

**THE DIVINE AND MYSTICAL REALM
IN COLOSSIANS:
CHRIST, THE PERSON OF THE DIVINE
MYSTICAL REALM**

By Titus Chu

**MESSAGE ONE:
THE KINGDOM OF THE BELOVED SON:
THE PERSON, CONTENT, AND CIRCUMFERENCE
OF THE DIVINE MYSTICAL REALM**

This is a very rich outline, but it presents us with something very high. Therefore, many of us may feel that it is beyond our reach. It is like being offered a very expensive diamond for the one we love-but even though we love that person, we still are only willing to pay a price that falls within a certain range (and to pay a high price for other things seems more reasonable). This conference, however, covers how Christ must have the First first place in all things, for He is the Preeminent One. He is the Beginning, the Firstborn, the All in All. Our problem, however, is that we are very selective in how we experience Him.

When it came to receiving a Savior, we couldn't be selective about what kind of Christ we could choose. But when it comes to living our life, it seems we can be very selective as to the kind of Christ we will know and experience. Very few, if any, seem able to know and enjoy Christ as He is. After salvation, nearly every Christian decides what kind of Christ he or she will have. Nearly none take Christ for who He is. After following Him for more than fifty years, I am still struggling to learn how to take Christ as Christ, for I still find that I want to shape Him to fit who I am. We want to love Him with all of our heart, but we want to love Him with all of our heart comfortably.

This is our situation. When the Lord does something that doesn't fit us, we complain and even get angry with Him and say, "Lord, how can You do this if You love me?" We react like this because Christ has not yet become the Preeminent One in our lives. We

may have pray-read, “that He might have the first place in all things...Lord, I give You the first place in all things.” Yet when He tries to touch our family, our social life, our living place, or our finances, we say “No.” Saints, even in the things of our supposed “belief,” nearly no one genuinely cares for Christ.

We may talk about Christ, but can we say He is really our unique focus? This is the background of the book of Colossians. The purpose of Colossians is to tell us, “Christ must have the preeminence. He is the First; He is the Beginning; He is the Creator; He is the Firstborn; He is the End; He is everything, and everything must be related to Him and focused upon Him. Only Christ!”

The topic of this conference is: “Christ: the Person of the Divine and Mystical Realm.” Who is this Christ? He is the person of the divine mystical realm. This realm is a realm of Christ, and in this realm Christ is the Person. In this realm, the Triune God has His operation. This is the topic for these five messages.

This first message focuses upon the kingdom of Christ as the Son of God’s love. In the sphere of the kingdom, which equals the divine mystical realm, Christ is the person, the content, and the circumference.

Perhaps we could use the United States as an illustration. The ‘person’ of the United States is its Constitution, the ‘content’ of the United States are all its riches, and the ‘circumference’ of the United States is its borders, bounded by two oceans, Mexico, and Canada.

In the divine mystical realm, however, both the person and content are Christ, and the circumference is the Body of Christ, which is also Christ. This realm, with Christ as its person and content, and with His Body as its circumference, is referred to in Colossians as the kingdom of the Son of God’s love. In other words, this realm is a kingdom, which means there is a ruling, and, being the kingdom of the Son of God’s love, everything within this kingdom is enjoyed through love.

I. The APOSTLE PAUL'S BURDEN TOWARD THE SAINTS

A. That They May Be Filled With the Full Knowledge of God's Will In All Spiritual Wisdom And Understanding — Colossians 1:9

If any Christian to grow and mature properly, the first thing he needs is to be filled with the full knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. What is God's will? His will is Christ. His will is the kingdom of the Son of His love. His will is nothing other than that this very Christ should rule.

We often confuse God's will with God's leading. We may say among ourselves, "Where should we go for lunch...McDonald's or Burger King? Which is God's will?" God would say, "I am not for McDonald's or Burger King...I am for Christ!" He may lead you in various situations, but His leading is for you to be brought to His will, which is focused upon Christ.

For instance, a brother may feel very good about taking a professorship at a certain university, and all the other brothers may feel fine as well. Is this the Lord's will? That brother may feel, "I will preach the gospel to the students, and I will be a blessing to the church." Yet when he arrives, he finds that in order to achieve tenure he is expected to publish five papers a year. Thus he becomes very busy in his lab, and the saints never see him. He may have been led of the Lord to go to that university, but the Lord's will is that he gain Christ there, not that he be swallowed up by the world. That brother needs to say, "I may not be able to publish five papers a year. So what! I trust in the Lord, not in this job! I am on this earth for Christ and Christ's Body!" Then this brother has become somewhat clear about the will of God.

To have the ‘full knowledge’ of God’s will indicates that God’s will possesses us, that it has taken us over. When you see it, enjoy it, partake of it, and become part of it, giving your life to it, then you know you have the full knowledge of His will. To have the full knowledge of something is to value it as it ought to be valued. If anyone has the full knowledge of God’s will, he will certainly not give his life to anything else.

