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# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

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CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.  
REDEEMER OF A BROKEN WORLD.  
SAVIOR TO ALL WHO BELIEVE.

*Jesus Christ.*

FULLY GOD. FULLY MAN.  
LORD OF ALL.



THRU the BIBLE



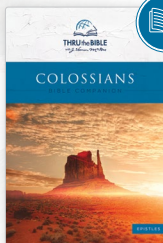
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# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## JESUS CHRIST, SUPREME



Dr. J. Vernon McGee  
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from our **Colossians Bible Companion**.  
Download [here](#).

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In case you wonder who Jesus is, after reading and studying Colossians you should wonder no longer.

Here is the clearest and most inspiring explanation of the deity and majesty of Jesus, God's Son, perhaps in all of Scripture. This passionate letter to the Colossians defends Christianity against the sneaky, insidious philosophy of Gnosticism (that said Jesus was a lesser god born among many gods). We learn here that Jesus is God and fully God in every aspect. You may read and study Colossians and come away still not believing, but you can't read this letter and say you've not been confronted by Jesus in all His deity and majesty.



*[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. -1:15*

The early church faced several assaults against who Jesus is. Some taught that the Lord Jesus Christ was a mere creature. But the leaders of the Christian church at the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. answered that lie by stating in their creed that, "the Son is very man of very man, and very God of very God!" Later others falsely taught Jesus was not God, that people were not troubled by a sin nature, and we don't need a Savior. But just return to Colossians to combat lies with powerful truth.

## **Jesus is the image of the invisible God.**

Few places in Scripture make Jesus' deity plainer. The word translated "image" is the Greek word *eikon*, which means "something that exactly represents another." Though God the Father can't be seen, Jesus shows us God the Father in every possible way. In other words, if you see Jesus, you see God the Father.

## **Jesus is the firstborn over all creation.**

Jesus' relationship with His Father places Him above all other created things, especially things born from another. Jesus was born into humanity at Bethlehem, but that wasn't His beginning (Micah 5:2). Rather, Jesus came out of eternity to take His place as a man in order to fulfill God's wonderful purposes. Jesus, as the firstborn of all creation, not only came from God, but is God in the flesh (John 1).

Jesus is no mere creature. He came from eternity past and took His place, though in human form, as Creator God of the universe.

*For by [Jesus] all things were created .... -1:16*



Jesus, as Creator God, made all things both visible and invisible. Anything you can see in creation, Jesus created. Anything real that cannot be seen was also created by Him. This must have been an astounding concept for the Colossian believers to wrap their minds around, since they were surrounded by an entire culture that rejected such claims. Jesus is so much more than most people believe. He created the universe, both things visible and invisible. Do you know Jesus that way? Not only as your Savior, possibly, but also your Creator God? Take a few moments now and just ponder that thought. How does it strike you? How does it make you feel? What difference would it make if you fully believed it?

This letter to the Colossians invites you to know Jesus as your Creator!

*And [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things consist. -1:17*



*Jesus is all*

AND ABOVE ALL.

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In many ways, this one expression sums up Colossians. That Jesus exists in eternity past, present, and future and is part of all things that are created speaks of the completeness of His presence. He is eternal—no beginning and no end—and He is omnipresent—meaning, His presence is everywhere and knows no boundaries.

*And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. -1:18*

Jesus is all and above all—and that includes being the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22). What encouragement to know that the risen Jesus lived as the wonderful Shepherd of our lives, caring for our needs and keeping us blameless before Him until the end (Hebrews 13:20-22).

And that same Jesus remained for them as preeminent over all things in creation, glorified before God and seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Psalm 2; Hebrews 12:2). This final statement in the introduction landed the powerful argument about who Jesus really is.

## MY TURN

- 1 Why do you think so many heresies revolved around Jesus' identity?
- 2 In what ways was the birth of Jesus different from the birth of every other person?
- 3 What was God's purpose in taking on a physical body and living as a human being?
- 4 Why do you think it is important that we come to know Jesus as the Creator?
- 5 Why would sin prevent us even thinking rightly about God?
- 6 What does Paul's exhortation to "continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast," look like for you today?



## HOW TO PRAY FOR UKRAINE



Victor Akhterov  
FEBC partner

THRU the BIBLE has been a true partner of FEBC-Ukraine for many years. And now, during the most difficult time in the history of this country, THRU the BIBLE is there to give hope, truth, and love to the people of Ukraine.

