



LETTERS from PRISON: WEEK 6— Being **COLOSSIANS CHPT 2**
Philemon*Colossians*Ephesians*Philippians

Week 1: Meeting Paul
Week 2: Philemon
Week 3: Enter Colossae

Week 4: Being Colossians I
(1:1-8)
Week 5: Being Colossians 1:9-29

→ “The **highest doctrine** concerning Jesus Christ in the New Testament.”

The Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible pg 2137

→ “this Epistle ... to express it in one word, **distinguishes the true Christ from a fictitious one.**”¹

→ A customary greeting introduces us to one of Paul’s **most powerful and attractive letters**, written from prison to a young church in the province of Asia.²

READ **Colossians 2** (CEB)

2 I want you to know how much I struggle for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who haven’t known me personally.² My goal is that their hearts would be encouraged and united together in love so that they might have all the riches of assurance that come with understanding, so that they might have **the knowledge of the secret plan** [mystery] **of God, namely Christ.**³ All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in him.⁴ I’m telling you this so that **no one deceives you with convincing arguments,**⁵ because even though I am absent physically, I’m with you in spirit. I’m happy to see **the discipline and stability of your faith in Christ.**

Error threatening the church

⁶ So live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him.⁷ Be rooted and built up in him, be established in faith, and **overflow with thanksgiving** just as you were taught.⁸ See to it that nobody enslaves you with **philosophy and foolish deception**, which **conform to human traditions** and the way the world thinks and acts rather than Christ.⁹ All the fullness of deity lives in Christ’s body.¹⁰ **And you have been filled by him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.**¹¹ In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not administered by human hands. The circumcision of Christ is realized in the stripping away of the whole self dominated by sin.¹² You were buried with him through baptism and raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³ When you were dead because of the things you had done wrong and because your body wasn’t circumcised, God made you alive with Christ and forgave all the things you had done wrong.¹⁴ He destroyed the record of the debt we owed, with its requirements that worked against us. He canceled it by nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ **When he disarmed the rulers and authorities, he exposed them to public disgrace by leading them in a triumphal parade.**

¹⁶ **So don’t let anyone judge you** about eating or drinking or about a festival, a new moon observance, or sabbaths.¹⁷ These religious practices are only a shadow of what was coming—the body that cast the shadow is Christ.¹⁸ **Don’t let anyone who wants to**

¹ Pao, D. W. (2012). *Colossians and Philemon* (p. 19). Zondervan.

² Lucas, R. C. (1980). *Fullness & freedom: the message of Colossians & Philemon* (pp. 18–20). InterVarsity Press.

practice harsh self-denial and worship angels rob you of the prize. They go into detail about what they have seen in visions and have become unjustifiably arrogant by their selfish way of thinking. ¹⁹ **They don't stay connected to the head.** The head nourishes and supports the whole body through the joints and ligaments, so the body grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰ If you died with Christ to the way the world thinks and acts, why do you submit to rules and regulations as though you were living in the world? ²¹ "Don't handle!" "Don't taste!" "Don't touch!" ²² All these things cease to exist when they are used. **Such rules are human commandments and teachings.** ²³ They look like they are wise with this self-made religion and their self-denial by the harsh treatment of the body, **but they are no help against indulging in selfish immoral behavior.**

• LETTERS from PRISON: WEEK 6— Being COLOSSIANS – CHAPTER 2 •

Colossians 2

I. THE Mystery

II. THE Life of Thankfulness

III. THE Art of Rebuking Judgers

I. THE Mystery (Col. 2:1-5)

A. 100% Man – 100% God

A dual nature: Fully Human, Fully Divine.

Hebrews 1:4 (NIV) I capped

God's Final Word: His Son

1 In the past God spoke^(a) to our ancestors through the prophets^(b) at many times and in various ways,^(c) **2** but in these last days^(d) He has spoken to us by His Son,^(e) whom He appointed heir^(f) of all things, and through whom^(g) also He made the universe.^(h) **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory⁽ⁱ⁾ and the exact representation of His being,^(j) sustaining all things^(k) by His powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins,^(l) He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.^(m) **4** So He became as much superior to the angels as the name He has inherited is superior to theirs.⁽ⁿ⁾

The Superiority of Christ

The first chapter of Hebrews is one of the most important Christological passages in Scripture (see also **John 1:1**; **Phil. 2:6–11**; and **Col. 1:15–20**). Christ’s superiority over the Old Testament prophets and over the angels is portrayed through seven character affirmations and seven Scripture quotations.

