

An aerial view of Prague, Czech Republic, at sunset. The city is illuminated with warm golden light, highlighting the red-tiled roofs and historic architecture. The Vltava River flows through the center, with the Charles Bridge and other bridges visible. A large green dome is prominent on the left side of the image.

**WELCOME**  
to the  
**International Baptist Church**  
of Prague

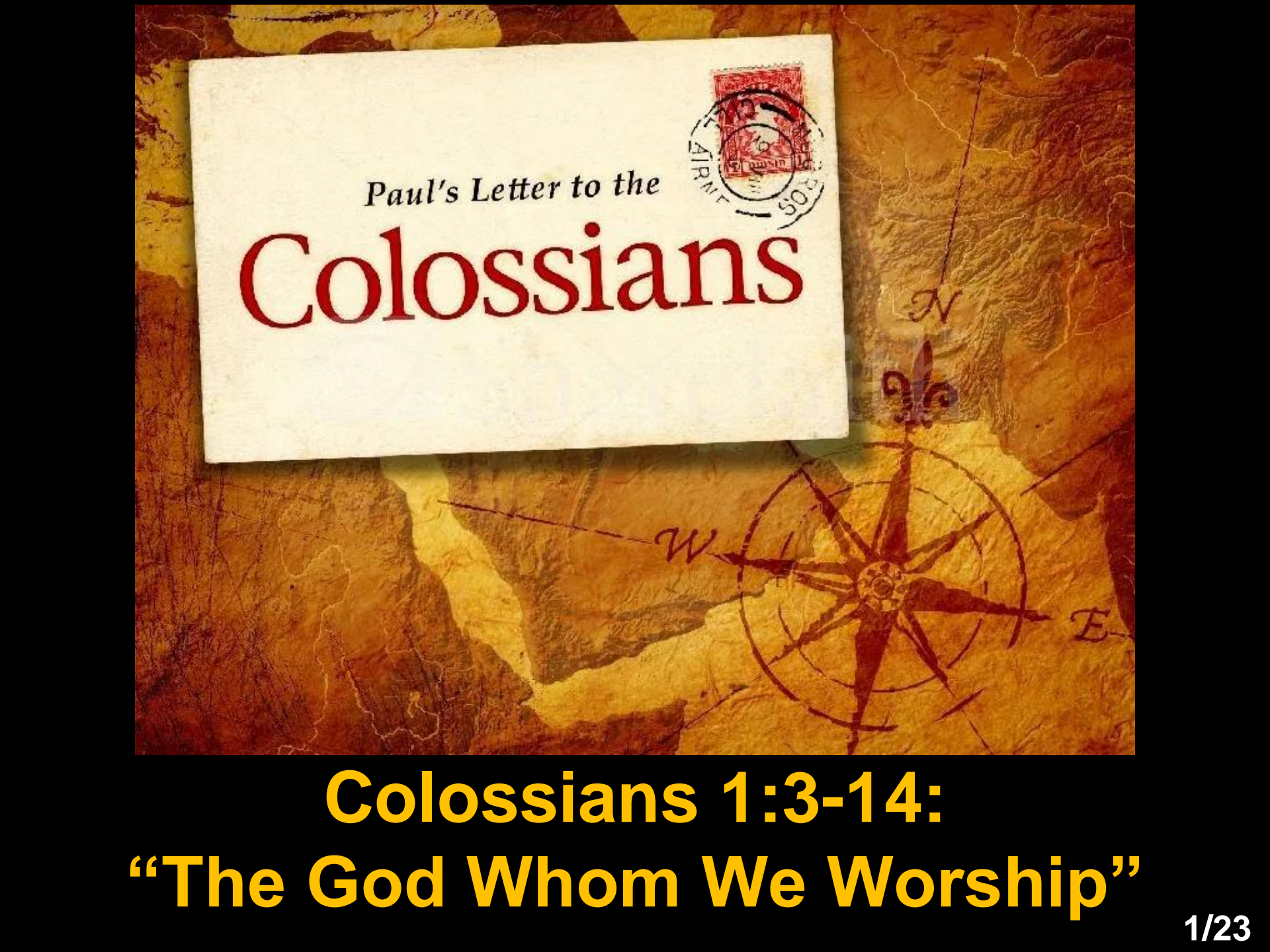
**SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2020**



A scenic landscape featuring a range of snow-capped mountains in the background, a dense forest of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a calm lake in the foreground that perfectly reflects the mountains and trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word "SERMON" in large, bold, yellow capital letters.

# SERMON





*Paul's Letter to the*  
**Colossians**

**Colossians 1:3-14:  
“The God Whom We Worship”**





“Perhaps my favorite painting is Caravaggio’s *Supper at Emmaus* when Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples having risen from the dead. I love it. Jesus looks very likeable – soft and rounded – and the painting captures the exact moment when the disciples realize *who* this man is, blessing their bread.”---J.K. Rowling

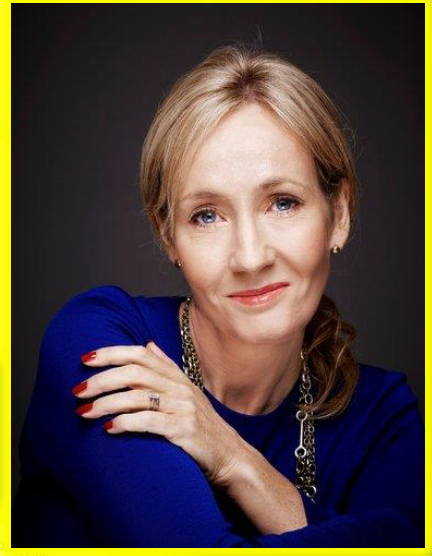


SEARCH

Oct 17 2007 11:20 AM EDT

# 'Harry Potter' Author J.K. Rowling Opens Up About Books' Christian Imagery

'They almost epitomize the whole series,' she says of the scripture Harry reads in Godric's Hollow.



## ChristianityToday

A MAGAZINE OF EVANGELICAL CONVICTION

The following article is located at: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2007/julyweb-only/130-12.0.html>  
July 23, 2007

Home > 2007 > July (Web-only) Christianity Today, July (Web-only), 2007  
Review: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*  
**The Gospel According to J.K. Rowling**  
The magic world of *Harry Potter* begins yielding to a 'deeper magic.'  
Bob Smietana | posted 7/23/2007 09:50AM

**[WARNING: PLOT SPOILERS THROUGHOUT THIS REVIEW.]**  
I first met Harry Potter when my grandmother was dying.

On New Years Day 1999, she had a massive stroke from which she would never recover. Not wanting her to die alone, we took turns sitting by her bed around the clock. The night I spent with her, I brought along my Dunkin Donuts coffee I could find, and a new





Photo: Jaap Buitendijk, Warner Bros. Pictures



- 
- "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

---Matthew 5:21

- "The last enemy to be defeated is death."

---1 Corinthians 15:26

'They almost epitomize the whole series,' she says of the scripture Harry reads in Godric's Hollow.



We become what we love  
and who we love shapes  
what we become.

(Saint Clare of Assisi)



# WHO IS GOD? WHAT IS HE LIKE?

- ❖ **"...God is love" – 1 John 4:8**
- ❖ **"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." – Exodus 34:6**
- ❖ **"The wages of sin is death..." – Romans 6:23**
- ❖ **"...who will by no means clear the guilty..." – Exodus 34:7**



## Colossians 1:3-4 (ESV)

**<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,**



## Colossians 1:3-14 –

### “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **Paul emphasizes the essential, foundational beliefs of the Christian faith**
- ❖ **Trinity, Deity of Christ, Virgin Birth, Atonement, Resurrection, Second Coming**
- ❖ **Basis for Apostle's/Nicene Creed?**
- ❖ **Typical for Paul to reiterate the gospel before then proceeding to doctrinal correction**
- ❖ **Ephesians 4, Philippians 2, Romans 1-8, Galatians 2, 2 Corinthians 5...**



# Colossians 1:3-14 –

## “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **Paul emphasizes the essential, foundational beliefs of the Christian faith**
- ❖ **Trinity, Deity of Christ, Atonement**
- ❖ **1:3 “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...<sup>8</sup> and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.” – TRINITY**
- ❖ **2:19 “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,” – DEITY OF CHRIST**
- ❖ **1:14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - ATONEMENT**

## Colossians 1:5-8 (ESV)

**<sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, <sup>7</sup> just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf <sup>8</sup> and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.**



# Colossians 1:5-8 – “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **“God is the Gospel.” --- John Piper**
- ❖ **The message of the Christian faith is about God’s desire to know us personally**
- ❖ **To save fallen, rebellious, sinful humanity by forgiving by grace**
- ❖ **God’s holiness demands that He punish sin**
- ❖ **God desires for us to be reconciled so much that He Himself comes in the person of Jesus Christ to take that punishment and offer forgiveness to those who trust in Him for salvation**

# **Gospel Summarized in the Five Solas of the Reformation**

**SOLA GRATIA – Only by grace**

**SOLA FIDE – Only by faith**

**SOLUS CHRISTUS – Only by Christ**

**SOLI DEO GLORIA – To God alone be  
the glory**

**SOLA SCRIPTURA – By Scripture alone**



# Colossians 1:5-8 – “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **Paul emphasizes the correct understanding of who God is because a wrong understanding of God’s character – that He is only love, or that He is only judging – will change the gospel and endanger people’s coming to Christ for salvation**
- ❖ **We see this in the Jehovah’s Witnesses and Islam that reject Jesus’ identity as God and then push works-based salvation**
- ❖ **The Prosperity Gospel de-emphasizes God’s holiness so the message of the cross – the message of salvation – is lost.**

## Colossians 1:9-12 (ESV)

**<sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.**



# Colossians 1:9-12 – “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **This leads us to Paul’s discussion of the works of the Holy Spirit**
- ❖ **JUSTIFICATION**
- ❖ **SANCTIFICATION**
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT**
- ❖ **GLORIFICATION**
- ❖ **These are important to understand how to grow in our relationship with Christ and be empowered by the Holy Spirit for ministry**

## **Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)**

**<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**



# Colossians 1:9-12 –

## “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **This leads us to Paul’s discussion of the works of the Holy Spirit**
- ❖ **JUSTIFICATION – being declared righteous by grace, trusting in Christ’s sacrificial death for salvation**
- ❖ **SANCTIFICATION – the inner work of the Holy Spirit, transforming us morally into the image of Christ and growing in the knowledge of God**
- ❖ **EMPOWERMENT – allowing the Holy Spirit to empower us for works of ministry**
- ❖ **GLORIFICATION – when we receive our resurrection bodies and are free from sin**

## Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV)

**<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.**

# Colossians 1:13-14 – “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **Christ’s death and resurrection are of cosmic significance for us**
- ❖ **His sacrifice defeated sin, death, and the works of the devil**
- ❖ **Paul will go on to develop these themes in the next chapter**
- ❖ **But Christ’s atonement has lasting consequences on the whole of reality**



# Colossians 1:3-14 – “The God Whom We Worship”

- ❖ **Do you know the true living God who offers salvation through faith in Jesus, the Son of God?**
- ❖ **Is Christ’s victory over sin, death, and the works of the devil a reality in your life?**
- ❖ **Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you by growing in your relationship with God?**
- ❖ **Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to empower you in the ministries He has set before you to do?**



WHAT YOU TREASURE WILL  
ULTIMATELY REQUIRE YOU DIE  
FOR IT. JESUS IS THE ONLY  
TREASURE THAT DIED FOR YOU.

TIM KELLER



To  
God  
be the Glory!