Our listeners are experiencing not only deep but prolonged trauma that results in millions of additional divorces, a record number of teen suicides, and widespread psychological problems—all in addition to loss of life due to war. **Despite these struggles, our Ukrainian team continues to broadcast words of encouragement and hope from God's Word. Our broadcasters and staff are connecting with people, praying with listeners, and showing the love of Jesus Christ daily.**

**As we discover again and again, the only means for real change is the gospel.** THRU the BIBLE is our main Bible program. I've been in ministry for more than three decades and have experienced various wonderful ways of God's work through media in many countries, but **what He's doing today through THRU the BIBLE is truly marvelous.** We see God's outpouring of His love as single mothers accept Jesus and feel loved. As 14-year-olds decide not to commit suicide, but instead change the world for Jesus. As those living under rocket attacks trust Jesus. As soldiers, who are horrified by seeing their friends dying daily, begin to pray and study the Bible with THRU the BIBLE while they live in the trenches. As refugees, worrying about their families and the future,



find supernatural peace as they understand who Jesus is. What a privilege it is for us to serve with THRU the BIBLE.

Sergey, our main THRU the BIBLE broadcaster, is now a chaplain in the Ukrainian army, influencing several key commanders and hundreds of soldiers and officers for Jesus. He is still able to come to the studio and record broadcasts, taking God's Word to millions of Ukrainians.



**Sergey, THRU the BIBLE broadcaster, serving as chaplain for Ukrainian military.**

In December, the government of Ukraine granted us a permanent, 10-year license to broadcast in the capital of Kyiv. **This is truly a miracle. Millions of potential listeners. Unprecedented number of responses. Open door for the future ministry. Pray for us and praise God with us.**



**Here are some recent requests from our Ukrainian team. Please join us in praying for:**

**SOLDIERS** | Many soldiers are having serious struggles. Many call crying. Please pray for many to turn to Christ. The death toll from the war is alarmingly high.

**NEW LISTENERS** | Please pray for people turning to the Lord as they face extreme trials in their lives. Thousands are in-country refugees who receive hope through the Bible.

**GOD'S PROTECTION** | God provided for FEBC-Ukraine to open a radio station in Zaporizhzhia during wartime, and it has become one of the most responsive regions. People live in constant fear due to the nearby nuclear power plant, which is under Russian control.

**FEBC STAFF** | Our Ukrainian staff directly serve those afflicted by the ongoing war. Others distribute radios and answer calls coming from disaster areas. Please continue to pray for our broadcasters who are sharing the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ. Thousands are responding.



## STUDY WITH A BUDDY

*“Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.”*

—Proverbs 19:20

Wonderful things can happen when you study God’s Word with a friend. That’s what Darith in Cambodia recently shared. Here’s his story:

*“I found your program and began to listen every day. My life improved both physically and spiritually. I soon chose to receive God’s mercy and became His child. With His grace working through me, I was able to lead one of my neighbors to faith in Jesus Christ. Now we have joined forces. Your programs take us very deep and our conversations after are invaluable. We challenge one another’s attitudes and actions and support each other with God’s Word when it is needed. We push one another to continue. In the end, we’ve learned more and have become stronger in our faith together than we would have on our own.”*

As we thank God for those He’s bringing together all over the world to study His Word, pray about who you might invite to join you. As you study together, may you too grow in wisdom.

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY)  
TO SIGN UP.**





# J E S U S I N

## Colossians

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

### JESUS PAID IT ALL

If someone asked you where they could go to find out about Jesus Christ and what He really represents, would you know how to answer? If they were struggling with understanding who Jesus is and why they need a Savior, what would you say? Would you focus on His deity or start with Him becoming a man?

Read Colossians to discover Jesus, high above the empty religions and philosophies of the world. See Him as the sovereign Creator of the universe, who though existing in eternity past, bore the weight of humanity's separation from God in His body on the cross. **Once we were separated from God because of our sin, and now we can enjoy peace with Him because of what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.**

How did Jesus accomplish that? He did it "in the body of His flesh through death" (Colossians 1:22).

That's why His suffering was a brutal, physical death on the cross. It was through the torture and death of His physical body that Jesus paid the price for our sin on the cross. **He paid it all for you. Jesus, the Creator God of the universe, made peace between us and God on the cross so He could present us blameless to the Father.**

But you may ask: *If Jesus did it all, what am I expected to do?* Colossians encourages us to "continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast ... not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven" (1:23). **Stay strong in your faith and don't lose sight of the truth. Stick to what you believe—that Jesus is both Creator and Savior and could be known through the wonder and blessing of faith.** That's important for all believers who first fell in love with Jesus and the simple message of His grace and love. Stay grounded in what you believe and be committed to the Word. Keep yourself under the ministry of the gospel and resist a watered-down message. But here's the good news: If you're a child of God, you *will* continue in the faith, grounded and settled, because that, too, is the work of Jesus in your life (1:24)!





