

## Message One

# **The Urgent Need for Our Culture to Be Replaced by the All-inclusive, Extensive Christ**

RK, Hymn 189

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:12-13, 15-18, 27; 2:8, 14-15; 3:4, 10-11

- Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;
- Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,
- Col. 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
- Col. 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;
- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,
- Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
- Col. 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
- Col. 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

### **I. The book of Colossians was written because the church in Colossae had been pervaded with culture, and the saints had been distracted from Christ by culture—2:8, 16-17; 3:10-11:**

- Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;
- Col. 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,
- Col. 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian,

Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- A. In Colossae culture had flooded the church, replaced Christ, and carried off the saints as spoil—2:8.

Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;

- B. The enemy of God uses culture to replace Christ; he will try to use the good aspects of culture to replace Christ—cf. Phil. 3:4-8.

Phil. 3:4 Though I myself have something to be confident of in the flesh as well. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I more:

Phil. 3:5 Circumcised the eighth day; of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;

Phil. 3:6 As to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless.

Phil. 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

- C. According to the book of Colossians, Christ is replaced by culture; Colossians indicates that the ultimate replacement for Christ is our culture.

- D. In Colossians the authority of darkness refers especially to the good aspects of culture and of our natural being—1:12-13:

Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;

Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

1. The saints in Colossae came under the authority of darkness by allowing the highest aspects of culture to invade the church—2:8.

Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;

2. The highest products of culture are nonetheless aspects of the authority of darkness by which Satan controls people—1:13.

Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

3. Anything that is a substitute for Christ becomes the authority of darkness to control us—v. 13.

Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

## II. Human culture arose after the fall of man—Gen. 4:16-22:

Gen. 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Gen. 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.

Gen. 4:18 And Irad was born to Enoch, and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael,

and Methushael begot Lamech.

Gen. 4:19 And Lamech took two wives for himself: The name of the first was Adah, and the name of the second Zillah.

Gen. 4:20 And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and raise cattle.

Gen. 4:21 And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

Gen. 4:22 And Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

A. After leaving God's presence, Cain constructed a city for his protection and self-existence—vv. 16-17:

Gen. 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Gen. 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.

1. Within this city he produced a culture without God, a godless culture.
2. In the garden God was everything to man—his protection, maintenance, supply, and amusement; when man lost God, he lost everything.
3. Man's loss of God forced man to invent human culture, the main elements of which were cities for existence, cattle-raising for making a living, music for enjoyment, and weapons for defense—vv. 20-22.

Gen. 4:20 And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and raise cattle.

Gen. 4:21 And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

Gen. 4:22 And Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

B. Apparently, a culture without God was invented by the man who refused to go God's way and thereby lost God; actually, the intrinsic factor of culture was the instigation and incitement of Satan, God's enemy, within the man who departed from God—vv. 7, 16-17; Matt. 12:26:

Gen. 4:7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and his desire is for you, but you must rule over him.

Gen. 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

Gen. 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.

Matt. 12:26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?

1. Such a culture, which was without God and was united with Satan, became a model representing all human cultures throughout the ages and signifying that these cultures are without God and have followed Satan and are united with Satan—cf. Luke 4:6, footnote 1.

Luke 4:6, footnote 1: This must have occurred in the preadamite age. The devil's word here indicates that when God anointed the archangel to be the head of the preadamite age (Ezek. 28:13-14), the authority and glory of the kingdom of the earth must have been given to him. The Lord's word in John 12:31 confirms this. After he rebelled against God and became God's enemy, Satan, he was judged by God

(Isa. 14:12-15), but the full execution of God's judgment upon him will not be completed until the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:7-10). Hence, until that time he has authority over the kingdoms of the earth. He tempted the Lord Jesus by offering this authority and its glory to Him. His evil offer was rejected by God's Christ, but it will be accepted by the Antichrist, the man of lawlessness (2 Thes. 2:3-4), at the end of this age (Rev. 13:4) for the executing of Satan's evil strategy against God. Only by Christ, who lives in us, can we reject the evil tempter.