Christ’s Superiority

<p>Jesus is Greater Than the Prophets Hebrews 1:1–3 Seven character affirmations: (NKJV)</p>	<p>Jesus is Greater Than the Angels Hebrews 1:4–14 Seven Scripture quotations: (NKJV)</p>
<p>Heir of all things (v. 2) <i>² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;</i></p>	<p>Psalm 2:7 (v. 5) <i>“I will declare the ^{1a}decree: The Lord has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.</i></p>
<p>Creator (v. 2) Manifested of God’s Being (v. 3) <i>³ who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had ^{1a}by Himself ^{1a}purged ^{1a}our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,</i></p>	<p>Psalm 2:7 (v. 3) Deuteronomy 32:43 or Psalm 97:7 (v. 6) <i>“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people.”</i> Psalm 97:7(NIV) <i>All who worship images are put to shame, those who boast in idols— worship him, all you gods!</i></p>
<p>Perfect representation of God (v. 3)</p>	<p>Psalm 104:4 (v. 7) <i>He makes winds His messengers, flames of fire is His servants.</i></p>
<p>Sustainer of all things (v. 3)</p>	<p>Psalm 45:6, 7 (vv. 8, 9) <i>Your throne, O God,^{1a} will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of Your kingdom. ⁷ You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.</i></p>
<p>Savior (v. 3)</p>	<p>Psalm 102:25–27 (vv. 10–12) <i>In the beginning You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ²⁶ They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing You will change them</i></p>

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	<p><i>and they will be discarded.</i> ²⁷ <i>But You remain the same, and Your years will never end.</i></p>
<p>Exalted Lord (v. 3)</p>	<p>Psalm 110:1 (v. 13)³ <i>The Lord says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."</i></p>

In what ways was Jesus limited by being Human?

{Not omnipresent. Not omniscient. Rely on the Father to perform the miracles He did. He required food, was tempted as we are tempted, and felt the emotions common to human beings.

Jesus' Nature:

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ *In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had:*

⁶ *Who, being in very nature ^[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;*

{Jesus was fully God (Vs. 6). He surrendered His divine privileges and took on 'human likeness', but He did not give up His divinity to do so.}

⁷ *rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature ^[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

⁸ *And being found in appearance as a human being,*

he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

⁹ *Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Footnotes: a. [Philippians 2:6](#) Or in the form of b. [Philippians 2:7](#) Or the form

Who initiated Jesus' setting aside His divine privileges? What does this say about the authenticity of His humanity? (Vs. 7)

{Jesus initiated the surrender of His divine prerogatives. He was not just God in all His glory walking around in a human suit. Jesus' humanity was not a trick: He actually gave up powers so that He could experience life like we do.}

Acts 2:22-24

²² *"People of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. ²³ This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, ^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross. ²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.*

Footnotes: a. [Acts 2:23](#) Or of those not having the law (that is, Gentiles)

Colossians 2:

⁴ **I'm telling you this so that **no one deceives you with convincing arguments,****

³ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). [Nelson's complete book of Bible maps & charts: Old and New Testaments](#) (Rev. and updated ed.). Thomas Nelson.

B. Deceptive People
1. SAFE People – see Handout)

Genesis 3:1-7 [THE Convincing Argument]

*3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “**Did God really say, [Questions God’s word]** ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”*

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³ but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

*4 “**You will not certainly die,**” the serpent said to the woman. [**Disagrees with God’s word]***

*5 “**For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.**” [**Redefines God’s word]***

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

2. The Convincing Argument:

Encourages us to Questions God’s word...then...Disagree with God’s word...then...Redefine God’s word

Colossians 2:

⁵ because even though I am absent physically, I’m with you in spirit. I’m happy to see **the discipline and stability of your faith in Christ.**

C. Discipline births Stability (Luke 2:52)

⁵² And Jesus increased(grew) in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. NKJV

1. Intellectual – Grow your brain
2. Spiritual – Grow your Supernatural Self
3. Physical – Discipline your body
4. Social – Improve your peopling

I.THE Mystery
II.THE Life of Thankfulness
III.THE Art of Rebuking Judgers

Colossians 2: Error threatening the church

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II. THE Life of Thankfulness (Col. 2:6-15)

A. It is Taught. Who is your teacher?

1. Become like those we hang around. With whom do I spend > time?

B. Defining Thankfulness

The OT has no concept parallel to the English word "thanks," that is, simply an expression of appreciation to other persons or to God.

What do the words "thanks" and "thanksgiving" mean in the OT?

- The Hebrew word is *yādâh*, which with its derivative *tôdâh* is often translated "thanks" or "thanksgiving." It means "to declare publicly" or "to acknowledge." It is used of the confession of human sin and also of public confession of God's character and works.
→ **Confession of Sins** In the latter usage, the Hebrew concept is that of praise, not thanksgiving. → **Praise**
- The NT words translated "thank" (*eucharisteō*), "thankful" (*eucharistos*), and "thanksgiving" (*eucharistia*) signify a thankful attitude and a demonstration of gratitude. Only in three passages (Lk 17:16; Ac 24:3; Ro 16:4) are these words used of thanks given to human beings.

