

Repeated Words, Themes, and Ideas

1. Sacrificing your life for others, Paul suffered so that others would fully comprehend God's mystery concerning His Son, a mystery that would transform their lives, 2:1-2. Jesus gave up His life in order to free us from Satan's grasp so that we wouldn't have to continue living under the deceitful philosophy that governs Satan's world, 2:11-15, 20 (other places this appears: 1:4, 7, 14, 20, 21-22, 24, 28-29).
2. Love, Paul wants the Colossians and others to know that he's fighting for them so that they would be encouraged and knit together in brotherly love, 2:2 (other places this appears: 1:4, 7-8, 13).
3. Wisdom / Knowledge / Understanding, the reason Paul struggles so much for others is so that they would fully understand God's mystery concerning His Son, 2:2. Christ holds all wisdom and knowledge, 2:3. God does not want us to be robbed by the deceitful philosophy that rules Satan's world. All the wisdom we'll ever need is found in Christ, 2:8-10. Christ took the power away from Satan's worldly philosophy; it should have no power over us, 2:14. We should not let anyone enslave us with their worldly philosophy; it's a mere shadow compared to Christ's wisdom, 2:16-18. Since our union with Christ has freed us from the world's dominion over us, we should not subject ourselves to its useless philosophy. It is of no value against our sinful desires, 2:20-23 (other places this appears: 1:9-10, 28).
4. Mystery, Paul wants the Colossians and others to fully grasp God's mystery concerning His Son, 2:2 (other places this appears: 1:26-27).
5. God, Paul wants those for whom he's suffering to fully comprehend God's mystery concerning His Son, 2:1-2. Jesus is everything that God is, but in bodily form, 2:9. We were forever united with Christ because we believed in God's power to resurrect Him from the dead, 2:12. It is God who determines how much the Body of Christ (the universal Church) will grow, 2:19 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 15, 19, 25, 27).
6. Walking daily with the Lord / "in Christ" / "in Him", Paul loves the fact that the Colossians are walking so closely with Christ, 2:5. Paul wants the Colossians to continue walking in Christ, to continue to be grounded and built up in Him just as Epaphras showed them, 2:6-7. Everything that Christians will ever need in life is found in Jesus Christ, 2:10. Everything we needed to be forever united with Christ, to walk with Him daily through this difficult life was provided by Christ, including the forgiveness of all our sins, 2:11-13. If we fail to walk with Christ, then we will walk in Satan's empty, worldly philosophy and it will rob us of our reward, 2:16-18. If we want to flourish in this life, we must stay connected to Jesus; He's the source of our nourishment, 2:19. Christ has freed us from Satan's darkness, therefore, we should walk with Him instead of following after Satan's basic principles of the world, 2:20 (other places this appears: 1:2, 4, 6, 9-10, 22-23, 27, 28).

7. Jesus Christ, Paul wants the Colossians and others to fully understand God's mystery concerning His Son, Jesus Christ, 2:2. Jesus holds all wisdom and knowledge, 2:3. Paul loves the fact that the Colossians' faith in Christ is unwavering, 2:5. Paul wants the Colossians to walk in Christ, to be grounded and continue to grow in Christ as they were taught by Epaphras, 2:6-7. Paul wants the Colossians to beware of any ideology, any way of life that is not grounded in Christ; it will take them captive, 2:8. Jesus is God in the flesh, 2:9. Everything that Christians need to live a full and complete life is found in Jesus Christ, the One who is over every power and authority, 2:10. Even though we were dead in our sins, Jesus stripped us of our former body, our former position in Satan's world and clothed us with Himself, having forgiven all our sins, 2:11-13. Through His death on the Cross, Jesus publically shamed Satan and his minions and He stripped their deceitful, worldly philosophy of its power, 2:14-15. Some use God's Word, like the Mosaic Law, to enslave people. But these were always the shadow cast by the real thing: Christ, 2:16-17. Those pushing a religious philosophy they created are failing to cling to the Head, Christ, who is the real source of nourishment and growth, 2:18-19. Since we've died with Christ from Satan's basic principles of the world, we should not subject ourselves to them, 2:20 (other places this appears: 1:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21-22, 24, 28).
8. God gives you the strength to walk with Him, all the wisdom and knowledge we'll ever need to walk with God, to be fully mature and live a complete life is found in God's Son, the One who is God in the flesh and above every power, 2:3, 6-7, 9-10. Even though we were dead in our sins, Jesus provided everything necessary to walk with God: He plucked us out of Satan's darkness, stripped us of our old body, and clothed us with His Body. He even took away Satan's power to lead us astray, 2:11-15. Our growth and maturity is provided by God through His Son Jesus Christ, 2:19. Since God's Son has freed us from Satan's worldly principles, we should not walk in them as though this is the world we live in. These principles may appear wise, but they are of no use against our fleshly desires, 2:20-23 (other places this appears: 1:4, 6, 11, 29).
9. Jesus' wisdom / philosophy vs. Satan's worldly wisdom / philosophy, Christ holds all wisdom and knowledge, thus, Paul does not want the Colossians to be deceived by Satan's cunning wisdom. Instead, he wants them to keep walking in Christ's wisdom as Epaphras showed them. They must be rooted, established, built up, and abound in Jesus' wisdom not Satan's, 2:3-4, 2:6-7. Paul warns the Colossians not to let anyone take them captive through Satan's deceitful philosophy which comes from men, a system that runs the world and is not according to Christ, 2:8. Since Christ possesses all wisdom and knowledge, Christians have everything they need to live a complete life in Christ, 2:10. Jesus stripped Christians of their old position in the world, of Satan's darkness where they used to live and clothed them with Himself having forgiven them all their sins, 2:11-13. Jesus nailed Satan's empty philosophy to the Cross; He's taken it out of our way; it no longer has a claim on us, 2:14. Since Christ has freed us from Satan's philosophy, we should not let anyone enslave us with it or steal our reward. That system comes from the imagination of fools who live in Satan's world. Whatever religious legitimacy it claims for itself, it gets from Christ's shadow, 2:16-18. True nourishment and maturity comes from Jesus not Satan's false philosophy, 2:18-19. If we've died to Satan's way of living, why do we go back and live in it as though this is the world we belonged to, 2:20-23.
10. Gospel, what is the Goodnews found in God's mystery concerning His Son Jesus? It is this: Jesus died to free us from the old man/world we used to live in; we are now clothed with Him. Thus, we no longer have to be bound by Satan's darkness which governs the world because Jesus has thoroughly defeated him and his cunning and deceitful dogma. Whatever wisdom we need for life is found in Jesus. Therefore, we no longer have to submit to a system that promises freedom, but only brings guilt and bondage. If we want to flourish and live a full and complete life, we must stay grounded in Christ; we must walk in His philosophy not the world's, 2:2-23 (other places this appears: 1:5, 22-23, 26-27, 28).