2. The godless culture began as a seed in Genesis 4, and it will develop throughout the history of the human race until it consummates in Babylon the Great in Revelation 18.

- Gen. 4:1 And the man knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain and said, I have acquired a man, Jehovah.
- Gen. 4:2 And again she gave birth, to his brother Abel. And Abel was a tender of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.
- Gen. 4:3 And in the course of time Cain brought an offering to Jehovah from the fruit of the ground.
- Gen. 4:4 And Abel also brought an offering, from the firstlings of his flock, that is, from their fat portions. And Jehovah had regard for Abel and for his offering.
- Gen. 4:5 But for Cain and for his offering He had no regard. And Cain became very angry, and his countenance fell.
- Gen. 4:6 And Jehovah said to Cain, Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen?
- Gen. 4:7 If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and his desire is for you, but you must rule over him.
- Gen. 4:8 And Cain said to Abel his brother, Let us go into the field. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against Abel his brother and slew him.
- Gen. 4:9 Then Jehovah said to Cain, Where is Abel your brother? And he said, I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?
- Gen. 4:10 And He said, What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying out to Me from the ground.
- Gen. 4:11 And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand.
- Gen. 4:12 When you till the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you. You will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.
- Gen. 4:13 And Cain said to Jehovah, My punishment is greater than I can bear.
- Gen. 4:14 Now You have driven me out this day from the face of the ground, and from Your face I will be hidden; and I will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.
- Gen. 4:15 And Jehovah said to him, Therefore whoever kills Cain, vengeance will be taken on him sevenfold. And Jehovah put a mark on Cain, so that anyone who found him would not strike him.
- Gen. 4:16 And Cain went forth from the presence of Jehovah and dwelt in the land of Nod, east of Eden.
- Gen. 4:17 And Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Enoch; and he built a city and called the name of the city after the name of his son Enoch.
- Gen. 4:18 And Irad was born to Enoch, and Irad begot Mehujael, and Mehujael begot Methushael, and Methushael begot Lamech.
- Gen. 4:19 And Lamech took two wives for himself: The name of the first was Adah, and the name of the second Zillah.
- Gen. 4:20 And Adah gave birth to Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and raise cattle.
- Gen. 4:21 And his brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

- Gen. 4:22 And Zillah also gave birth to Tubal-cain, the forger of every cutting instrument of bronze and iron; and the sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.
- Gen. 4:23 And Lamech said to his wives, Adah and Zillah, listen to my voice; / O wives of Lamech, hearken to my speech; / For I have slain a man for wounding me, / Even a young man for striking me.
- Gen. 4:24 If Cain is avenged sevenfold, / Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold.
- Gen. 4:25 And Adam knew his wife again. And she gave birth to a son and called his name Seth, for, she said, God has appointed me another seed instead of Abel, because Cain slew him.
- Gen. 4:26 And to Seth also a son was born, and he called his name Enosh. At that time men began to call upon the name of Jehovah.
- Rev. 18:1 After these things I saw another Angel coming down out of heaven, having great authority; and the earth was illumined with His glory.
- Rev. 18:2 And He cried with a strong voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a hold of every unclean spirit and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird;
- Rev. 18:3 For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the fury of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the power of her luxury.
- Rev. 18:4 And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues;
- Rev. 18:5 For her sins have accumulated up to heaven, and God has remembered her unrighteousnesses.
- Rev. 18:6 Pay her back even as she has paid, and double to her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix to her double.
- Rev. 18:7 As much as she has glorified herself and lived luxuriously, as much torment and sorrow give to her; for she says in her heart, I sit a queen, and I am not a widow, and I shall by no means see sorrow.
- Rev. 18:8 Therefore in one day her plagues will come, death and sorrow and famine, and she will be utterly burned with fire; for the Lord God who judges her is strong.
- Rev. 18:9 And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her, will weep and lament over her when they see the smoke of her burning,
- Rev. 18:10 Standing afar off because of fear of her torment, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, Babylon, the strong city, for in one hour your judgment has come!
- Rev. 18:11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargo anymore:
- Rev. 18:12 Cargo of gold and silver and precious stone and pearls and fine linen and purple and silk and scarlet, and every kind of thyine wood, and every vessel of ivory, and every vessel of most precious wood and brass and iron and marble,
- Rev. 18:13 And cinnamon and amomum and incense and ointment and frankincense and wine and oil and fine flour and wheat and cattle and sheep, and cargo of horses and chariots and slaves and souls of men.
- Rev. 18:14 And the ripe fruits of your soul's lust have gone away from you, and all the sumptuous and splendid things have perished from you; and men will find them no more at all.
- Rev. 18:15 The merchants of these things, who became rich by her, will stand afar off because of the fear of her torment, weeping and mourning,
- Rev. 18:16 Saying, Woe, woe, the great city, which was clothed in fine linen and purple and scarlet, and gilded with gold and precious stone and pearl;
- Rev. 18:17 For in one hour such great wealth has become desolate! And every ship captain and everyone sailing to a place and sailors and all who work on the sea stood afar off
- Rev. 18:18 And cried out, seeing the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like the great city?