In the NT, the swelling sense of gratitude and appreciation expressed in thanksgiving has three primary associations. Thanks is given at the eucharist (communion service) for the broken body and the blood of Jesus (Mt 26; Mk 14; Lk 22; 1 Co 11). Thanks is given for the blessings that have come to us through Christ (1 Co 15:57; 2 Co 2:14; 9:15). Thanks is given for those who come to know Christ and who bring joy to Paul's heart (1 Co 1:4; Eph 1:16; Php 1:3; Col 1:3; 1 Th 1:2; 2:13; Phm 4). Remembering all that Jesus has done for us and in us, it is appropriate to address every prayer with thanksgiving (Php 4:6).⁴

⁴ Richards, L. O. (1999). In [New international encyclopedia of Bible words: based on the NIV and the NASB](#) (pp. 595–596). Zondervan Publishing House.

C. BEING filled WITH Him.

Ephesians 5:18

¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (debauchery, rakishness, overindulgence) ; but be filled with the Spirit, NKJV

Instead, be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: ¹⁹ speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; ²⁰ always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹ and submit to each other out of respect for Christ. CEB

AMPC And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled *and* stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

CJB (complete Jewish bible)

Don't get drunk with wine, because it makes you lose control. Instead, keep on being filled with the Spirit —

ISV (international standard)

Stop getting drunk with wine, which leads to wild living, but keep on being filled with the Spirit.

PRAYER TIME

COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

¹⁶ **So don't let anyone judge you** about eating or drinking or about a festival, a new moon observance, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These religious practices are only a shadow of what was coming—the body that cast the shadow is Christ. ¹⁸ **Don't let anyone who wants to practice harsh self-denial and worship angels rob you of the prize.** They go into detail about what they have seen in visions and have become unjustifiably arrogant by their selfish way of thinking. ¹⁹ **They don't stay connected to the head.** The head nourishes and

supports the whole body through the joints and ligaments, so the body grows with a growth that is from God.

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I.THE Mystery

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III. THE Art of Rebuking Judgers (Col. 2:16-23)

A. What is a Judger?

1. Define JUDGE (why do we give others this power **when it does not belong to them?**)

- VERB – Must DO a something

Merriam Webster: **form an opinion or conclusion about.**

Conclude. Decide. Determine. Consider. Believe. Think. Deem. View. Deduce. Gather. Infer. Gauge. Tell. See. Say. Estimate. Assess. Guess. Surmise. Conjecture. Regard as. Hold. Take to be. Count. Reckon. Figure.

1828:

JUDGE, *verb intransitive* [Latin *judico*.]

1. To compare facts or ideas, and perceive their agreement or disagreement, and thus to distinguish truth from falsehood.

JUDGE not according to the appearance [John 7:24](#).

2. To form an opinion; to bring to issue the reasoning or deliberations of the mind.

If I did not know the originals, I should not be able to *judge* by the copies, which was Virgil and which Ovid.

3. To hear and determine, as in causes on trial; to pass sentence. He was present on the bench, but could not *judge* in the case.

The Lord *judge* between thee and me. [Genesis 16:5](#).

4. To discern; to distinguish; to consider accurately for the purpose of forming an opinion or conclusion.

JUDGE in yourselves; is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? [1 Corinthians 11:13](#).

JUDGE, *verb transitive* To hear and determine a case; to examine and decide.

Chaos shall *judge* the strife.

1. To try; to examine and pass sentence on.

Take ye him and *judge* him according to your law.

John 18.

God shall *judge* the righteous and the wicked. [Ecclesiastes 3:17](#).

2. Rightly to understand and discern.

He that is spiritual, judgeth all things. [1 Corinthians 2:15](#).

3. To censure rashly; to pass severe sentence.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. [Matthew 7:1](#).

4. To esteem; to think; to reckon.

If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord--

[Acts 16:15](#).

5. To rule or govern.

The Lord shall *judge* his people. [Hebrews 10:30](#).

6. To doom to punishment; to punish.

I will *judge* thee according to thy ways. [Ezekiel 7:3](#).

ADA WE EITHER OWN OUR OWN RIGHT TO JUDGE OR WE OWN THE OPTION OF GIVING IT AWAY

We rebuke by:

- B. Identifying the Judging Action or the lack Thereof
- C. Setting Boundaries (Necessary Endings)

FOR ME:

- 1. Personal Worship (Improves our relationship with Jesus)
 - a. Prayer Habits
 - b. Scripture Habits
 - c. Study Habits

FOR OTHERS:

- 2. Assigning Intent
- 3. Disrespectful Judgments
- 4. Nursing Resentments – Taking Offense [Bait of Satan]

- D. Don't spiritualize what is human. (Cost our relationship with Jesus)

“Such rules are human commandments and teachings.”

