

“The Preeminence Of Jesus Christ”
Colossians 1:15-23
10/29/23
Message 3

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “The Preeminence Of Jesus Christ”

- **Paul Purpose In Colossians**

- **1st Paul’s purpose in this letter to the church of Colosse.**
 - NOTHING must distract from CHRIST
 - Paul’s Letter to the Colossians is all about the
 - **Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ**
 - **The Preeminence of Christ**
- **2nd Remember – Paul is writing to a Frighten Church**
 - **Epaphras the flounder and pastor of the church makes his way to Paul**
 - He Informs Paul of the struggles in the church
 - **The Problem**
 - Many gods
 - KNOWN as - The Colossian Heresy
 - It was the combination of several religious systems.
 - Jewish legalism (Col. 2:16-17),
 - Oriental mysticism (Col. 2:18-19)
 - Greek Asceticism (Col. 2:20-23).

- And even a little bit of Christianity to make it all right.
- Gnosticism
 - One of the heresies that was on the way was Gnosticism
 - Some have suggested that Gnosticism may have gotten its start at Colosse.
 - Gnosticism –
 - The word comes from the Greek gnosis, meaning “to know”
 - Gnostics were people “in the know”
 - They had Special Knowledge that only a few were privileged to have
 - They considered themselves the spiritual “know-it-alls” of the church.
 - They taught that to reach the height of spiritual maturity you needed to “know” their secrets and special rituals
 - They also believed
 - That a Holy God could not come into contact with evil matter
 - So there is no way Jesus could have come in the flesh
 - That there had to be a series of “Emanations” from God to His creation
 - Just one step on the ladder

- That Jesus was like the first step
- But he was just one of many emanations to make your way to GOD

- **SO - Paul's Purpose**

- Was to make sure they were grounded in TRUTH
- Jesus is not just another way to God
- But He is the ONLY way to God
- Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ
- The Preeminence

- **Quick Review of Chapter 1:1-14**

- **Paul's Purpose vs. 1-2**

- Paul – Apostle
- To the Saints
- Grace & Peace

- **Paul's Thanks & Prayers vs. 3-11**

- **Thanks For**

- Being Saved
- Love for ALL the Saints
- The Hope they Have in Heaven
- Bring Forth fruit

- For Epaphras (who started the church)

- **Pray For**

- Filled with ALL Knowledge of His Will
- All Wisdom and Spiritual Understanding
- Walk Worthy
- Please Him
- Being fruitful in good works
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Strengthen with all might
- For all Patience / longsuffering with Joy

- **Paul's Praise To God vs. 12-14**

- Which we will look at again this morning

- **This morning Paul gives us 3 Powerful Truth in the Preeminence Of Jesus Christ**

- His Identification With God v. 12-15a
- His Involvement With Creation vs. 15b-17
- His Intention For The Church vs. 18-23

His Identification With God v. 12-15a

- **First: Giving Thanks To the Father vs. 12-15a**

- **1st Thanks to the Father for Salvation vs. 12-14**

- **1st Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us v. 12a**

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- The Father is mentioned in connection with the plan of redemption.
 - Ephesians 1 – Trinity
 - The FATHER Thought the plan of salvation
 - The SON Bought salvation
 - The HOLY Brought Salvation
- He Qualifies us
 - There is NOTHING we can ever do to earn salvation
 - A free gift of His Grace
- 2nd To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- We gain this as an inheritance, instead of earning it as a wage

1 Peter 1:3–5 (NKJV)

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

- 3rd He has delivered us from the power of darkness v. 13a

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

- The World is still under the control of satan
 - Darkness has captivated man's hearts
 - Christians have been delivered from Satan's domain.
 - The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power
 - This world and its leader no longer has control of us
 - Sin NO longer has control of us
 - We have been delivered
- **4th And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love v. 13b**

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

- Conveyed – Greek: Methistemi –
 - Means: transfer, remove from one place to another
- **5th In whom we have redemption through His blood v. 14a**

Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- Redemption has the idea of release by a legal ransom.
- The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.

1 Peter 1:18–19 (NKJV)

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

▪ **6th The forgiveness of sins v. 14b**

Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of sins.**

- Forgiveness – Greek: Aphesis
- Means: Release from bondage or imprisonment; forgiveness or pardon, from aphiemi – to send away
- Our sin and guilt is sent away because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.

