

# Colossians

## 1:15-29



If you asked your neighbours or workmates to describe Jesus, what do you think they would say?

### Read Colossians 1:15-20

Make a list of all the things we learn about Jesus from this passage regarding his relationship with...

a) **God**

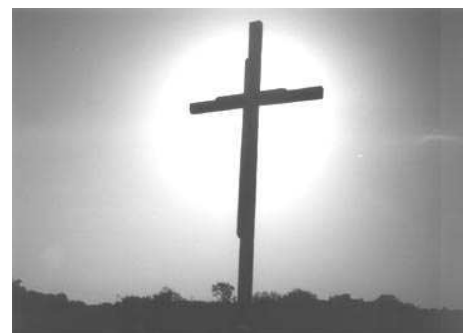
What are the meaning and implications of these things.

b) **Creation**

What are the meaning and implications of these things.

c) **The Church**

What are the meaning and implications of these things.



How would this description of Jesus help the Colossians if they are being tempted to look for **more** than the gospel of Christ to find “**completeness**” as a Christian?

### **Read verses 21-23**

How does Paul describe people **before** they receive Jesus as Lord?

How has this great change taken place?

Do you ever consider yourself to be “holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation”?

- How has that happened?
- How does that make you feel?
- What impact does that have on how you live?

In **verse 23** Paul reminds the Colossians that they must **continue** in this gospel, “established and firm, not moved.” How can we guard against being “easily swayed” and “moved on” from the gospel?



### **Read verses 24-29**

*Verse 24 can seem a bit tricky at first. We can rule out any suggestion that there is something lacking in the work of Christ on the cross – this would completely contradict the completeness and sufficiency of Christ that Paul has just been emphasising. It is most likely Paul is comparing himself to the false teaches who are at Colossae, and who probably boast in their power, wisdom and greatness. Paul however is proud of the fact that his ministry is quite the opposite: one that involves great suffering and weakness to bring the message of the gospel to the Gentiles (just read through Paul’s letters and you will see how much he suffered – Colossians is even written while Paul was in prison). He has suffered and is prepared to keep on suffering even to the point of death for the sake of Christ’s body, the church. Read **Acts 9:15-16***

Why does Paul refer to the gospel as a “mystery” that has been hidden?

How does he describe the mystery in **verse 27**?

How does this description help you balance what we have now and what we look forward to?

