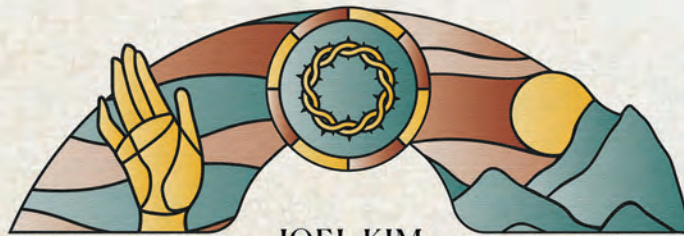


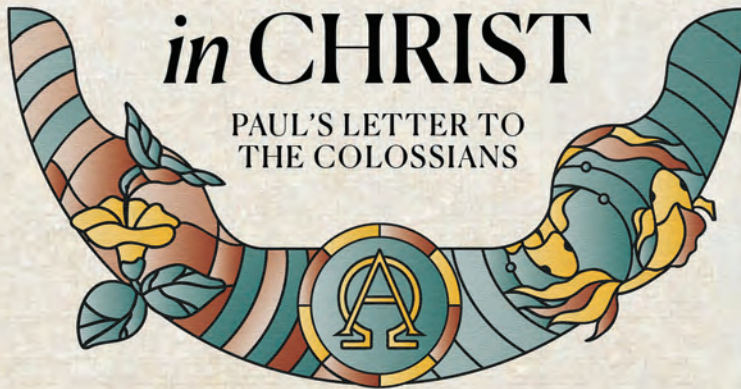
S T U D Y G U I D E



JOEL KIM

EVERYTHING *in* CHRIST

PAUL'S LETTER TO
THE COLOSSIANS



S T U D Y G U I D E

Everything in Christ

Paul's Letter to the Colossians

Joel Kim



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Introduction

Sometimes we might question whether Jesus is enough. This is not a new question, but it is one with a definitive answer. The Colossian church needed a response to false teaching that denied the sufficiency of Christ, and Paul answered with a letter that exalted Christ as the Lord of creation and redemption. Christ is preeminent in all things, which means that Christians lack nothing. In this series, Rev. Joel Kim walks us through Paul's letter to the Colossians so we might embrace all that is already ours in Christ.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson. How to use: Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind yourself of what you have already covered and where you are headed.
LEARNING GOALS	The learning goals are the knowledge and skills the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content. How to use: Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging with its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.
KEY IDEAS	The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture. How to use: Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge each lecture is communicating.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that are intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning. How to use: Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The time stamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.
PRAYER	The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture. How to use: Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org.
REVIEW QUIZ	The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson. How to use: Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.
ANSWER KEY	The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz. How to use: Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.

Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Everything in Christ* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	Extended 10-Week Plan	Standard 8-Week Plan	Abbreviated 4-Week Plan	Intensive 3-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1 & 2	1–3
2	1	2	3 & 4	4–5
3	2	3	5 & 6	6–8
4	3	4	7 & 8	
5	4	5		
6	5	6		
7	6	7		
8	7	8		
9	8			
10	*			

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

Jesus Christ Is Lord

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians to encourage them with a simple truth: Jesus Christ is Lord, and He is enough. As Jesus is Lord of both creation and redemption, we must trust that He is all we need and walk in a manner worthy of Him. In this lesson, Rev. Kim addresses how the lordship of Christ is central to Paul's message in his letter to the Colossians. The opening to this book of Colossians lays out a rich understanding of the sufficiency of Christ.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Explain what Paul means when he declares that "Jesus Christ is Lord"
- Describe what it looks like to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

KEY IDEAS

- We do not need to add to Jesus' work, because Jesus is enough.
- Jesus is enough because He is Lord over creation and redemption.
- Since Jesus is Lord, Christians ought to walk in a manner worthy of Him.
- Belonging to Jesus Christ changes how we approach the shifting circumstances of our lives.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- In what ways do you notice yourself or others trying to add to Christ as if He were not enough?
- How does your identity in Christ and the fact that you belong to Jesus Christ affect the way you live?

Scripture Reading

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved... For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

—Romans 10:9–10, 12–13

- How does Paul describe the lordship of Christ in these verses?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Jesus Christ Is Lord

0:00–16:57

- What challenges did the church in Colossae face?
- What message does Paul have for a church struggling to remain faithful to the teachings it received?
- What is Jesus Christ Lord over?