Then what does ‘in all spiritual wisdom and understanding’ refer to? Your spirit is where wisdom abides, and your mind is where understanding comes. In other words, when someone’s spirit is filled with wisdom and his mind is focused on what God desires, his whole being is saturated with God’s will. When your spirit is occupied with God’s will, your mind will become clear and you will be able to interpret and develop whatever is in your spirit, and God’s will shall become the controlling element in your life. You will live for His will, and your operation will be for His will. You will read the Bible with His will in view, and you will pray because of His will. Whatever you do, you will do for God’s will. When this becomes true for you, then you are qualified to come to the next point.

**B. That They Enjoy the Reality
Of the Kingdom of the Son of His Love,
the Reality of the Divine Mystical Realm**

1. *Realizing they have been qualified for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light — Colossians 1:12*
2. *Realizing they have been delivered out of the authority of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of His love — Colossians 1:13*
3. *Realizing they have redemption in the beloved Son, the forgiveness of sins — Colossians 1:14*

When you see God's will, the kingdom of God's Beloved Son can be yours, for God has rescued you from the authority of darkness and has transferred you into the reality of His will, which is this kingdom.

In this kingdom we have three things: being qualified for a share of the portion of the saints in the light; being delivered out of the authority of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Beloved Son; and redemption, the forgiveness of offenses. In our experience these are reversed, for we first realize we have been forgiven, then we are able to accept that we have been transferred out of the authority of darkness and into the kingdom of the Beloved Son. Formerly we were in another realm, the realm of darkness, and the person of that kingdom was Satan, not God's Son. The Lord, however, forgave us all our sins, and transferred us into this realm where He is everything. We have been delivered!

However, is our experience that we are in the kingdom of the Son of God's love? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. It seems we have a motor home and are always traveling between the two kingdoms. In the morning, we enjoy being in the kingdom of the Son, and then at work we travel at times to the kingdom of darkness, then after arriving at the meeting we come to the kingdom of the Son of God's love again. If we are standing in line at a movie theater, or eating junk food, could we say we are living in the kingdom of this Christ? We must understand, however, that experience never can replace position. Sometimes in our living we are caught outside of the kingdom. Positionally, however, we have been transferred out of the authority of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of God's love. I may travel from country to country, but I am always an American. Wherever I go, I hold an American passport. No matter what happens to us or what we may do, we are still in the kingdom of the Beloved Son. Hallelujah! We have been redeemed from all sin, and we have been placed in Christ. Now we must learn to stay in this One by appreciating more and more who He is.

When a young lady marries a young man, her appreciation for him as her husband has just begun. Over time it will develop as she comes to see more and more about him, and the more she sees, the more she will come to love and appreciate him. It is the same with the Lord. This Christ needs to be really appreciated by us. How attractive Christ is to you, is how prevailing your Christian life will be. If your Christ is lovely, then your Christian life will be peaceful. If your Christ is Head over all things, then you will have real rest as you follow Him, because you have come to know your Lord.

After you recognize that you are forgiven and have been transferred, you will be able to participate as one who has been qualified for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light.

We may feel that those with more experience and growth are more valuable in the church life than those who are newer or younger. Those who feel less important may even think that their presence in the church life doesn't mean as much as the presence of someone who seems more important. This is not the case! According to this verse, we all have a share; the Lord has allotted us all a portion! In this sense, we all are equal. Common sense says no, but the Bible says yes. The Lord has made each one of us equally precious members of His Body. This is God's economy. Whether you have been saved fifty years or five months, the Lord has given you a share. We are all crucial. Not only have we been forgiven our offenses and been transferred out of the authority of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love; we have been qualified for a share of the portion of the saints in the light! You are just as needed as anyone else.

Light is something that acts as a controlling element. When there was the blackout in New York City, all control was lost, for all the lights went out. In the absence of light, so much damage occurred and so much was lost. When the world tries to draw you away, you should realize, "No! I am needed in the church life!" May we live under the shining light that we may participate as fellow-heirs in this kingdom.

II. THE BELOVED SON

Concerning the Son, there are six elements we must come to appreciate. First, His being; second, His preeminence; third, His operation; fourth, His heavenly value; fifth, His accomplishment and sixth, His accomplished redemption. Due to who He is, He has preeminence; out of His preeminence there is operation, which produces something of heavenly value. This heavenly value comes from His accomplishment. When all of this is put together, it is a matter of His redemption for us to enjoy.

A. Concerning His Being, He is the Image of the Invisible God, the Expression of all the Attributes and Virtues of God, the Person of the Divine Mystical Realm — Colossians 1:15a

Christ as the Person of the divine mystical realm is just the image of the invisible God. Apart from Jesus, no one can see God (John 1:18). As the image of the invisible God and the Person of the divine mystical realm, Christ is the expression of all of God's divine attributes and virtues.

