

Colossians

The city of Colossae was located the Lycus River valley in what is now part of Turkey. Its citizens were a mixture of Greek, Jewish, and native Phrygians, along with Roman soldiers. Paul, although he had never visited Colossae (2:1), wrote his letter to combat a heresy which was greatly influencing the Christians. The exact shape of that heresy is _____, however it clearly contained both pagan and Jewish elements and, though masquerading as a form of Christianity, it denied _____ His central place, and distorted the Christian lifestyle reflected in all the New Testament writings. There was a form of angel worship among the unsaved of Colossae, and from his letter was impacting the Church (2:18), along with OT Law carry over by those practicing Judaism.

There is great value in the Book of Colossians for Christians today. In warning those being influenced by an early heresy, the Apostle Paul has sketched for us a bright, clear _____ of Jesus Christ and His central role, not only in God's plan, but in our personal lives. Colossians is one of the most important of the New Testament letters in its clear affirmation of the headship of Jesus Christ in the Church, and explanation of how Jesus relates to our everyday experiences.

This letter was written by the Apostle Paul during his first Roman imprisonment, most likely between AD 59 and 61.

I. Introduction 1:1-14

A. Paul's greeting Vs 1-2

B. Heartfelt thanksgiving for the _____ of the Gospel Vs 3-8

1. **Saints Vs 4** The word, means holy ones or _____ apart ones, and is used to describe "believers" or "Christians."

2. **Bringing forth fruit Vs 6** It's good to remember when folks come crying for something better, that the Gospel has _____ its vitality and life-changing power the world over, in every age

C. A prayer which outlines the way to spiritual _____ Vs 9-11

1. _____ God's will for our life Vs 9

2. Have the _____ enablement to walk in God's will Vs 10

a. Producing _____ spiritually

b. _____ in one's knowledge of God

3. Strength spiritually to be patient and longsuffering while finding _____ in the Lord Vs 11

4. Remember who we _____ because of Christ Vs 12-14

a. We are _____ for the spiritual change that has brought eternal results in the Saint Vs 12

b. We are thankful because we have been _____ from our own self-destruction and given an eternal inheritance and citizenship in heaven Vs 13

c. We are thankful this is all made possible by the activity of Christ and not our own " _____ " Vs 14

II. The _____ of Christ Vs 15-23

A. Christ is _____ all Vs 15-18

1. Paul quickly draws the Colossians' attention to Christ. The Jesus Paul describes is the real Christ: The One in whom we find redemption and forgiveness. This Christ is the visible manifestation of the invisible God, the heir of all creation Vs 15

a. **Image-** _____, to be like, resemble

b. **Of the invisible God-**the _____ manifestation of the God who is invisible

2. This Christ is the _____ source of the visible and invisible universe, who not only made all things but whose power holds all things together **Vs 16-17**
 - a. Christ is the Creator, thus He is _____ **Vs 16 Cf. Genesis 1-2**
 - b. Christ is the _____, all powerful one **Vs 17**
 - c. Christ is the Creator of the _____ Church **Vs 18**

Church's

- (1) **The Head of the Church**-the _____ source of thinking and action for the Church
- (2) **The beginning**-the NT Church's foundation, the One on which the Church _____ build
- (3) **The firstborn from the dead**-The _____ of the resurrection to life
- (4) **That in all things he might have the preeminence**-Christ is the only One to whom the Church _____ its allegiance

- B. Christ being truly God, is the _____ avenue for reconciliation to God **Vs 19-20**
 1. God chose to show Himself to the world in the _____ of Jesus Christ **Vs 19**
 2. Christ's holy blood for sinners is _____ to bring sinful people into a sinless relationship with God **Vs 20**
 - a. **Made peace through the blood of his cross**-Calvary provided the necessary avenue for access to God by _____ people
 - b. **To reconcile**-set up a relationship of peace that had _____ existed before

- C. Christ is the _____ of Salvation **Vs 21-23**
 1. **Alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works**-estranged and _____ in ones thinking, thus in one's actions due to natural estranged and _____ toward God and His Word **Vs 21**
 2. Christ, by His sacrifice for sin, provided a way for alienated and wicked people to become holy, without blemish, and _____ before God **Vs 22**
 3. This supernatural change is _____ and not temporary **Vs 23**
 - a. **Continue in the faith**-a change that _____
 - b. **Grounded**-the Gospel become the _____ on which a believer builds a new life
 - c. **Settled**-a sense of _____ found in the Gospel that can be found nowhere else
 - d. **Not moved away from the hope of the Gospel**-Not leaving the belief and change brought about by the Gospel, since a _____ work has been done in the believer by God

_____ hostile behavior

- D. "Christ in You" is the content of Paul's Message **Vs 24-29**
 1. It was for preaching the message of the Gospel that Paul was in _____
 2. Paul preached the message of the Gospel because of the _____ in his own life
 3. Paul preached the message of the Gospel because he understood it as the most wonderful message God had for the _____
 4. Paul preached the message of the Gospel because he believed it to be the only hope for deliverance from eternal death in _____