- Rev. 18:19 And they cast dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and mourning, saying, Woe, woe, the great city, by which all those who have ships on the sea became rich from her wealth, for in one hour she has become desolate!
- Rev. 18:20 Be glad over her, O heaven and saints and apostles and prophets, because God has judged judgment for you upon her.
- Rev. 18:21 And a strong angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, Thus will Babylon, the great city, be thrown down with violence and shall be found no more at all.
- Rev. 18:22 And the sound of harp-singers and musicians and flutists and trumpeters shall be heard no more at all in you, and no craftsman of any craft shall be found anymore at all in you, and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in you,
- Rev. 18:23 And the light of a lamp shall shine no more at all in you, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall be heard no more at all in you; for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, for by your sorcery all the nations were deceived.
- Rev. 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth.

3. The Lord's word in Matthew 24:37-39 indicates that the godless culture at the time of Noah will develop to its uttermost in the period of the Lord's coming.

- Matt. 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt. 24:38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
- Matt. 24:39 And they did not know that judgment was coming until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

### **III. Culture is a frustration to God's purpose concerning Christ and the church— Eph. 3:10-11; 5:32:**

- Eph. 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Eph. 3:11 According to the eternal purpose which He made in Christ Jesus our Lord,
- Eph. 5:32 This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

A. Something very subtle stands in the way of Christ and the church; this subtle opposing element is culture—Col. 3:10-11; Eph. 2:14-15; Col. 2:14-15.

- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- Eph. 2:14 For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity,
- Eph. 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, so making peace,
- Col. 2:14 Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross.
- Col. 2:15 Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

B. Culture is a great frustration to experiencing Christ; unconsciously and subconsciously, we are frustrated by culture from the experience and enjoyment of Christ—Phil. 3:7-8.

- Phil. 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.



Phil. 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ

C. Our growing up into Christ in all things and arriving at a full-grown man is hindered by our subtle, hidden culture—Col. 2:19; Eph. 4:13, 15-16.

Col. 2:19 And not holding the Head, out from whom all the Body, being richly supplied and knit together by means of the joints and sinews, grows with the growth of God.

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph. 4:15 But holding to truth in love, we may grow up into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ,

Eph. 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.

**IV. Human culture stands in opposition to the kingdom of God—Matt. 10:16-25, 34-39; 12:29, 46-50:**

Matt. 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves. Be therefore prudent as serpents and guileless as doves.

Matt. 10:17 And beware of men, for they will deliver you up to sanhedrins, and in their synagogues they will scourge you.

Matt. 10:18 And you will also be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.