Walking in a Worthy Manner

16:57–24:22

- What does it mean to live a life worthy of the Lord?

- Who is the One ultimately accomplishing those things that characterize a life worthy of the Lord?
- What characteristic is a mark of maturity in believers?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Why is Jesus Christ enough? What actions reveal that a person does not believe this?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss the ways that our actions flow from our beliefs. It's probably rare for a person to outwardly state, "Jesus is not enough," but deep down, they can hold on to this false belief. We can know this through our actions. Have the group identify actions that may reflect a deeper belief that Jesus is not sufficient.

- How is Jesus Christ Lord over creation and redemption?

If you are in a group, have the members name various ways that Jesus is Lord over both creation and redemption. Ask: Which passages of Scripture come to mind in support of Christ's total lordship over all things?

- Rev. Kim states that a key theme in Colossians is "our God is wise, good, and powerful, and Christ is your Lord." How does this truth transform how we approach difficulties in life?

If you are in a group, encourage members to be open with one another. Help them connect over their current struggles and help them to draw encouragement from the work of the Spirit in their lives.

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word to prayer.

- Praise God for providing a Savior who is all-sufficient.
- Confess the ways that you do not walk in a manner worthy of Christ.
- Thank God for making the incarnate Son the Lord over all creation and redemption.

- Ask God to help you trust Jesus more deeply, knowing that He is enough, not attempting to add to or take away from His work.

REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to evaluate what you learned from this lesson.

1. What is one of the primary issues that Paul addresses in the opening of Colossians?
 - a. Purity laws
 - b. Circumcision and false teaching
 - c. Identity in Christ
 - d. Justification by faith alone
2. What summarizes Paul's primary message for the church as it struggles to remain faithful?
 - a. Jesus loves you.
 - b. You should love Jesus.
 - c. Jesus is everlasting.
 - d. Jesus is enough.
3. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord of creation?
 - a. He created all things.
 - b. He created physical things.
 - c. He created spiritual things.
 - d. All of the above
4. What does it mean that Jesus is Lord of redemption?
 - a. Jesus did what He could to help His people.
 - b. Jesus is better than the Old Testament sacrifices.
 - c. Jesus is the full expression of God's love.
 - d. Jesus saved His people and makes them new.
5. In the "openings" to Paul's letters, he often lists the primary theme or issue he plans to address.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. According to Paul, what does thankfulness mark in a believer's life?
 - a. Genuine gratitude
 - b. True faith
 - c. Holy works
 - d. Christian maturity

Answer Key—Jesus Christ Is Lord

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

Scripture Reading

- How does Paul describe the lordship of Christ in these verses?

Salvation depends on the outward, verbal confession that Jesus Christ is Lord. It's inherent to the Christian faith. There is a connection between belief and confession. One is inward; the other is outward. Saving faith requires inward faith that expresses itself in outward actions. Additionally, Paul highlights Jesus' lordship over all people. He is Lord over Jews and Greeks. He is Lord over the nations. Everyone who calls on Him will be saved and blessed.

During the Video

Jesus Christ Is Lord

- What challenges did the church in Colossae face?

The church in Colossae was facing challenges from within and without. Paul was in prison at this time, and there were likely local pressures seeking to harm and disadvantage Christians. There were also issues from within, such as false teaching, judgment, and dissensions (e.g., Col. 2:16–18).

- What message does Paul have for a church struggling to remain faithful to the teachings it received?

Paul's message to the church is that Jesus is enough. When they are tempted to add to Christ by believing something additional or to add specific actions to earn salvation, Paul wants them to know that Jesus is enough. When there are issues that would challenge their competency and they feel inadequate, they need to remember that Jesus is enough. The reason that He is enough is because He is Lord over all things.

- What is Jesus Christ Lord over?

Jesus Christ is Lord over creation and re-creation. He made all things, visible and invisible. He is also the One through whom redemption comes. He is the One who reconciles a broken and sinful world back to God. In this way, He is the Lord over creation and re-creation, or redemption.

Walking in a Worthy Manner

- What does it mean to live a life worthy of the Lord?

Many circumstances will challenge our faith in Christ. Wars, famines, politics, economics, hardships, and other trials can cause us to doubt the lordship of Christ. Walking in a worthy manner is not a one-time event; it's a journey through a lifetime. In every situation where we are tempted to doubt the lordship of Christ, walking in a worthy manner means deepening our trust in Him as we are rooted, built up, established in faith, and abounding in thanksgiving.

