

**Colossians 1:11-20 (ESV)**

**11** May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** 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. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** 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. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

**John 1:18**

No one has ever seen God, but God, the only Son, has made him known.

**1 Cor 3:21-23**

So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollo or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future -- all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

**Romans 12:15**

So we, though many, are one body and individually members of one another.

**In prayer for Manna Alumni:**

**Stephen Hsia '08** is working in the investigations division of the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. Outside of the office, Steve enjoys exploring the city with friends, cooking and playing squash, and cramming for the LSAT.

**Please pray...**

- for courage to reach out to coworkers who identify themselves as 'Christmas & Easter Christians', and to change the culture of his workplace in small but meaningful ways
- for humility and strength to fight complacency in my spiritual life
- for discernment and acceptance of God's plan for me next year

**Introduction:****I. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ you've always wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings. (Heb 13:8-9)

**II. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ you've always wanted to \_\_\_\_\_.**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. (1 Cor 12:12)

*Upon these accounts, if God should by some miracle or wonder of providence wherein the divine hand was visible, and form a peculiar favor and love, snatch a man out of a sinking ship, he would be far more affected with God's favor and love to him in particular, than if God had, by a miracle, stopped the leak and saved the ship and whole crew. —Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), American Reformed theologian and Princeton's third president. (Miscellany 520)*

*It is very plain, in order to a sense of the sufficiency of Christ's satisfaction for our sins, and the proprietary and fitness of our guilt's being looked upon as removed by Christ's redemption, or our sense of its suitableness to God's nature and glory that it should be pleasing to him to look upon our guilt as satisfied by Christ's redemption; it is absolutely necessary that would should have a view of both, viz. both our guilt, and also of Christ's redemption. —Jonathan Edwards, (Miscellany 528)*