<u>Colossians – The Lordship of Christ study 3 :-</u> Chapter 1, Verse 24 – Chapter 2, verse 15:-

Chapter 1, verses 24 – 29 ; Paul as Christ's minister of reconciliation:-
In reading this remember that in Christ alone we have hope of salvation. Paul is a minister of that Gospel – the good news of God's love for the world and the reconciliation completed by His shedding of blood and his death on the cross.

Chapter 2, verses 1 – 7; Paul's concern for the Lycus valley Christians:-

Verses 1 – 5: - It reads as though Paul was personally unacquainted with the Christians in Colosse. His co-worker Epaphras ministered to the church there and, in his visit to Paul, was able to share with him the situation. As Paul did not visit the church in Colosse, it is in prayer that he *"greatly strives"* for them. For context read Ephesians chapter 5, verses 10 – 18. As he says *"for though I am absent in body, I am with you in spirit"*. His prayer includes praise and thanksgiving as they stand firm in faith.

Verses 6 – 7: - These two verses act as an introduction to the next section. A reminder that they are now 'in Christ' and should live theirs lives 'in Him'. They have been taught how to live and should continue in what they already know and practise.

Verses 8 – 15:- The gnostic heresy was a 'philosophy' after the 'tradition' of men and the 'elemental spirits of the universe'. It emphasised the importance of the inner being, the soul, and the fact that the material world is evil. In their teaching the body itself, being material, is evil and a prison for the soul which longs to be free. In verse 8, Paul deliberately uses the same familiar terminology. The words *"philosophy"*, *"tradition"* and *"elemental spirits of the universe"* were (and are) all important in the teaching of gnosticism.
Those who are joined to Christ already have the *"fulness of life in Him"*.The body of flesh is renewed and God has made us *"alive together with Him having forgiven us all our trespasses,"* (verse 13). Read also 2 Corinthians chapter 5, verses 16 – 19.
Through His death on the cross and the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, God *"disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in Him"*. (verse 15).

"If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold the new has come".
Praise God!

1. Jesus, the Name high over all,
in hell or earth or sky;
angels and men before Him fall,
and devils fear and fly.

2. Jesus, the Name to sinners dear,
the Name to sinners giv'n;
it scatters all their guilty fear,
it turns their hell to heav'n.

3. Jesus the prisoner's fetters breaks
And bruises Satan's head;
Power into strengthless souls He speaks,
And life into the dead.

4. O that the world might taste and see
the riches of His grace!
The arms of love that compass me
would all the world embrace.

5. His only righteousness I show,
His saving truth proclaim;
'tis all my business here below
to cry, "Behold the Lamb!"

6. Happy, if with my latest breath
I may but gasp His Name,
preach Him to all, and cry in death,
"Behold, behold the Lamb!"

Charles Wesley 1749

Terry Brighton 5 / 10 / 2026