- Who is the One ultimately accomplishing those things that characterize a life worthy of the Lord?

It is the Holy Spirit who accomplishes these things. It is the work of Christ in us through the Spirit that causes us to be rooted, built up, established, and abounding in thanksgiving. We are passive recipients of these divine actions as we walk with Christ through our lifetime.

- What characteristic is a mark of maturity in believers?

Thankfulness is a mark of maturity in believers. This is because we realize that Jesus is Lord and that we are not; He is the One who is doing the things that Paul asks for in Colossians 1:9–12—in and for us. Therefore, our only right response is thankfulness to God.

After the Video

- Why is Jesus Christ enough? What actions reveal that a person does not believe this?

Jesus Christ is enough because He is Lord over creation and redemption. He is the One who has accomplished everything for us. The actions that reveal a person does not believe that Jesus is enough either attempt to add to His work or take away from it. We add to it by thinking that we can earn God's favor by the things we do or refrain from doing. Often, moral behaviors are attempts at adding to Christ's finished work, even if they are good and biblical things. If people are not rooted in the reality that Jesus Christ alone is the foundation of salvation, then moral behaviors of any kind can be an attempt to earn God's favor. We can take away from Jesus' work when we doubt His forgiveness, love, and favor. In those actions, we show that we do not fully believe that He is enough.

- How is Jesus Christ Lord over creation and redemption?

To say that Jesus Christ is not Lord over those things would imply that He did not accomplish them. He is the Creator of all things visible and invisible. Everything was created through Him and for Him. Therefore, He is the Lord of creation. Similarly, Jesus accomplished salvation. It came through Him and for Him. He took on flesh. He fulfilled all righteousness and died to pay for the sins of His people, satisfying the wrath of God. He was raised from the dead to defeat death

and to secure eternal life for His people. Our salvation is now complete because of His work. In Jesus' ascension, He is enthroned as Lord over all. He is the firstborn of creation, having preeminence over everything.

- Rev. Kim states that a key theme in Colossians is “our God is wise, good, and powerful, and Christ is your Lord.” How does this truth transform how we approach difficulties in life?

Jesus is supreme—He holds all things together by the word of His power (see Col. 1:17). It's a matter not only of believing the truths about Christ Jesus but also of knowing and living in the truth that we belong to Him, forever united to Him, and transformed by Him for His glory. Even on the days when we feel lost, powerless, incompetent, and insecure, we are at that moment being built up by Christ Jesus. We are a work in progress, and Christ is certainly at work within us. What He began by grace, He will finish by grace. Paul emphasizes this elsewhere in his epistle to the Philippians: “I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).

- At the end of the lecture, Rev. Kim explained several ways that describe what it means to live with Christ as Lord. Which of these is most encouraging to you right now? Why?

These answers should reflect your own personal views and experiences. The four ways that describe what it means to live with Christ Jesus as Lord are being rooted in Him, being built up in Him, being established in the faith by Him, and living in thanksgiving for Him.

REVIEW QUIZ

1. **C.**
Rev. Kim highlighted that, grammatically, Paul's opening statement reflects a mirroring phrase highlighting his call to those who are in Colossae to live faithfully in Christ. He is addressing their core identity as those united to Christ.
2. **D.**
“Jesus is enough” is a key theme of the book of Colossians. Paul highlights this on the basis of Jesus' lordship. Since Jesus is Lord over creation and re-creation, the Colossians need to see that Jesus is enough, despite the false teaching or challenges they face.
3. **D.**
Colossians 1 specifically states that Jesus created everything visible and invisible. Since all things were made through Him and for Him, He is the Lord of all creation.
4. **D.**
Jesus accomplished salvation for His people, and thus, He saved them. He is the Lord of redemption, for not only does He redeem His people from the power and

penalty of sin, but He is also delivering them from its presence. As Lord of creation and re-creation, Jesus is making creation new through His restorative, redemptive work.

