

Colossians 1 & Introduction

October 2, 2016

Paul was in a Roman Prison when he wrote to the church in Colossae. False Teachers were coaching the Colossians to worship angels and follow special rules and ceremonies.

Located about 100 miles east of Ephesus, Colossae was a Graeco-Phrygian city in the Roman proconsular of Asia also known as Asia Minor. It was one of three cities located in the Lycus Valley (Colossae, Hierapolis, and Laodicea) that formed an important trade route, a virtual meeting point between east and west. Colossae was about ten miles from Laodicea and thirteen miles from Hierapolis. At one time Colossae had been a large and populous city, but when Paul wrote to the Colossian church, it had become just a small town in contrast to its nearest neighbors, Hierapolis and Laodicea.

Paul corrected this thinking through his letter, stressing that faith in Christ is sufficient for salvation and that nothing needs to be added to Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Epaphras one of Paul's converts, founded the church in Colosse (1:7, 4:12-13)

This guy was a prayer warrior.

Paul had never been there personally (2:1)

While imprisoned in Rome, Paul heard that false doctrines were being introduced in the church, so he wrote this letter to warn the believers and to establish them in the faith.

Paul is the author

Written around 57-62 AD

Much of the news is good but there is a threat that he wanted to be pro-active about.

The threat was certain teachings when it came to worshipping other things and following other rituals and ceremonies other than JUST worshipping CHRIST.

The heresy attacked the total adequacy and the unique supremacy of Christ.

Paul goes out of his way to stress the part that Christ played in creation.

By him, all things were created.

By him all things hold together

The Son was the Father's instrument in the creation of the Universe.

At the same time he goes out of his way to stress the real humanity.

It was the body of his flesh that he did his redeeming work. The fullness of the Godhead dwells in him "somatic" in bodily form. (2:9) For all his deity, Jesus Christ was truly human flesh and blood.

The ancient world was caught up in angels and stars.
The false teachers were teaching you needed something more than Jesus Christ to rid people of their subjection to these elemental spirits.

Vs. 1-2 - Paul's Greeting

He is in prison, to God's holy people (set apart) in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

Grace and Peace to you. (Grace - Undeserved Favor) & (Peace - with God and Wholeness)

vs. 3-8

vs 9-13

IT IS AMAZING WHAT WE HAVE IN CHRIST!

vs. 15-20 - The Supremacy of Christ

The Son of God

- Image of God
- The Creator of all things
- He is before all things and in him all things hold together
 - Laminin - Molecule holds all proteins together. Protein holds all things together.
 - Cell organize - Amino Acids all together, holds your membranes together
 - Without this molecule you will not be held together, no life.

ILLUSTRATION - HE HOLDS MY LIFE TOGETHER

Without Jesus there is no life that can hold together

- He is the head over the church
- His divine fullness

- His reconciling work

Therefore Paul labored.

- The mystery of his indwelling believers proclaimed in Paul's ministry.