culture.
- Above circumstances.
- Above everything.

And when Christ is supreme in your life,
everything else finds its proper place.

- Lift Him high.
- Trust Him fully.
- Walk worthy.
- Bear fruit.
- Stay grounded in the gospel.

Because Jesus is not just part of the story.

👉 He is the center of everything.

Closing Prayer:

**Father God, We praise You for Your Son,
Jesus Christ.**

**Jesus, You are supreme. You are
Creator, Sustainer, Savior, and King.
Forgive us for the times we lower You in
our priorities. Restore our awe in you.
Restore our passion. Strengthen Your
church.**

**For those who have surrendered today
seal them by Your Holy Spirit. For those
struggling strengthen them with Your
power.**

We love You, Lord.

**In Jesus' mighty name,
Amen.**



Matthew 28:19-20