

Series "Jesus Is First"
"The Word of Truth"
Colossians 1:1-8
Part-1

Colossians 1:5

Each Epistle of the New Testament was written for a purpose and had a Theme. **Romans** – Justification by faith, **Ephesians** – Our riches in Christ, **Philippians** – Our joy, **Galatians** – Freedom.

The Background of This Book:

Theme Of Colossians: Jesus Christ's Preeminence. Jesus is the head of the Church. He is to be first in all things. The supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus.

Ephesians – The Body of Christ; **Colossians** – Jesus the head of the body of Christ.

The Crisis – Greek philosophy, mixed with Oriental mysticism, along with Jewish legalism.

Gnostics & Gnosticism – This term comes from the Greek word "gnosis" which means "to know". The Gnostics were the "people who were in the know."

Gnostics – taught that the flesh was evil, that it does not matter what we do with the body. That Jesus did not have a real body, He just floated around. He did not really die on the cross.

Colossians 2:8-10

Key Verse: Colossians 1:18

Outline For Colossians:

Colossians 1 – DOCTRINE – CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DECLARED
Colossians 2 – DANGER – CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DEFENDED
Colossians 3-4 – DUTY – CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DEMONSTRATED

When Written – It was written about 60-61 A.D.

Who Wrote it – It was written by Paul, **Colossians 1:1.**

Where It Was Written – It was written in prison (**Acts 28:30**). It is called a "Prison Epistle". Paul, while in prison in Rome, wrote 4 prison Epistles – **Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians.**

The City – Colossae was one of three cities located about 100 miles inland from Ephesus; Today, Western Turkey. The other two cities were Laodicea and Hierapolis, **Colossians 4:13, 16**.

How Did The Church of Colossae Begin? It was the outgrowth of Paul’s three-year ministry in Ephesus (**Acts 19; 20:17-38**). So effective was the witness of the church at Ephesus that “all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks” (**Acts 19:10**).

Paul had heard of their faith (**Colossians 1:4, 9**); but he had never seen these believers personally (**Colossians 2:1**).

1. Verses 1-2 – Greeting

2. Verses 3-5 – Thanksgiving

3. Verses 5-8 – Gospel

1. Verses 1-2 – Greeting:

Colossians 1:1 – “Paul,” – Is writing from a prison cell in Rome. He was not writing this of his own but by the Holy Spirit, 2 Timothy 3:16.

“an apostle of Jesus Christ” – “sent one”; Paul is fully qualified to deal with matters.

“by the will of God,” – 1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Paul did not aspire but was called by God.

“and Timothy our brother,” – Who was Paul’s assistant. He became the pastor of Ephesus.

Colossians 1:2

“to the saints” – “set apart ones, holy ones”; The term is used 66X in the Bible, 1 Peter 2:9.

Saint – is a reference to true believers; People that have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. God forgave their sins and set them apart for Himself. Holy is what the Christian desires to be.

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father.” – Notice what is first: “grace” then “peace”. This order is always the same with “grace” first.

Grace – “unmerited favor”; it is that which is undeserved favor of God.

Peace – “oneness with God”. Notice the order, it is not peace then grace, but grace first!

2. Verses 3-5 – Thanksgiving:

Colossians 1:3 – “We (Paul & Timothy) give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” – It was to God be the glory! Paul always gave the glory to God!

“praying always for you,” – Not only thanking God for them but praying for them.

Colossians 1:4

He then gives thanks to them for 3 areas: Faith, Love and Hope:

The whole Christian experience can be summed up in these 3 words. These are the marks of a genuine Christian Church!

- 1. Your Faith** – “since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus” – That our faith needs to be in the person of Jesus Christ; The Root of Christian life, Hebrews 11:6.
- 2. The Love** – “and the love which you have for all the saints;” – If our faith is in Jesus, we should have love for one another. Love is the fruit of our faith.

John 13:35

Colossians 1:5

- 3. The Hope** – “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven,” – When you know you are going to heaven, it changes the way you look at life, Titus 2:13.

Colossians 3:1-2

3. Verses 5-8 – Gospel:

Colossians 1:5 – The gospel is God’s truth that brings hope! John 17:17

The Gospel Message Is Personal: “of which you previously heard in the word of truth,” – Ephesians 1:13.

Gospel – “good news”

The Good News involves first knowing the Bad News.

Colossians 1:6

The Gospel Message Is Universal: "which has come to you, just as in all the world"

"also it is constantly bearing fruit" – A person in Christ is growing;
Mark 4:26-29 – "seed"

The Gospel Message Transforms Lives: "and increasing, even as it has been doing in you" – Romans 1:16.

Colossians 1:7

"learned" – "disciple"

"just as you learned it from Epaphras" – Colossians 1:7; 4:12;
Philemon 23.

"who is a faithful servant" – Faithfulness, reliability, greatest of complements, servant – "voluntary service, he was God's property"; "of Christ on our behalf,"

Colossians 1:8

2 Peter 3:17-18

Application:

1. The Term "Saints" – Means "set apart ones, holy ones"; People That Have Placed Their Faith In Jesus Christ. God Has Forgiven Their Sins And Set Them Apart For Himself. Holy Is What The Christian Desires To Be.
2. The Whole Christian Experience Can Be Summed Up In 3 Words – Faith, Hope and Love. These Are Also The Marks Of A Genuine Christian Church.
3. The Gospel Message Is Both Personal And Universal: Colossians 1:6.
4. The Gospel Message Transforms Lives: Colossians 1:6.