Psalms 103:12 (NKJV)

12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

○ **2nd He is the Image v. 15a**

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 **He is** the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

▪ **1st He is – Context**

- Context - Most scholars think that Colossians 1:15-20
 - Came from a poem or a hymn in the early Church
 - This Hymn described what Christians believed about Jesus.
 - Lesson
 - This is why Worship songs need to have good strong lyrics

- As we sing – remember these songs
- We celebrate who Jesus is
- It sanctifies and encourages our souls
- DOES the “Song” move us or The Theology
- Know the difference between “Christian music” and Worship

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

- **2nd The image of the invisible God**

- Invisible – Greek: Aoratos
 - Means: (“not” + “visible”) – unseen, that which cannot be seen
- Image – Greek: Eikon
 - Means: An image, figure, likeness
 - Now the Greek word Eikon expressed 2 ideas.
 - 1st Likeness
 - As in the image on a coin or the reflection in a mirror.
 - 2nd Manifestation
 - With the sense that God is fully revealed in Jesus.
- How do we get to know the image of the invisible God
 - Jesus

John 14:9 (NKJV)

9 Jesus said to him, *"Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV)

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

John 1:1–3 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

John 1:14 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The invisible is understood by the visible
 - Jesus and His Word

His Involvement With Creation vs. 15c-17

- **First: The firstborn over all creation v. 15c**

Colossians 1:15 (NKJV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation.**

- **1st Firstborn over all Creation**
 - Firstborn - Greek: Prototokos
 - Means: Describe either
 - Priority in time
 - Or Supremacy in Rank.

- Creation – Greek: Ktisis –
 - Meaning - The act of creating; anything created
- **2nd The Expression “Firstborn”**
 - **Has at least 3 different meanings in Scripture.**
 - 1st Luke 2:7 –
 - It is used in a literal sense, where Mary brought forth her firstborn Son.
 - There it means that the Lord Jesus was the first Child to whom she gave birth.
 - 2nd Exodus 4:22
 - It is used in a figurative sense.
 - “Israel is My son, even My firstborn.”
 - In that verse there is no thought of an actual birth having taken place
 - But the Lord is using this word to describe the distinctive place which the nation of Israel had in His plans and purposes. Finally,
 - 3rd Psalm 89:27
 - The word “firstborn” is used to designate a place of superiority, of supremacy, of uniqueness.
 - There God says that He will make David His firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.
 - David was actually the lastborn son of Jesse according to the flesh.

- But God determined to give him a place of unique supremacy, primacy, and sovereignty.

- **Firstborn refers to pre-eminence in position, or rank**

- Jesus is the MOST important in ALL creation (God)
- *MacArthur; Jesus is the firstborn in the sense that He has the preeminence (v. 18) and possesses the right of inheritance “over all creation” (Heb. 1:2; Rev. 5:1–7, 13). He existed before the creation and is exalted in rank above it*

- **False teachers confused**

- Paul is setting the record straight about who Jesus is,
- YET some have misinterpreted what Paul wrote
 - Around 300AD
 - A heresy sprung up from a man named Arius in Alexandria, Egypt.
 - He claimed that Jesus was not God in the flesh, but that Jesus was just another created being.
 - Well Today the Jehovah’s witnesses
 - Believe much the same thing.
 - They believe that Jesus was once Michael the archangel, a created being
 - All of them have failed to read on in the text... v. 16 anyone...?
 - If people want the Truth it is right here – Bible

• **Second: For by Him all things were created v. 16a**

- **1st For BY HIM**

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- For By WHO? – HIM – JESUS
- Jesus is the CREATOR of ALL Things

- **2nd In heaven and on earth –**

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Jesus didn't just create things on our planet
- But in the heavens, things in the spirit realm, including angelic beings.

- **3rd Visible and invisible –**

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Not everything that's real is visible.
- There are things that you can't see that are very real, like angelic beings.
- There is SO MUCH then what we see

- **4th Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.**

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, **whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**

- Describe
 - Thrones – thronos – a throne seat; kingly power or royalty
 - Dominions – kuriotes – dominion, power, lordship
 - Principalities – arche – beginning; the leader; the first place
 - Powers – exousia – the power of him whose commands must obeyed
- Jesus is NOT a glorified angel.
 - He created the angels.
 - He is greater than the angels.
 - The writer to the Hebrews points out how much better Jesus is than the angels

Hebrews 1:5–8 (NKJV)

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”?