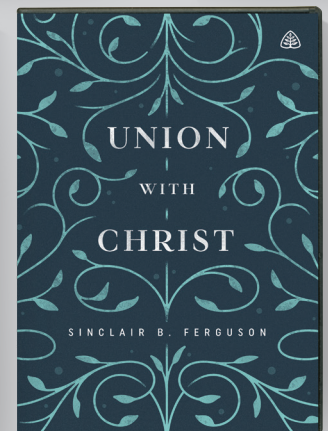
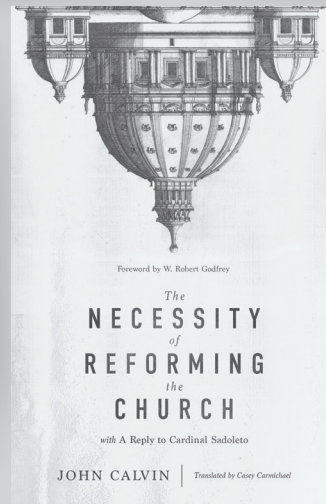
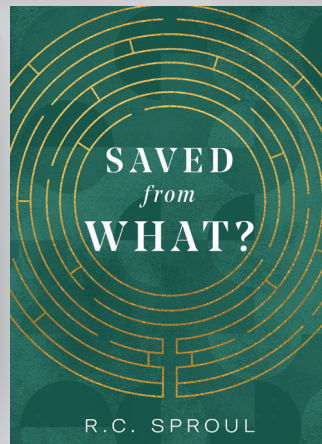
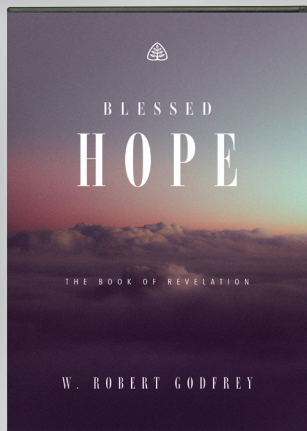
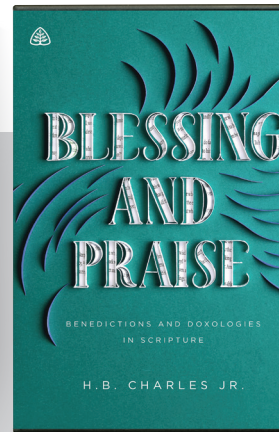
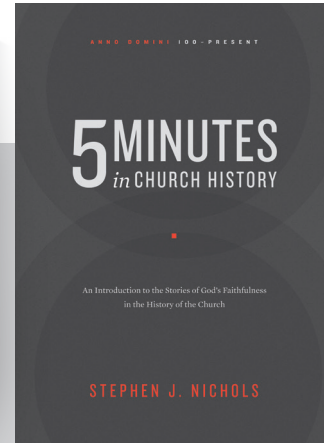
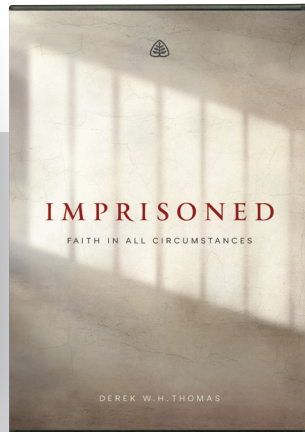
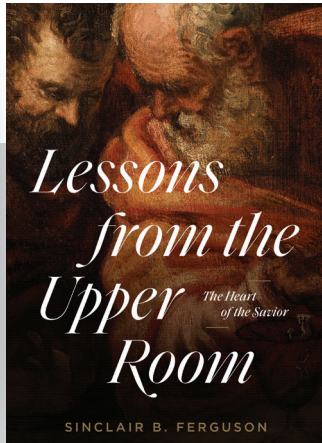
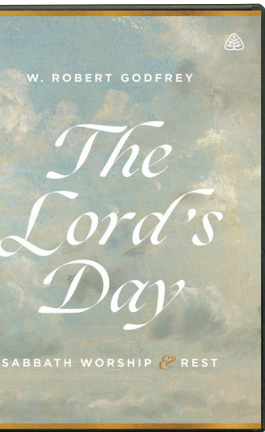
5. **A.**

In Paul's letters, he often reveals the primary issue at hand in his opening statement. This is true for Colossians, and Rev. Kim also pointed to the way that Paul did this in Romans and Galatians.

6. **D.**

The other aspects may be true of a Christian, but according to Paul's logic and Rev. Kim's explanation, the notable mark of maturity in a believer's life is thankfulness. This type of thankfulness comes when you realize that everything is dependent on Christ. He is the One who has accomplished salvation and who brings about restoration for His people. When we grasp that truth by faith, we respond with thanksgiving as recipients of His blessed grace.

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