

KNIGHTS OF THE “CROWNED” TABLE
INTRODUCTION TO COLOSSIANS

BIG IDEA: LIVE OUT THE KINGDOM CODE!

Colossians 1:1-2 *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

OUTLINE

- Chapter 1—The Kingdom’s **King**
Chapter 2—The Kingdom’s **Enemies**
Chapter 3—The Kingdom’s **Code**
Chapter 4—The Kingdom’s **Heroes**

I. HONOR YOUR KING!—Verse 1 *Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,*

A. The Reason for Honor

1. The Knight’s Oath of Fealty-- ***“I promise on my faith that I will in the future be faithful to the lord, never cause him harm and will observe my homage to him completely against all persons in good faith and without deceit.”¹***
2. Why does King Jesus deserve that kind of devotion from us?
3. No other book of the Bible has a more majestic description of Jesus Christ than this little letter.

B. The Behaviors of Honor

1. Make Jesus your number one study.
 - **Colossians 2:2-3** *My purpose is...that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
 - **J. I. Packer**—*Well might God say through Jeremiah, “Let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me”—for knowing God is a relationship calculated to thrill a person’s heart.²*
2. Make Jesus your number one employer.
 - **Colossians 3:17** *And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...*
 - **Colossians 3:23-24** *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as **working for the Lord**, not for men, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*
3. Make Jesus your number one audience.
 - **Colossians 1:10** *live a life worthy of the Lord and...**please him** in every way: bearing fruit in every good work...*

II. LINK ARMS WITH YOUR FELLOW KNIGHTS!—Verse 1 *...and Timothy our brother*

No man in the New Testament made fiercer enemies, but few men in the world have had better friends. They cluster around him so thickly that we are apt to lose their personality in their devotion.-- Harrington C. Lees

A. Why We Need Significant Relationships

1. Because No One of Us Has It All Together
 - **Colossians 4:10-11** *My fellow prisoner **Aristarchus** sends you his greetings, as does **Mark**, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) ¹¹ Jesus, who is called **Justus**, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved **a comfort to me**.*
2. Because We All Need Somebody Praying for Us
 - **Colossians 4:3** *And **pray for us**, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.*
 - **Colossians 4:12-13** ***Epaphras...is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.***

B. How God Wants Us to Build Significant Friendships

1. Build friendship around a transcendent cause.

¹ <http://www.medieval-life-and-times.info/medieval-england/knights-oath-of-fealty.htm>. Accessed 072616

² J. I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973, 1993), 36.

- *Biblical friendships in the church are developed in the midst of spiritual battle....True friendships are born and developed in the smoke and heat of the spiritual battle between the forces of Satan and the forces of God.--Jerry & Mary White*
 - *If you wanted to be Paul's friend, you had to be **about** something:*
2. Build friendships to "Go the Distance"
- ^{KJV} **Colossians 2:2** *That their hearts might be comforted, being **knit together** in love...*
 - **Colossians 4:9** *Onesimus, our **faithful and dear brother**. **Philemon 1:12** I am sending him-- **who is my very heart**-- back to you. **Philemon 1:16** He is **very dear to me***

III. SHARPEN YOUR WARRIOR SOUL!—Verse 2 To the **holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse**

A. We Need Strength-Building for the War **Out There!**

- **Colossians 1:11** *being **strengthened with all power** according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience...*
- **Colossians 2:7** *rooted and built up in him, **strengthened in the faith** as you were taught...*
- **Colossians 1:24** *Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.*

B. We Need Strength-Building for the War **In Here!**

- **Colossians 3:12-14** *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, **clothe yourselves** with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these **virtues** put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

*High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*