

# *The Centrality of Christ*

(Colossians 1:24 to 2:23)



# The Young Church at Colossae

## Colossians 2:1-2 (NIV)

**1** I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. **2** My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.





**The heresy was:**

- A.** discouraging the believers
- B.** sowing discord and affecting the unity of the believers
- C.** confusing the believers as to the mystery of the true riches of wisdom



# Heresy at Colossae

- **Gnosticism** - having knowledge
- **Gnosis** - knowledge
- **Syncretism** - mixture of different religions, practices and cultures





## The syncretistic mix in Colossae included:

- religious and rabbinical traditions  
(Colossians 2:8)
- circumcision (Colossians 2:11)
- dietary considerations (Colossians 2:16)
- sabbatical and festival observations  
(Colossians 2:16)
- the worship of angels (Colossians 2:18)
- false humility (Colossians 2:22)
- ascetic practices and sacrifices (Colossians 2:23)



## **The Colossian heresy:**

- A.** detracts from the person, authority and work of Christ
- B.** calls for human works supported by human philosophy and the traditions
- C.** affirms Jewish elements
- D.** boasts a mix of mystery, secrecy and superiority limited to a privileged few, i.e. the gnostics



A wooden puzzle with one piece missing, set against a dark background with a green vine.

## Colossians 2:18-19 (NIV)

**18** ... they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

**19** They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.



**The heresy did not deny Christ,  
it dethroned Him**



# Christ is Supreme

## Colossians 1:15-18

**15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **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. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **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 pre-eminence.



**Colossians 2:3** in whom **(Christ)** are  
hidden all the treasures of wisdom and  
knowledge.







# Apokruphos

Hidden, Secret and Stored Up



**Colossians 1:27** To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.





**The key to full riches of wisdom and knowledge - to live in Christ.**

**Colossians 2:6-7**

**6** As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,  
**7** rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.



# 3 Images of living in Christ

## Colossians 2:7

1. Rooted in Him
2. Built up in Him
3. Strengthened (established)  
in the Faith

**Overflowing with  
thanksgiving**







# **1. Rooted in Christ**

## **- Agricultural Metaphor**





## 2. Built up in Him

### - Architectural Metaphor





**Ephesians 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

### 3. Established in the Faith

- Legal metaphor







# Overflowing with Thanksgiving

A blue brick wall with a spotlight shining down from the top center, creating a warm, yellowish glow on the bricks directly beneath it. The text is overlaid on this scene.

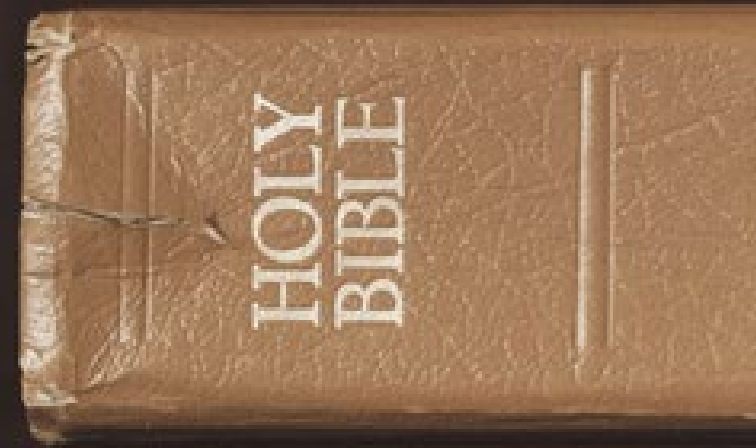
**When we do something out of a duty that is owed,  
we try to look for ways to avoid doing it,  
without getting into trouble.**

**When we do something out of gratitude,  
we actually do look forward to doing that thing,  
and often, with even greater joy and  
satisfaction the more difficult it is to do it.**



## Colossians 2:6-7 (MSG)

“My counsel for you is simple and straightforward:  
Just go ahead with what you’ve been given.  
You received Christ Jesus, the Master;  
now live him. You’re deeply rooted in him.  
You’re well constructed upon him.  
You know your way around the faith.  
Now do what you’ve been taught.  
School’s out; quit studying the subject and start living it!  
And let your living spill into thanksgiving.”





# BEWARE

the Syncretistic dangers of today's philosophies,  
religions practices and the dangers of compromise  
and tolerance.