Colossians Chapter 2

11. Jesus is #1 in everything and the source of everything, Jesus possesses all wisdom and knowledge, 2:3. Jesus is everything God is, but in the flesh, 2:9. Whatever the Colossians need to live a complete and full life is found in Christ, the One who is above all powers, including Satan, 2:10. When Jesus died on the Cross, he thoroughly defeated Satan and his minions. He put them to public shame and removed the power of their deceitful dogma which had a claim on us and used to enslave us, 2:14-15 (other places this appears: 1:15-22).
12. Deceive / Deceit, Paul doesn't want the Colossians to be deceived by anyone's persuasive dogma, 2:4. Paul wants the Colossians to beware of the world's empty, deceitful philosophy which is the product of men [guided by Satan] designed to take you captive. They must beware of any philosophy that is not grounded in Christ, 2:8. When Jesus died on the Cross, He took the power away from Satan's deceitful dogma; He removed any claim it had on us, 2:14. Paul does not want the Colossians to let anyone judge them and thereby enslave them, even with religious dogma that comes from the Mosaic Law, 2:16. Paul does not want the Colossians to be robbed of their prize by someone who uses false religion, someone who makes things up and doesn't know what they're talking about, 2:18. Since Christ has freed the Colossians from Satan's deceitful dogma, which men create and sounds wise but is of no value against sinful desires, they should not subject themselves to this way of life as though they were still living in Satan's world, 2:20-23.
13. Faith / Faithful, Paul rejoices over the steadfastness of the Colossians' belief in Christ, 2:5. Paul wants the Colossians to be rooted and built up in Christ, established in the faith, 2:7. The Colossians were buried and raised with Christ through their faith in God's work, who raised Christ from the dead, 2:12 (other places this appears: 1:2, 4, 7, 22-23).
14. Heard / Learned, Paul wants the Colossians to walk in Christ, to be grounded and built up in Him, established in their faith concerning Christ as they were taught, 2:6-7 (other places this appears: 1:3-4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 22-23).
15. Principalities / Powers, Jesus is the head of all principality and power, including Satan, 2:10. Jesus triumphed over Satan and his minions, He disarmed them and made a public spectacle of them, 2:14-15 (other places this appears: 1:13, 16).
16. Church / His Body / church, Jesus stripped us of our old body and clothed us (united us permanently) with a new body, His, 2:11-13. The Body of Christ, the Church grows from its connection to its Head, Jesus Christ, 2:19 (other places this appears: 1: 18, 24).
17. Circumcised / Putting Off/On, Jesus put off our old body with a circumcision that used no hands, 2:11. After putting off our old body, Jesus clothed us with a new body, His Body, thus we have been buried, raised, and made alive together-with Him, 2:11-13 (other places this appears: 1:13).
18. Sins / Trespasses, Jesus removed our old body, the dead, sinful body [i.e., Satan's world/realm, 1:13] that our flesh craves to live in, 2:11. Christ forgave all our trespasses, 2:13. The basic principles which the world lives by, the commandments and doctrines of men which appear wise, are of no value against the sinful desires of our flesh, 2:20-23 (other places this appears: 1:14).
19. Reconcile / Forgiveness / Forgive, Jesus has forgiven all our sins, 2:13 (other places this appears: 1:14, 20-22).
20. The Cross, Jesus nailed to the Cross the dogma that was against us [Satan's empty philosophy of this world]; He's taken it out of the way, 2:14 (other places this appears: 1:14, 20).