

FOCUSED

STAYING CENTERED ON WHAT'S CENTRAL

FOCUSED ON JESUS

MAY 19 & 20

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

- Written by the Apostle Paul
- Around 60 AD
- To Christians in Colosse

PARALLELS BETWEEN COLOSSE AND SANTA CRUZ:

- Resort area near west coast
- Beautiful weather
- Subject to earthquakes
- Major industries: Tourism, wineries, fishing
- About 90 mi south of major "City by the Bay", Ephesus
- Center of "New Age"-style spirituality, blending religions

The Colossian problem: Jesus _____

The solution: Jesus is _____

Key verse of Colossians:

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him. Colossians 2:6

Paul calls the Colossians back with a song in Colossians 1:15-23

1. Jesus is the _____.

He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Colossians 1:15 NIV

2. Jesus is the _____.

For by him **all things were created**: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. Colossians 1:16

3. Jesus is the _____.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

4. Jesus is the _____.

And he is **the head of the body, the church**; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that **in everything he might have the supremacy**. Colossians 1:18

5. Jesus is the _____.

For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace through his blood, shed on the cross**. Colossians 1:19,20

...and this includes _____!

Once **you** were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled **you** by Christ's physical body through death to present **you** holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— Colossians 1:21,22

...if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and **do not move from the hope held out in the gospel**. Colossians 1:23a

SERMONS AND BOOKS CITED IN THIS MESSAGE:

- "The Main Thing" and "Inspiration", sermons by John Ortberg
- "What's So Great About Jesus", John Jackson
- Ron Daniel, *Study Notes: Colossians 1:15-20*
- "Master of the Universe", sermon by Ray Stedman