

Finding True North 4!

I. SIMPLE PRIORITIES

Pondering the essentials, the things that produce and reproduce Eden, Heaven on Earth, a holy culture and civilization.

A. Saul to Paul

Saul of Tarsus —> Paul, an apostle of Christ, by the will of God.

This Jewish zealot, who encountered Christ, was transformed, and became the busiest of all the apostles, traveling, working, talking, praying, sending out, writing letters that altogether are less than 80 pages.

[Acts 19:11](#) And God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹² so that even **handkerchiefs** or **aprons** that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their **diseases left** them and the **evil spirits came out** of them.

B. True North

Truth that outlives all the heresies and paganism, all the selfishness and anger of 2000 years.

1st statement:

[Col. 1:27](#) The mystery hidden for ages and generations now revealed... [Christ in you, the hope of glory.](#)

2nd statement:

[Col. 2:3](#) **In Christ** are hidden **all** the **treasures** of **Wisdom** and **Knowledge**....

Today's statement:

[Col. 2:9](#) For **in him** the **whole fullness of deity** dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and **you have been filled in him**, who is the [head of all rule](#) and [authority](#).

II. Union of Heaven and Earth in Christ

A. God's Secret Plan

Col. 2:2 ESV ... **God's mystery**, which is **Christ**, ³ **in whom** are hidden **all the treasures** of **wisdom** and **knowledge**.

Christ **is** 'the mystery¹ of God': *not just a clue or a key*. Everything about God and his purposes can and must now be understood in reference to the crucified and risen Jesus, the Messiah.

B. Nothing Else Is Needed

Col. 2:9 For **in him** **the whole** fullness of deity dwells bodily, [Slide 1]

¹⁰ and **you have been filled in him**, who is the **head of all rule** and **authority**.

[Slide 1]

By **Incarnation**, ALL the FULLNESS came to dwell, not in a building, but in a body. were **fulfilled all** the **foreshadowings**, **all** the ancient **promises** that **God would dwell with his people**.

*Like cups or like tankers, filled with the ocean, **God intends to flood** the **lives of redeemed humanity**, and overflow into **the whole creation**, with **his own love, power** and **riches of his kindness**. He has already begun. "as the waters cover the seas"*

This IS our inheritance in Christ! We need **nothing more from any other source**. To the Colossians:

1. No further rituals needed

Col. 2:11 **In him** also **you were** [already] **circumcised** with a circumcision made without [human] hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, **by** the circumcision of **Christ**, ¹² having been **buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also **raised with him**

¹ secret plan

through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Col. 2:13 And **you, who were dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all** our trespasses,

2. *Torah taken out of the way - Jews locked up, Gentiles locked out*

¹⁴by canceling the record of debt [NKJ] - *wiped out the handwriting* that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

3. *The Powers have been stripped!*

Col. 2:15 **He disarmed** the rulers and authorities and **put them to open shame**, by **triumphing** over them in him. [slide 3]

*The Political and Religious rulers thought they had him (**rebellion & blasphemy**), but in reality, the Lord of Glory incognito, was innocent. It was they that were guilty of rebellion against God and a twisting of His Truth. The Cross disarmed them! The **resurrection** shamed them!*

The Crucified & Risen Christ has conquered and they were led in His triumph!

Everything else is a shadow or a sham. Jesus Christ is the REALITY!

III. Pursue the New Reality!

A. With Heart and Mind

3rd statement:

Col 3:1 If then you have been **raised with Christ**, **seek** the things that are above, **where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.**

2 **Set your minds** on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and **your life** is **hidden with Christ** in God.

4 **When Christ who is your life appears**, then you also will **appear with him** in glory.

B. Put to Death – Remnant Forces of this World

Col 3:5 **Put to death** therefore what is **earthly *in you***: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

C. Put Away and Take Off the Old

Col 3:8 But **now *you*** must **put them all away**: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off the old self *[human]*** with its practices

D. Put On the NEW MAN

Col 3:10 and have **put on the new self**, which is **being renewed in knowledge *[encounter]*** after the **image of its creator**. ¹¹Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

E. Dressing the New Man – 8 essentials

Col 3:12 Put on then, **as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved**, *[IDENTITY – All Designations of Israel]*

compassionate hearts,

kindness,

humility,

meeekness, and

patience,

¹³ bearing with one another and,

if one has a complaint against another,

forgiving each other;

as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

¹⁴ And above all these **put on love**, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

F. Living in the New Creation

Pax Romana or Pax Christi

¹⁵ And let the **peace of Christ rule in your hearts**, to which indeed you were called in one body.

And be **thankful**. [*eucharistos*]

Reason, the Full Doctrine of Christ!

¹⁶ Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly**, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness [*grace*] in your hearts to God.

¹⁷ And **whatever you do**, in word or deed, **do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks [*eucharisto*] to God the Father through him.

PUT ON CHRIST! - Crucified & Risen anointed King and Priest