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

7 And of the angels He says: “Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire.”

8 But to the Son He says: “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

○ **5th His Creation**

Isaiah 40:12 (NKJV)

12 *Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?*

- A Few Fun Facts about creation
 - The earth travels around the sun about eight times the speed of a bullet fired from a gun.
 - There are more insects in one square mile of rural land than there are human beings on the entire earth.
 - A single human chromosome contains twenty billion bits of information. How much information is that? If written in ordinary books, in ordinary language, it would take about four thousand volumes.
 - With the naked eye, man can see around 3,000 stars!
 - With his first telescope, Galileo counted 3,336 stars.
 - Now we know there are more than 100 billion stars in our galaxy, more than 100 billion galaxies in our universe, each having at least 100 billion stars. That's a lot of stars
 - The Lord knows each of them by name (Isaiah 40:26).
 - Can you imagine remembering the names of 100 billion stars times 100 billion more?
 - Right now, the earth is spinning 1,000 miles per hour on its axis. At the same time, it's traveling around the sun at 67,000 miles per hour. While that's happening, the sun is moving across the Milky Way with her planets at 64,000 miles per hour. And the galaxy as a whole is moving across the universe at 483,000 miles per hour. Added together, we are moving at a speed of 1,350,000 miles per hour.

- What keeps it all together?
 - What keeps everything from colliding and exploding?
 - Who's the cosmic traffic cop?
 - Who's in charge of the whole show?
 - JESUS

• **Third: He is before all things... who is the beginning v. 17**

- **1st Before ALL Things v. 17a**

Colossians 1:17 (NKJV)

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

- Before – Greek: Pro
- Means: Pro before
- Jesus has always existed.

- In our study through the book of Exodus
 - We talked about the name of God
 - Yahweh, meaning the “eternally existing one”, the one who “always IS”, the great “I AM”.
- Note What Jesus says in John 8

John 8:57–59 (NKJV)

57 Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

○ **2nd In Him All Things Consist v. 17b**

Colossians 1:17 (NKJV)

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

- Consist - Greek: Sunistao
- Means: (“together” + “to stand”) – to place together, to bring or band together; unite parts into one whole; to cohere
- GOD / JESUS
 - Made ALL Things
 - Holds ALL Things Together.

○ **3rd Lesson**

- Correct theology leads to Correct Living
- Does THIS concept of God affect your life?
 - Holding it together
 - If Jesus is big enough to hold the universe together
 - Could it be possible for Him to hold your life together?
 - Since this is true
 - We should live completely for him.
 - Any other course is completely irrational for the believer
 - How you doing with the struggles you are facing today
 - LET THEM GO – God’s Got them

His Intention For The Church vs. 18-23

- **First: Head of the body, the church v. 18**

- **1st He is the Head v. 18a**

Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)

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.

- **This describes Jesus' relationship to the church**

- Paul uses the human body as a metaphor for the church
- Christ serves as the "head."
- Just as a body is controlled from the brain, so Christ controls every part of the church and gives it life and direction

- **We are the body –**

- Paul often compares the church to a body.
- We all are parts of the body
- When you become a Christian, you become part of the body
- Some of us are thumbs, some are big toes, others are like an eye, others like a mouth.
- But Jesus is the head. He's the one in charge. He makes the decisions.

- **2nd Who is the beginning v. 18b**

Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)

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.

- Beginning – Greek: Arche
- Meaning: Beginning, origin

○ **3rd The firstborn from the dead v. 18c**

Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)

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.

- Firstborn – Greek: Prototokos
- Means: The firstborn
 - Again Sometimes “firstborn” doesn’t mean “first to be born”.
 - Sometimes the word “firstborn” means the “greater” one.
- There were several people who were raised from the dead before Jesus.
 - Elijah raised the widow’s son (1 Kings 17:22)
 - Elisha raised the Shunamite’s son (2 Kings 4:35)
 - Elisha’s bones raised a dead man...when he came in contact with Elisha’s bones (2 Kings 13:21)
 - Jesus raised several people from the dead:
 - Jairus’ daughter (Mark 5:42)
 - The son of a widow at Nain (Luke 7:15)
 - His friend Lazarus (John 11)
- Jesus is the FIRST to be raised from the dead

- NEVER to DIE again
- His resurrection assures our salvation.
- **4th That in all things He may have the preeminence v. 18d**

Colossians 1:18 (NKJV)

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.

- The Preeminence – Greek: Proteuo –
- Means: To be first, hold the first place, from protos – first in time or place
 - All of these things point to one thing –
 - Jesus is preeminent. Jesus holds first place.
- Lesson - Does He have first place in your life?
 - It's all good and nice to say that Jesus has first place in the universe.
 - Does He have first place in your heart?