# BEWARE

the dangers of

- **asceticism** (Colossians 2:20-23)
- **legalism** (Colossians 2:22-23)



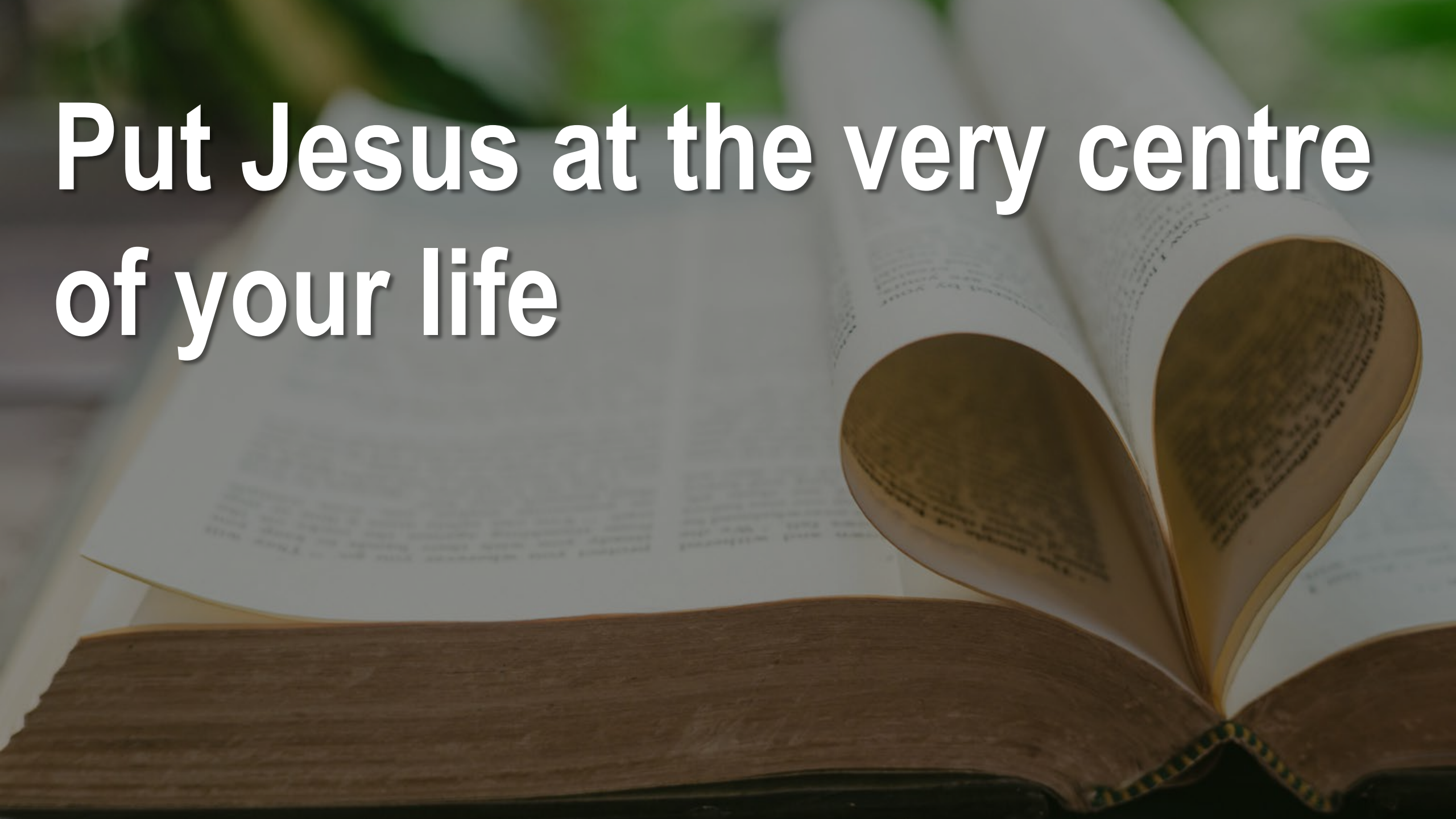


# Video - Saving Private Ryan



**Video - Saving Private Ryan**

**Put Jesus at the very centre  
of your life**





**God had no Plan B  
besides Jesus.**

**We should have no Plan B  
besides Him.**

