When we think of Christ, do we really consider all that He has done for us? When Paul wrote to the Colossians, he praised them for their **faith** and **love;** acknowledging the **hope** they had received because of their efforts.

Paul stated he was constantly praying for them to be filled the knowledge of Christ’s “will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (**Col. 1:9-12**).”

The Colossians were facing opposition to this knowledge. Men and women to whom they were acquainted that were coming around the congregation and attempting to teach to them “hidden” wisdom and knowledge (**cf. Col. 2:2-4**). Men and women attempting to persuade them away from the foundational truth found in Jesus Christ.

Paul reminds them of this truth: “13For He (this is Jesus) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

21And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds, 22yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— 23if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.”

Formerly, the Brethren were no longer separated/alienated from God. They no longer, or should no longer participate in a hostile mind or evil deeds. Christ reconciled and allowed them to become holy, blameless, and beyond reproach – not by their works but by His death. At least, this was true, If they continued in Him, in Christ (they would be facing the opportunity to turn away from Jesus). There is an underlying truth here: those attempting to persuade them away from the knowledge found in Jesus were still corrupted. Those people were still **HOSTILE** towards God and **ALIENATED** from His kingdom. These individuals were bringing knowledge to the Colossians and acting as if they had not already been given great knowledge and truth. Think about the knowledge the Colossians had already been given:

1. **Jesus is the firstborn of Creation, the Image of God**
2. **He created all things**
3. **All things are subject to Him**
4. **He is the Body. He is the Church**
5. **The firstborn from death – more will follow (in Him)**
6. **God’s pleasure dwells in Him – if we want to be pleasing to God, we have to be found in Him**
7. **Christ allows us to come to God – the Colossians were not alienated or separated from God any more.**

These promises are not theirs alone, but we have possession of them today as well. Christ’s gifts are like He Himself. He is eternal and the promises, knowledge, and wisdom given through Paul to the Colossians 2000 years ago, are ours today. This should be a knowledge and comfort to us. *We are part of His Kingdom. We are a part of His Body. We are a part of His Church*.