Luke 6:46–49 (NKJV)

***46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?
47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:
48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.
49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great.”***

- He must have first-place in everything.
 - First-place in our families.

- First-place in our marriages.
- First-place in our professions.
- First-place in our mission and ministry.
- First-place in matters of the intellect.
- First-place in time.
- First-place in love.
- First-place in conversation.
- First-place in pleasures.
- First in eating.
- First in play.
- First in athletics.
- First in what we watch.
- First-place in art.
- First-place in music.
- First-place in worship.
- Let us give him first-place!

• **Second: Pleased The Father / Fullness / Dwell v. 19**

Colossians 1:19 (NKJV)

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

○ **1st All Fullness Dwells in Jesus Christ**

- It Pleased – Greek: Eudokeo
 - Means: (“good” + “think”) – it seems good to one; think it good; to do willingly; to be well pleased with, take pleasure in.
- Fullness – Greek: Pleroma – play-RO-ma
 - Means: That which is (has been) filled
 - *The Greek scholar J.B. Lightfoot; “A recognized technical term in theology, denoting the totality of the Divine powers and attributes”*
- Dwell – Greek: Katoikéō

- Means: Contracted katoikō, fut. katoikēsō, from katá (2596), an intens., and oikéō (3611), to dwell. Reside.
- It means much more than merely “to reside.”
- *Wuest; “The form of the verb means “to be at home permanently.” The verb indicates that this fullness was “not something added to His Being that was not natural to Him, but that it was part of His essential Being as part of His very constitution, and that permanently”*

▪ Purpose for this statement

- One of the teachings of Gnosticism was that since God is Spirit.
 - He is good
 - But matter, everything that is material is evil.
 - Therefore - God could not directly create things, but instead God created a being called an “aeon”, who in turn created another “aeon”, and then another ... until a bunch of “aeons” later
 - One of these creatures would be sufficiently far enough from God to actually create the material universe.
- *Wiersbe; “Then Paul took a giant step forward in his argument, for he declared that “all fullness” dwelt in Jesus Christ! The word translated “fullness” is the Greek word pleroma (pronounced “play-RO-ma”). It was a technical term in the vocabulary of the gnostic false teachers. It meant “the sum total of all the divine power and attributes.” We have already noted that Paul used this important word eight times in the Colossian letter, so he was meeting the false teachers on their own ground.*

○ **2nd Lesson**

▪ **Jesus claims to be God**

John 10:30 (NKJV)
30 I and My Father are one."

- Thomas calls Jesus "God"

John 20:28 (NKJV)
28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

- Paul calls Jesus "God"

Romans 9:5 (NKJV)
5 of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

- John calls Jesus "God"

1 John 5:20 (NKJV)
20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

- God Himself calls Jesus "God"

Hebrews 1:8 (NKJV)
8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

• **Third: Reconciled - Through the blood of the cross v. 20**

Colossians 1:20 (NKJV)
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.

○ **To Reconcile –**

- Greek: Apokatallasso
- Means: ("from" + "through out" + "to exchange") – to reconcile completely; to reconcile back again; bring back a former state of harmony

- Man needed to be reconciled – next verse

- **Fourth: Who once were alienated v. 21**

Colossians 1:21 (NKJV)

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

- **1st Alienated**

- Alienated
 - Greek: Apellotriomenous
 - Means: Literally “transferred to another owner.”
 - This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, affected us in both mind and behavior.
- Adam & Eve Created Perfect
 - Sinned – Alienated – Transferred ownership from God to Satan
 - We had before Christ – Federal headship of Satan
 - Now our headship is Christ

- **2nd All Creation Was Affected By Mans SIN**

- Animals (Romans 8:19-20)
- The Ground (Genesis 3:17)
- The Stars (Job 25:5)

Job 25:5 (NKJV)

5 If even the moon does not shine, And the stars are not pure in His sight,

- **3rd Sin is serious**

- Sin is bad... Real bad
 - Sometimes we don't like things to sound too bad.
 - Illustration
 - Your bedroom isn't cluttered; it's "passage-restrictive."
 - You're not having a bad hair day; you're suffering from "rebellious follicle syndrome."
 - It's not called gossip anymore. It's "transmission of near-factual information."
 - The food at the school cafeteria isn't awful. It's "digestively challenged."
- Sin makes us an "enemy" of God.
 - My sin makes me God's enemy.
 - Sin separates me from God Romans 6:23)
- **4th Yet now He has reconciled**
 - BUT GOD
 - Good NEWS – Amen
 - In order to pay for MY sin, God had to send His Son to die on a cross.
 - Look at what Jesus did for me on the cross. My sin was that bad.

