**A Life that Is Grounded in Christ**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 47: Colossians & Philemon

McDonald Bible Methodist

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**SERMON NOTES**

Opening Prayer: That they would live lives pleasing to God (1:9-12)

1. **The Basis: The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ**
2. Over His new creation – the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:13-20)
* We are recreated for lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:21-29)
1. Over the lives of his followers (2:1-15)
* No one else may set the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2:16-23)
1. **Therefore, Replace the Inferior with the Exalted**
2. Through Christ, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ becomes holy (3:1-17)
3. Through Christ, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ households achieve harmony (3:18-4:1)
4. Through Christ, damaged relationships find \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (4:1-9)

Appendix 1: Philemon & Onesimus

Story on Onesimus

* Philemon’s runaway slave
* Found Paul and was converted
* Paul is sending him back
* Philemon is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, who loves his fellow-believers (Philemon 1:5)
* Paul loves “his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_” Onesimus; he is his very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:10-11)
* Paul requests that Philemon receive Onesimus back as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (16)

*Would Philemon allow the supremacy of Christ dictate how he, a Roman slave-owner, treated a runaway slave??*

Closing Question: How will the supremacy of Christ affect the most difficult decisions of your life?

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. In 1:9-12, Paul prayed that the Colossian believers would live lives pleasing to God. How does Paul’s prayer affect how you pray for people?
2. Read 1:13-20. What does this say about Jesus that adjusts your understanding of who He is? From this passage, does it make sense that He would be supreme in our lives?
3. In chapter 2, other people were setting standards. What is the standard for the life of the believer? If that is our ultimate standard, how are evidencing that?
4. Christ transforms every part of our lives (see 3:1-17). Testify to the group how Christ has made the debased holy in your life, achieve harmony in your home, or reconciled a damaged relationship.
5. Read Philemon, looking for ways that Paul “builds his case” for Philemon’s receiving of Onesimus (Paul’s use of rhetoric here is very impressive!) Why was it so important for Paul, Onesimus, Philemon, and the church, that Philemon obey?

**Prayer from Colossians:** “Jesus, please point out to me any way that I am not basing my life on your Lordship, and help me to make you the very center of every part of my existence, in my Christian walk, my home, and my workplace.”

**Answers:** Supremacy, **church,** holiness, **standard,** debased, **broken,** reconciliation, **believer,** child, **heart,** brother