

# PASSION WEEK

## 5 DEVOTIONS ON CHRIST AND THE CROSS IN COLOSSIANS

Colossians 3:1-4  
Colossians 1:13-14  
Colossians 2:8-10  
Colossians 4:5-6  
Colossians 1:15-20

Musica Theologica

### **5 Devotions on Christ and the Cross in Colossians**

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## MEDITATION #1: A BETTER FOCUS

**Colossians 3:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup>If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (ESV)*

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The Christian is called to a life of outward focus. While the world calls you to look inside for direction, beauty, satisfaction, and even value, Christ, our Lord calls us to look to him. This text points us to the heavenly throne room of God "where Christ is." With this focus, we can now set our mind to eternal things. But we can only do this if we have died with Christ and are hidden in him.

When Christ returns in glory will you be found with him? Have you been raised with Christ? If so, is your mindset on him? Take a moment to reflect on how the death of Jesus and his resurrection has given you something more beautiful to ponder, something more satisfying to know, and greater direction than any map.

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Holy Father,

Thank you for letting me know Jesus Christ your Son. Will you teach me today how to reject temporary satisfaction and exchange it for heavenly glory? Jesus, thank you for dying for my sins so that I might be hidden in you and appear with you in glory. Amen.

## MEDITATION #2: ACCESS TO A NEW KINGDOM

Colossians 1:13-14

*<sup>13</sup>He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (ESV)*

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In the Gospels, we learn of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven. Here this kingdom is called “the kingdom of his beloved Son.” We are not born into this kingdom like we are born into to the kingdoms of this world. If you are a citizen of a country, or you are under the authority of a local government, you are there because you were born there or because you moved there. For many, you have stayed because of family, friends, work, or familiarity. With daily news reports, we learn that our earthly kingdoms are broken and in need of repair. God knows this. That is why he calls our earthly kingdoms the “domain of darkness.” Many Christians are fighting against this darkness, and this is good. But the true win is not a fixed earthly kingdom but a new kingdom entirely. This new kingdom belongs to the Son of God. And through this Son, we who are called by his name receive forgiveness for our sins and permanent citizenship into his kingdom. This was done through the work of Jesus, the Son of God, on the cross.

If you have been transferred into the kingdom of God’s Son do you thank him for dying to make this possible? What sins did God forgive so that you might be redeemed, forgiven, and transferred? Who could you also invite into this kingdom?

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Holy Father,

Thank you for transferring me from the dominion of darkness to the kingdom of your Son. Thank you for forgiving me for rebelling against you. Jesus, only through you can I be forgiven. Thank you! Teach me how to rejoice in my new citizenship as I work faithfully for your glory. Amen.

## MEDITATION #3: FILLED WITH CHRIST

Colossians 2:8-10

*<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. (ESV)*

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Every person in this world has been equipped with the ability to think and reason. However, some are better equipped than others. Since we live in a dominion of darkness (Col. 1:13) many are blinded by bad thinking while others are unable to see the bad thinking for what it is. This is why we must fight bad thinking with the truth. Philosophy, deceit, human tradition, elemental spirits are all opposed to Christ. What this world lacks is the clarity of who Christ is. He is the visible reality of the fullness of deity. And he is the very person who fills us to know him and to obey him. When you study philosophy and worldly thinking you study in the dark. When you study Jesus, you study God. You study the head of all. You study perfect rule and authority.

The way to fight bad thinking is with good thinking. The way to fight empty deceit is with the fullness of Christ. How has Christ filled you? How does this filling help you avoid being misled by the world? What are some specific ways you will obey the rule and authority of Christ today?

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Holy Father,

You gave us the ability to think and reason, but we have corrupted that gift. Will you forgive me for using my mind well? Jesus, you are the final authority in all things. Thank you for filling me. Will you forgive me for not obeying you? Teach me how to enjoy obeying you. Amen.

## MEDITATION #4: A LIFE LIKE JESUS

Colossians 4:5-6

<sup>5</sup>Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person. (ESV)

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The Christian lives for others. Their entire life is directed by the question, how will this bring glory to God the Father and God the Son? This is the same desire of Jesus as he lived and as he went to the cross. Jesus never wasted a moment. He never passed by an opportunity to point others to why he came and who the Father is. In the same way, those who belong to him make a specific effort to point other Christians and non-Christians (outsiders) to God the Father and to God the Son. Not just in action, but also in speech. If Jesus never told us who he was and why he came we would not be able to be saved. If we never tell others who Jesus is and why he came they will never be saved. Jesus was not just a good man. He was, and is, the Savior of the world; a Savior who died for his enemies; a Savior who died for those who hated his Father.

Do you know who Christ is? Then obey him? Do you want to know who Christ is? Then ask a Christian. Christian, how are you living differently from those around you to demonstrate your obedience to Jesus? Christian, how will you respond to the question, “who is Jesus?” Christian, who will you tell about Jesus?

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Holy Father,

Thank you for your gracious and wise Son. Forgive me for not making the best use of my time. Please teach me how to redeem my time in the morning, at work, with the family, and during recreation for the sake of teaching others about your Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus, thank you for living and teaching in a way that I could know who you are. Teach me how to do the same. Amen.

## MEDITATION #5: JESUS IS

Colossians 1:15-20

*<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. (ESV)*

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This passage brings many things to sit and ponder over. Some of which will take years to understand. But all of which bring great joy to the tired and broken soul. Take a moment to ask who Jesus is? Then search this passage for the answers and the depths of truth that follows

Who is Jesus?

- He is the image of the invisible God.
- He is the firstborn of all creation.
- He is the creator of all in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, ruler and authorities.
- He created all things through himself and for himself.
- He is before all things.
- He holds all things together.
- He is the head of the Church, his body.
- He is the beginning.
- He is the firstborn from the dead.
- He is unique and above everything else.
- He pleased the fullness of God.
- He is the location of the fullness of God.
- He is the way all things, both in heaven and earth, are reunited with God.
- He made peace through his bloody death on the cross.

## Passion Week 2018 – Meditations on the Cross

Without Christ, we have no past, present, or future. In Christ we have everything. Turn to Christ and receive the good reward of eternal life in the presence of the only true and living God.

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Holy Father,

Thank you for your Son. Please forgive me for hating you and rebelling against you. Teach me how to obey your son and to love him. Let me enjoy the reconciliation and peace he offers through his death. Jesus, thank you for your sacrifice. I submit to you my entire life and being. Without you, I have no hope. But in you, I have eternal life and a good relationship with the Father. You are my Creator, my Savior, my Healer. You are my God! Amen.

## Passion Week 2018 – Meditations on the Cross

How much effort do we put into celebrating Christmas? We invest time, money, conversations, and even family gatherings. And this is all on top of attending times of worship with other Christians. But if we are careful to study the Bible we see that the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, means very little unless he died on the cross and rose from the dead. This is because without the life, the death, and the resurrection of Jesus we would all still be dead in our sins. That is why this one-week devotion was created for the week before the death and resurrection of Jesus; Passion Week.

As you work through these devotions take time to read each passage from Colossians, the short devotional comments, and then authentically pray the prayers. After you finish each devotion let the rest of your day be filled with deep meditation on the truth of who Jesus is and why he came.

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