- 1. Do you follow a modern day prophet?
(It may be a hobby but it is not Biblical Growth)
- 2. Do I judge the value of people by what they wear?
- 3. Judge a church by the quality of their worship music?
- 4. Don't handle:
 - Don't Taste:
 - Don't Touch:

Litmus Test: **but they are no help against indulging in selfish immoral behavior.**

NotES:

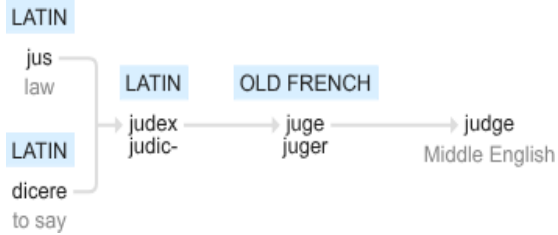
John Bevere – Bait of Satan

Embracing feelings of offense can impede our spiritual growth and damage relationships. In *The Bait of Satan*, John Bevere exposes the deceptive tactics the enemy uses to entrap us. He argues that taking offense often stems from misconceptions rather than true mistreatment, and highlights the destructive progression of emotions that can follow—betrayal, hatred, and isolation.

Bevere warns of the consequences of holding grudges, such as fractured ministries and closed hearts. But he also provides guidance on overcoming resentment through forgiveness, humility, and abiding by scriptural principles. The path to reconciliation requires recognizing the mercy we've received and prioritizing the needs of others.

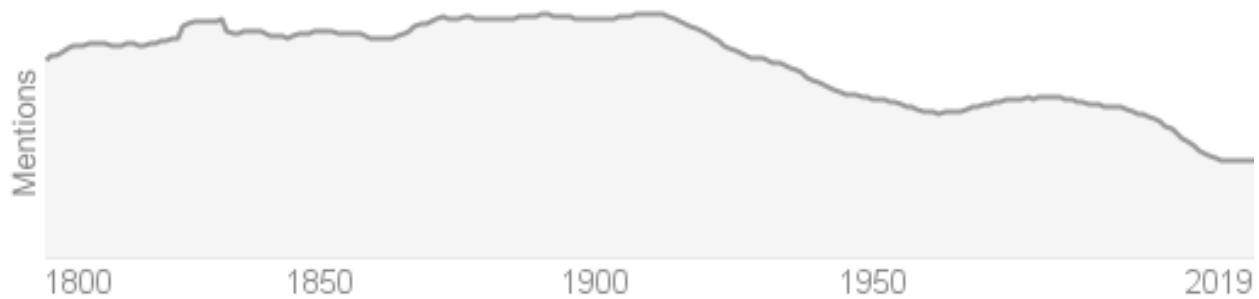
NOTES

Origin



Middle English: from Old French *juge* (noun), *juger* (verb), from Latin *judex*, *judic-*, from *jus* 'law' + *dicere* 'to say'.

Use over time for: JUDGE



A Chronology of Paul's Writings

1st Missionary Journey (45 - 47 A.D.)

No books were written

2nd Missionary Journey (51 - 54 A.D.)

1. 1 Thessalonians (52 - 53 A.D.) Written from Corinth
2. 2 Thessalonians (52 - 53 A.D.) Written from Corinth

3rd Missionary Journey (54 - 58 A.D.)

3. 1 Corinthians (Spring, 57 A.D.) Written from Ephesus
4. 2 Corinthians (Autumn, 57 A.D.) Written from Macedonia
5. Galatians (Winter, 57 A.D.) Written from Greece
6. Romans (Spring 58, A.D.) Written from Corinth

First Roman Imprisonment (61 - 63 A.D.)

7. Philemon (61 or 62 A.D.) Written from Rome
8. Colossians (61 or 62 A.D.) Written from Rome
9. Ephesians (61 or 62 A.D.) Written from Rome
10. Philippians (61 or 62 A.D.) Written from Rome

Between First & Second Imprisonments (63 - 67 A.D.)

11. 1 Timothy (67 A.D.) Written from Macedonia
12. Titus (67 A.D.) Written from Ephesus

Second Roman Imprisonment (68 A.D.)

13. 2 Timothy (68 A.D.) Written from Rome

NOTE { It is believed by many that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews. If in fact he did, that would bring to 14 the total number of books of the New Testament written by this great soldier of the cross.

*"I Paul have written it
 with mine own hand"*

Philemon 19



WNC: Winter Series
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