THRU the BIBLE

A WORD FROM GREGG HARRIS

## Jesus: Centerpiece of Scripture

You're familiar with our mission—together we are “taking the whole Word to the whole world.” But do you ever wonder why?

**We are committed to teaching the whole Word of God to whoever will listen, because we believe the Bible points us to Jesus Christ.**

Dr. McGee believed in the supremacy of Jesus Christ—meaning, Jesus is of primary importance. Above all in every way.

**As we study Colossians this month and get our hearts ready to honor His death and celebrate His resurrection, remember Jesus is the centerpiece of Scripture—He's the why behind our study of the Bible.**

Our fellow Bible Bus riders understand that!

*“Thank you for pointing me to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is now and forever will be my Savior,”* wrote a man from a country hostile to the gospel.

*“My mother listened faithfully to Thru the Bible. She said that when I got on the school bus every day, she got on the Bible Bus. Years later, it finally made sense to me who Jesus is, and I bowed my knee to Him.”* **From Kenny | Kentucky**

*“I've been a pastor for three decades, but God's Word got a hold of me recently like never before. The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by Jesus gripped me. Now saved by faith, we have peace with God through the Lord Jesus.”* **From John | Emerald Hills, California**

*“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*—Hebrews 12:1-2

Grateful for your partnership in sharing Jesus with a listening world,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President

# WHY STUDY COLOSSIANS?

Join in the studies on  
THRU the BIBLE MARCH 11-25  
or anytime online, by podcast,  
or by mobile app.

“... CHRIST IN YOU,

THE HOPE OF GLORY.”

Colossians 1:27

*“This book brings Christ down to where we live—right down to the nitty-gritty, where the rubber meets the road. That’s where we need and want a fresh understanding of who Jesus is. You get all you need in Him. This is something that’s very important for us to see.”*

–Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## 6 TRUTHS ABOUT JESUS FROM COLOSSIANS

**JESUS CREATED ALL THINGS.** Colossians 1:16-17 says that all things were created by Jesus, for Jesus. He is greater than anything created.

**JESUS IS FULLY GOD.** Colossians 1:19 says Jesus is completely God and as human as any man.

**JESUS CAN MAKE EVERY ONE OF US COMPLETE.** Colossians 1:27-29 teaches that Christ in us is our hope of being all God intended us to be.

**JESUS IS THE HIDDEN TREASURE.** He is all wisdom. He is all knowledge. His Word lacks nothing, says Colossians 2:3-4.

**JESUS RULES** (Colossians 2:10). Over creation, over the church, over all things (1:18). He has first place and is seated at God’s right hand (3:1).

**IN JESUS, OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN.** Colossians 2:13 gives us the good news: Jesus makes us alive (even when we were dead in our sins).

“Jesus is the image of the invisible God (1:15). In Him, there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). Night turns to day when Jesus walks into the room.” –Dr. J. Vernon McGee

## COLOSSIANS IS FULL OF PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

As you study, keep a list of things to remember. Here’s one from every chapter to get you started:

Who exactly is Jesus? 1:15-16

This is what Christians look like 3:12-13

Want to know a mystery? 2:2

Make the most of every opportunity 4:5-6







I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

## GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS

*"I count it a high privilege to travel with you all every day on the  WorldPrayerToday Team. I believe the Lord bends down to hear our prayers (Psalm 17:6). **What have we missed, simply because we haven't asked? Let's be bold and ask for the world!"***

**From Clark | Albuquerque, NM**

*"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!" (1 Chronicles 16:8). That's what we're doing on the  WorldPrayerToday Team! The Living Bible translated Psalm 66:2 in a great way. It says, **'Sing of His glorious name! Tell the world how wonderful He is.'** I'm telling you now, **my Jesus is wonderful!"***

**From Claire | Yonkers, NY**

*"Thank you for turning my attention to Jesus Christ. I'm learning so much about Him from Dr. McGee. Who knew Jesus could be seen in Leviticus? Or in the prophets, etc.? Jesus' love is beyond measure. His sovereignty reaches around the globe. Yet His blessings and mercy are strong and entirely sincere and steadfast. **We can ride the Bible Bus from now all the way into eternity and still not completely grasp how wide and deep and long the love of God is in Christ. But I'm willing to go all the way with Thru the Bible and learn all I can.** God bless TTb and everyone on the Bible Bus."*

**From B.J. | Mississauga, ONT, Canada**



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