

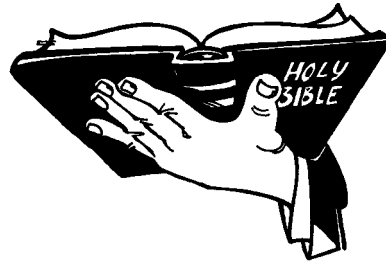
Date: 3/31/19

Service: Sun. AM

Series: *Christ: Supreme and Sufficient* (Book of Colossians)

Introduction to Colossians

Introduction



Author:

Date and Place:

Theme:

Purposes:

Occasion: Two factors entered into the writing of this epistle: 1) the return of Onesimus (see the book of Philemon) to his master in Colossae (he accompanied Tychicus, the bearer of this epistle, to Rome); 2) the visit of Epaphras to Rome (1:8), and the subsequent report given to Paul concerning the false teaching there that was threatening the church.

- ✓ **What was this false teaching? . . .** The false teaching against which Paul is addressing in the book of Colossians seems to be an early form of what would be known in the 2nd century as “Gnosticism.” In this teaching knowledge (*gnosis*) is supreme, and faith is despised. This knowledge was only available to those who had superior intellects. In this false teaching in Colossae there were three elements that were mixed together:
 1. A **Jewish** element

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2. A **pagan** element

3. A **“Christian”** element.

Destination:

A Word About Epaphras:

Outline: (Abridged from Hiebert)

THE SALUTATION (1:1-2)

I. Personal: Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-14)

- A. The Thanksgiving (3-8)
- B. The Prayer (9-14)

II. Doctrinal: The Pre-eminence of Christ (1:15-23)

- A. His Divine Person (15-18)
- B. His Redemptive Word (19-23)

III. Ministerial: The Apostleship of Paul (1:24 – 2:7)

- A. The Ministry of Paul to the Whole Church (1:24-29)

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B. The Solicitude of Paul for the Colossians (2:1-7)

IV. Polemical: The False Philosophy and the True Faith (2:8 – 3:4)

- A. The Warning Against the False Philosophy (2:8)
- B. The Elaboration of the Sufficiency in Christ (2:9-15)
- C. The Warnings Against Spiritual Dangers (2:16-19)
- D. The Resultant Exhortations (2:20 – 3:4)

V. Practical: The Christian Life (3:5 – 4:6)

- A. The Believer's Individual Life (3:5-17)
- B. The Believer in Social Relations (3:18 – 4:6)

VI. Personal: The Friends of Paul (4:7-17)

- A. The Bearers of the Letter (7-9)
- B. The Greetings from His Companions (10-14)
- C. The Concluding Messages (15-17)

THE CONCLUSION (4:18)



NOTES: