

ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS  
WE FOCUS OUR WORSHIP  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES FROM COLOSSIANS 1



## The Heart of the Matter

In a day in which it's easy to drift, get our priorities mixed up and our boundaries blurred, the Bible has a way of clearing the fog and refocusing our lives. With authority and precision, the Bible reorients our priorities by commanding us to seek God's kingdom first (Matthew 6:33) and shores up our boundaries by warning us not to love the world and its stuff (1 John 2:15). What is true of priorities and boundaries is even more true concerning whom we worship. Our culture may worship any number of gods, but the Bible says we are to focus our worship on only One—Jesus Christ.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. The Fuzzy Colossians (Colossians 1:9–14)

The Colossian Christians were getting a little fuzzy in their devotion because of false teaching, but Paul refocused their attention by praying for them and reminding them of their salvation.

### 2. Bringing Christ into Focus (Colossians 1:15–18)

Bringing Christ into sharper focus, Paul explained who Christ is (1:15), what Christ has done (1:16–17), and where Christ's authority lies (1:18).

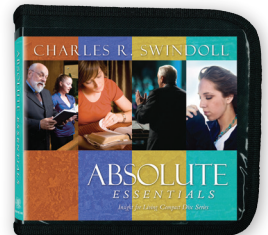


## Starting Your Journey

Christ must be our focus in everything we do, including our worship. Christ alone is worthy of our worship, of our maximum honor. How focused are you when you worship? Solely on Christ?



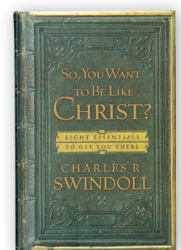
## Tools for Digging Deeper



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ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS  
WE AFFIRM OUR UNIQUENESS  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES FROM COLOSSIANS 2



### The Heart of the Matter

You may remember the old saying, “If you don’t stand for something, you’ll fall for anything.” If you don’t know what you believe, then you’re ready to accept whatever somebody else believes. So when it comes to standing strong and standing alone if necessary, you can’t beat knowing the truth—really knowing the truth. This was the problem in the Colossian church; they stood on the truth, but the reverberation of false teaching had shaken their foundation, making them vulnerable to fall.



### Discovering the Way

#### 1. Four Warnings for the Colossians (Colossians 2:4, 8, 16, 18)

Paul warned the Colossians that no one should delude them, draw them from Christ, put them into spiritual bondage, or defraud them into phony piety.

#### 2. Four Unique Characteristics of a Healthy Church (Selected Verses from Colossians 2)

Healthy churches are Christ-centered, Bible-centered, grace-based, and authentically joyous and balanced in the Christian life.

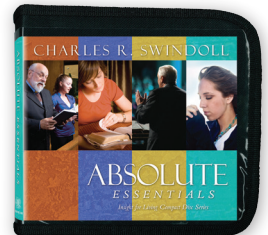


### Starting Your Journey

True Christianity is not about religiosity, phony piety, or a list of dos and don’ts. It’s about Christ, the Bible, graciousness, and a joyful balance. So, how is your Christian health?



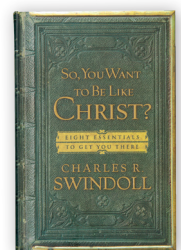
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ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS  
WE EXAMINE OUR LIVES  
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## The Heart of the Matter

Yogi Berra, the hall of fame catcher for the New York Yankees in the 1950s, is well known for his “Yogisms”—observations and turns of phrases that are so obvious you think they are profound. This could qualify as a “Yogism”: “The goal of every Christian should be to live like a Christian.” Well, duh! But there is something profound in this statement. We are not just to think about living like a Christian . . . but do it; not just learn about it . . . but practice it. The Bible commands it. The Lord empowers it. The world expects it. And the church needs it. So how is your Christian life? Are you living it? Examine your life today in light of Colossians 3.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Think about Your Spiritual Wardrobe (Colossians 3:1–3)

To live like a Christian begins in the mind. Our aim, our goal, our mental attitude—all is correctly shaped and sustained by where we fix our thoughts.

### 2. Things to Take Off (Colossians 3:5–9)

If we are to live the Christian life, then some earthly manners have no business going on in our lives—get rid of these.

### 3. Things to Put On (Colossians 3:10–17)

Living the Christian life is distinguished by the wardrobe of grace—put on these things.



## Starting Your Journey

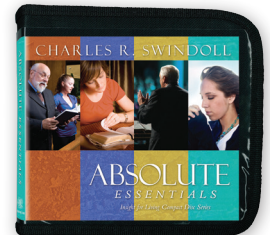
The Christian's dress code is applied in no better place than in our business attire—how we put on the wardrobe of grace when we work, doing it to honor Christ, and representing and reflecting His character with gratitude.



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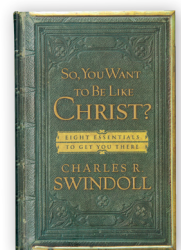
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ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS  
WE ANTICIPATE OUR FUTURE  
SELECTED SCRIPTURES FROM COLOSSIANS 4



## The Heart of the Matter

How different are you from the average non-Christian? Aside from Christ, how different are you really? Truth be known, not all that different. You have a mortgage and car payments? So do they. Do you get tired and have emotions that sometimes run wild? So do they. Do you have a lawn to mow and meals to cook? So do they. In these and thousands of other ways the non-Christians that surround you are no different from you. The only exception is they don't know who Jesus really is, but you can show them and tell them how He has made a difference in your life.



## Discovering the Way

### 1. Speaking to God about the Lost (Colossians 4:2–3)

Reaching out always starts with reaching up to God in prayer—devoting ourselves, staying alert, being thankful, and asking God to open doors of opportunity.

### 2. Speaking to the Lost about God (Colossians 4:3–6)

Once you have prayed and God has given you an opportunity, remember to speak of Christ, make it clear, keep it reasonable and real, and stay winsome and interesting.

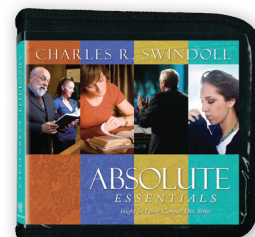


## Starting Your Journey

No one can predict our future, but much of it will be shaped by how fervently we pray to God and how graciously we behave toward those who don't know Jesus.



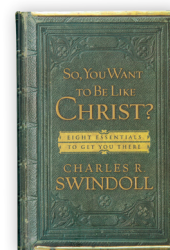
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