Matt. 10:19 But when they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what you should speak, for it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;

Matt. 10:20 For you are not the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father is the One speaking in you.

Matt. 10:21 And brother will deliver up brother to death, and father his child; and children will rise up against their parents and put them to death.

Matt. 10:22 And you will be hated by all because of My name. But he who has endured to the end, this one shall be saved.

Matt. 10:23 And when they persecute you in this city, flee into another. For truly I say to you, You shall by no means finish the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.

Matt. 10:24 A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above his master.

Matt. 10:25 It is sufficient for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebul, how much more those of His household!

Matt. 10:34 Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

Matt. 10:35 For I have come to set men at variance: a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

Matt. 10:36 And a man's enemies will be those of his household.

Matt. 10:37 He who loves father or mother above Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter above Me is not worthy of Me;

Matt. 10:38 And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

Matt. 10:39 He who finds his soul-life shall lose it, and he who loses his soul-life for My sake shall find it.

Matt. 12:29 Or how can anyone enter into the house of the strong man and plunder his goods unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will thoroughly plunder his house.

- Matt. 12:46 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and His brothers stood outside seeking to speak to Him.
- Matt. 12:47 And someone said to Him, Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.
- Matt. 12:48 But He answered and said to him who spoke to Him, Who is My mother, and who are My brothers?
- Matt. 12:49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, Behold, My mother and My brothers!
- Matt. 12:50 For whoever does the will of My Father who is in the heavens, he is My brother and sister and mother.

- A. Sinful things do not oppose the kingdom of God as much as human culture does.
- B. Human culture has become a basic part and a great portion of the kingdom of Satan—v. 26.  
 Matt. 12:26 And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?
- C. Culture has become a stronghold of Satan; in a subtle way he maintains a hold on culture and utilizes it to oppose God's kingdom—Acts 26:18; Col. 1:12-13.  
 Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, to turn them from darkness to light and from the authority of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.  
 Col. 1:12 Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light;  
 Col. 1:13 Who delivered us out of the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

**V. Christ as the all-inclusive, extensive One is versus culture and should replace our culture with Himself—v. 18; 3:4, 10-11:**

- Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.
- Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

- A. The purpose of the extensive revelation of Christ in the book of Colossians is to deal with culture—2:8; 3:10-11.  
 Col. 2:8 Beware that no one carries you off as spoil through his philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ;  
 Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,  
 Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
- B. In this book Paul presents a vision of the all-inclusive, extensive Christ to impress us with the fact that this Christ should replace our culture—1:27.  
 Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,

**VI. The kind of Christ who replaces culture is the all-inclusive, extensive Christ, the**



**preeminent One, the centrality and universality of God's economy—vv. 15-18; 2:16-17; 3:4, 10-11:**

- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,  
Col. 1:16 Because in Him all things were created, in the heavens and on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or lordships or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and unto Him.
- Col. 1:17 And He is before all things, and all things cohere in Him;  
Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
- Col. 2:16 Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath,  
Col. 2:17 Which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ.
- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.  
Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,  
Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**A. The Christ who can replace our culture and become everything to us is the all-inclusive, extensive Christ—1:15, 18.**

- Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation,  
Col. 1:18 And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

**B. The book of Colossians was written in order to reveal the all-inclusive, extensive Christ who deals with our culture and replaces our culture with Himself—3:4, 10-11.**

- Col. 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.  
Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,  
Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.

**C. In His salvation God not only saves us from sin, judgment, the lake of fire, the world, and the self; He also saves us from everything that replaces Christ, including our culture—Heb. 7:25.**

- Heb. 7:25 Hence also He is able to save to the uttermost those who come forward to God through Him, since He lives always to intercede for them.

**D. The all-inclusive, extensive Christ is in us, and we need to allow Him to fill our entire being and replace our culture with Himself—Eph. 3:17a; Col. 1:27; 3:11.**

- Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
Col. 1:27 To whom God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory,  
Col. 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.