• **Fifth: To present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight v. 22**

Colossians 1:22 (NKJV)

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

○ **1st In the Body Of His Fesh**

- Means that the Lord Jesus effected reconciliation by dying on the cross in a real human body (not as a spirit being, which the Gnostics claimed Him to be)

○ **2nd To Present**

- There will be a day when Jesus will present us to His Father as His Bride.

○ **3rd Our Condition**

- Holy – Greek: Hagios
 - Means: Separated to God, morally clean and pure
- Blameless – Greek: Amomos
 - Means: (“not” + “blemish”) – without blemish; faultless
 - As if God takes care of all your spiritual “zits”
- Above Reproach – Greek: Anegkletos
 - Means: (“not” + “accusable”) – that cannot be called into account
- In His sight –
 - not just in our own eyes, but in God’s eyes.
- Sound too good to be true? It’s still true.
 - Anyone can become right with God. Anyone.

• **Sixth: If indeed you continue in the faith v. 23**

Colossians 1:23 (NKJV)

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.

○ **1st A Challenging Verse**

- **1st Many good Christians see this verse different**
- **2nd It's Okay to disagree**
 - Not okay to cause division
- **3rd The Issue –**
 - Preservation of the Saints – Once Saved Always saved
 - Can you lose or walk away from your salvation
- **4th I can see both side of the issue**
 - This again is another verse that makes me scratch my head
 - But I lean more on the other passages that support your salvation is secure
- **5th Explain a little**
 - “IF” indeed you Continue –
 - Those that believe you walk away from salvation or not continue in salvation us this verse as example that you can walk away from your salvation
- **6th Break down the Word IF**
 - Now I am not a Greek Scholar –

- But I have several books from Greek scholars in my library
- Here is what they say
- 3 Greek Word for – “IF”
 - IF - and it is Not
 - IF - It Might be
 - IF - Since it is
 - In this case the word IF is in the CLASS CONDITION in the Greek – which means SINCE
 - Strong's
 - 1623 εἰ (ei): usually **conditional** pt.; ≡ Str 1487 & 1489 & 1490 & 1499 & 1508 & 1509 & 1536—1. LN 89.65 if a marker of a condition, real, hypothetical, actual, or contrary to fact (Mt 4:3; 11:21; 26:42; Lk 19:42); 2. LN 89.30 **because, since**; a marker of cause or reason (Mt 6:30; Ro 6:8); 3. LN 90.26 that, whether, if; a marker of an indirect question (Mk 15:44; Jn 9:25); 4. LN 89.131 εἰ μή (ei mē), except that (Mt 5:13; 11:27)
 - Zodhiates
 - 1489. εἴγε eíge; particle from ei (1487), if, and ge (1065), indeed. A particle of emphasis or qualification meaning if at least, if indeed, if so be, followed by the indic. and spoken of what is taken for granted (Eph. 3:2; 4:21; Col. 1:23; Sept.: Job 16:4). Followed by kaí (2532), and, if indeed also, which as applying only to what is taken for granted, **may be expressed by since, although** (2 Cor. 5:3, “although being now clothed, we shall not”

[a.t.]; Gal. 3:4 “since it is in vain” [a.t. {cf. 1 Cor. 15:51}]).

- Zodhiates, S. (2000). In The complete word study dictionary: New Testament (electronic ed.). AMG Publishers.

- Wuest

- (1:23) The word “if” here is not ean (ἐάν), an unfulfilled, hypothetical condition used with the subjunctive mode, presenting the possibility of a future realization, but ei (εἰ) with the indicative, having here the idea of “assuming that you continue in the faith.” That is, continuance in the gospel as it was preached by Paul would show that the person was saved and thus would be presented holy, without blemish, and unchargeable before God. That is, Paul was here addressing truly born-again Colossians, not unsaved professors of Christianity who would follow the Colossian heresy. Heretics would not so be presented, only true believers. **It is not the retention of salvation that is in the apostle’s mind, but the possession of it that would be shown by their continuance in the gospel.**
- Wuest, K. S. (1997). Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader (Vol. 6, pp. 189–190). Eerdmans.

- 2nd For those in the faith – in Christ

Colossians 1:23 (NKJV)

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.

Closing

- May we Rejoice in Who Jesus is
- Right Doctrine – Produces Right Living