B. Concerning the Preeminence of His Being, He is the Firstborn of all Creation, the Creator of all Things — the Person, the Active Instrument, and the Goal of the Divine Mystical Realm — Colossians 1:15b-16

Christ is the Preeminent One in the universe, but is He the Preeminent One in us? We have all received the Lord as our Savior, yet we may give preeminence to other things. In many things the Lord wishes to speak to us, we simply cannot hear Him, for we esteem other things above Christ. If, for instance, a sister wishes to marry, and is given a “green light” by some elder, that confirms what is already preeminent within her, so that if even Christ were to say “no,” she will not be able to hear Him, for there is something within that is preeminent besides Christ.

All things, whether in heaven or on earth, were created in Him, through Him, and unto Him

1. *All things, whether the visible or the invisible, were created in Him, through Him, and unto Him.*
2. *All things, whether good angels or evil, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities, were created in Him, through Him, and unto Him? “In Him here means in the power of Christ’s person...Through Him indicates that Christ is the active instrument...Unto Him...indicates that Christ is the end...” (RcV, Colossians 1:16 footnotes 1,4,5).*

All young people think they should have preeminence. The Lord, however, is the One in whom, through whom, and unto whom you were created. He is the means, He is the instrument, and He is the goal of your existence. Therefore nothing should replace Him. He is the source, He is the active instrument, and He is the end and the goal of our existence.

C. Concerning His Operation:

1. He is before all things.

— *Colossians 1:17a*

Who or what is before all things to you? What do you place before all else? To many, career, marriage, or education come ahead of Christ. ‘Before’ here means in reality. Without Him, nothing happens, so in reality He is before all things. In our life we should be able to say, “Lord, You are before all things.”

2. All things cohere in Him — the content of the divine mystical realm.

— *Colossians 1:17b*

All things cohere in Christ; He is the One who puts all things together. I love many things, even as dear as my granddaughter, but I still realize my granddaughter is not the One who puts it

together for me. That Person is Christ. He is the One who is coordinating and putting it all together. The more we give Him the preeminence, the more He is able to make things in our life solid. We think that if we could only get this or have that, we would be solid. No, only Christ can make things solid. Everything may seem to be falling apart outwardly, but when you give Christ the preeminence in your life, in reality everything holds solid.

**D. Concerning His Heavenly Value, He Has
Begotten the New Creation as the Circumference
of the Divine and Mystical Realm — Colossians 1:18-19**

The very Triune God Himself is this divine mystical realm. When He begot the church in resurrection, the church became His organic Body and His enlargement. This Body as the enlarged Christ is the circumference of the divine mystical realm today.

1. *He is the Head of the Body, the church, indicating that He is the Life and Person of the Body.*
2. *He gives birth to the church, the Body, in time.*
3. *He is the beginning of the saints.*

In other words, our faith begins with Christ (Heb. 12:2), our growth begins out of Him, and all our spiritual experiences as believers have Christ as their source. Thus, He is the beginning of the saints.

4. *He was the Firstborn from the dead to produce the new creation.*
5. *Through the church, His Body, He has the first place in all things.*

**E. Concerning the Accomplishment of His Economy,
Through His Church — His Fullness — He Produces all the
Fullness — all the Positive Things that Testify the Various
Aspects of God
— Colossians 1:19; Ephesians 1:22-23**

The more we manifest Christ and grow in Him as His fullness, the more all creation is released from bondage and the more the various aspects of Christ are seen in them (Rom. 8:19-21). We may be somewhat ‘naughty’ now, but the more we love Christ, the more the flowers and trees are happy, and the more the various aspects of God are seen in it. In this way, the church as the fullness of Christ will open the way for the full expression of all positive things created by God.

I had planted a rose, but it refused to grow, and had to be torn out. I was saddened, and had the feeling, “Lord, may we grow. May Your fullness become reality. When Your fullness, the church, grows and matures, there will be no more suffering for all creation.” At that time all creation will manifest so many aspects of the wisdom of God. Through us, the church as His fullness, all the fullness will be able to be made manifest.

**F. Concerning His Accomplished Redemption — the Organic
Enlargement of the Divine and Mystical Realm
— Colossians 1:20, 22**

1. *He has made peace through the blood of His cross to reconcile all things to Himself.*
2. *He, in the body of His flesh through death, has made us His organic Body that we may be presented to Him holy, without blemish, and without reproach.*

Before we believed into Christ, we were His enemies. For what reason? For no reason. He never offended us, but one day He made peace with us. In the body of His flesh through death, He

made us His organic Body. In this Body He will present us to Himself holy, without blemish, and without reproach.

There are about one thousand people here. Think of all the frustration and failure and deterioration we present to Him. Yet the Lord says, One day I will present My organic Body to Myself holy, without blemish.

III. ALL THAT THE BELOVED SON IS, HAS BEEN REALIZED IN HIS KINGDOM — COLOSSIANS 1:13

A. The kingdom of the Son of His love is the organic, divine realm of life where we may breathe, walk, operate and be satisfied in the light.

B. As it is the kingdom of the Son of His love, all its dispensing, administration, operation, and activity are motivated by, carried through and pervaded with the element of God's love.

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