



Lesson One = Jesus is First Because of His Work
Sunday Evening Message by Ray Reynolds (May 4, 2014)

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

TEXT: Colossians 1:1-18

Introduction: Ephesians and Colossians share similar outlines, outlook, and theme. Both letters were delivered by Tychicus along with the book of Philemon (**Ephesians 6:21-22, Colossians 4:7-8**). The main theme of the letter to the Colossians is "Jesus is First." Jesus is more than just our first love (as we are seeing in our Ephesians series). We should seek Him first... in ALL things. In this lesson we will notice that Jesus is first because of His kingdom work. Let's study together....

Discussion:

I. His Work Gives The Kingdom A Calling (1:1-3)

- A. Kingdom people prepare for ministry (v.1).
- B. Kingdom people pursue holiness (v.2).
- C. Kingdom people pursue faithfulness (v.2).
- D. Kingdom people pray for one another (v.3).

II. His Work Gives The Kingdom A Cure (1:4-8)

- A. Kingdom people endure through faith (v.4).
- B. Kingdom people emanate Christian love (v.4).
- C. Kingdom people expand in everlasting hope (v.5).
- D. Kingdom people experience fruitful living (v.6).
- E. Kingdom people exemplify God's grace (v.7).
- F. Kingdom people enjoy God's Holy Spirit (v.8).

III. His Work Gives The Kingdom A Conviction (1:9-12)

- A. Kingdom people are convicted to be prayerful (v.9).
- B. Kingdom people are convicted to be productive (v.10).
- C. Kingdom people are convicted to be patient (v.11).
- D. Kingdom people are convicted to be prepared (v.12).

IV. His Work Gives The Kingdom A Cause (1:13-18)

- A. Kingdom people appreciate their redemption (vs.13-14).
- B. Kingdom people accept their role (v.15).
- C. Kingdom people acknowledge their Savior (vs.16-17).
- D. Kingdom people admire their Head (v.18).

Conclusion: Once we recognize Jesus Christ as supreme, and put Him & His kingdom first, it will transform our life. We see things through His eyes. We view the world in His perspective. We seek to understand His everlasting will. Ask yourself: "Where is Jesus in my life? Is He first?" Have you committed your life to Him? Are you faithfully walking with Him?