

Easy As 1-2-3



Colossians 1:17-29 ¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

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Overall Understanding

Colossians 1:17-29 ²

What is the mystery that was hidden from all ages before the New Testament? Read on!

¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Jesus is the preeminent one, not only that He is above all things, but also that He existed before creation. He holds all together by the word of His power. Consist implies held together.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

He is the Head to us, but also for us. All of His power is for us. It is all about Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Let us divert our eyes from this world and ourselves and look unto Jesus. He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own

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blood. He physically died and physically rose from the dead. This went against the beliefs of the gnostics of that day. All of God's fullness dwells in Him at His pleasure, permanently. He has first place in everything. When we see Jesus, we see God.

²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

All things are reconciled to God, not only in us, but in the earth and in heaven. He made peace through His blood. His blood satisfied the justice of God. All of the punishment for our sin was upon Him. He is not our adversary. He is our friend.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

We were once, by default, alienated and enemies with God. But now we are reconciled by the death of Christ. We are now holy (saints) and blameless. Blameless means without blemish. He has made us perfectly pure. Above reproach means unaccused. In His sight means that God sees the depth of our hearts. He doesn't find fault there but sees us holy, blameless, and above reproach. Paul is once again showing a before-and-after picture.

²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Some use this as an IF that would disqualify us from salvation. IF is not a threatening word, but one that assumes we will continue believing, akin to "since." We continue in the faith by walking as we received Him, by grace through faith. Faithfulness is a result of our faith, not the producer of it. Faithfulness does not keep us safe. Moving away from the good news, we heard that we are saved by grace through faith, and seeking some other way to please God, or believing that special knowledge makes you right with Him.

²⁴ I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the

church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

Paul is in prison and suffered much to preach the gospel. Instead of complaining about these circumstances, he rejoices in the lavish grace and the resulting change in the Colossians; it is all worth it to Him.

Jesus' atonement is finished. His sufferings now are that He feels what we feel. He cares when we are persecuted...not only by the world, but also when other Christians persecute us for teaching the pure gospel.

His ministry was to preach the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24). This was his stewardship—to make this gospel fully known.

²⁶the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷To them 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.

What is this mystery which was hidden from all generations but now revealed to his saints. God wanted to make this mystery known. He wanted to reveal the riches of the glory of this mystery. That mystery is CHRIST IN YOU (the Gentiles and all who believe), the hope of glory.

These mysteries are FOR us, not kept FROM us.

²⁸Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Paul preached Jesus and Him crucified. He then continued to preach this good news to the believers so that they would be complete. Jesus truly is the answer. When we preach Jesus, believers grow up in Him.

Coming Up in Chapter 2:1-10

In the next section, Paul warns the Colossians not to be deceived by those who were teaching the gospel incorrectly.