



# COLOSSIANS

DAY 1

Colossians 1

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FIRST THINGS FIRST

## Colossians 1:15-17 (MSG)

“We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God’s original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels – everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment.”

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The church in Colossae was a young church dealing with some heretical teachings that had crept into their congregation. What’s interesting is that these teachings were not in complete opposition to the gospel message, but rather a series of addendums and rules put on the church by its own members which sought to bring in legalism and diminish the sovereignty of Christ. Col. 1:15-17 wasn’t meant to be a warm reassurance but rather a wake-up call to this young church, a reminder that they were not being saved by their works or by any other authority, but by the power of God and the work of Jesus Christ.

These teachings were adopted and perpetuated by people who had allowed themselves to be influenced by Eastern mysticism and legalism to the point where those ideas had become equal to, and even surpassed, the Gospel. It’s essential to understand that these were very well-meaning people who loved God and loved people, which is perhaps why Paul’s opening words are so full of love and encouragement: “We can’t quit thanking God our Father and Jesus our Messiah for you!” (MSG). Paul recognized the love that the church had for the Father and for each other, despite the issues they were facing.

There are schools of thought adopted by loving, well-meaning Christians that can actually be quite helpful. I absolutely believe that God can speak to us through personality tests, philosophies, and “celebrity” preachers and speakers. However, when we elevate these ideas or people to the point where they shape our lives, our thoughts, our motivations, and our perspectives more than the gospel and the Holy Spirit, we run the risk of falling into the same trap as the Colossians. Above all else, we must allow ourselves to be shaped by the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Are there some ideas that you have elevated above the word of God? Do you need to “clean house” and allow God to reshape your thinking?

What is God speaking to me about in today’s reading?

## MY PRAYER FOR TODAY:

