

## Colossians

### Background

- The book of Colossians is one of the prison epistles, written around 60 A.D.
- Paul wrote Colossians because of association, not because of personal mission. Colosse was 90 miles from Ephesus and about 12 miles from Laodemia.
- Philemon was among those who came to hear Paul and was converted. Philemon went back to take part in the church at Colosse.
- Ephesians was a "companion" letter emphasizing "The church is the \_\_\_\_\_"; Colossians emphasized "Christ is the \_\_\_\_\_."
- Colossians was written to confront false teachings that were infiltrating the church: *Gnosticism*.

### Gnostic Teachings

- Salvation is obtained by wisdom (1:28)
- God did not create the universe directly, but rather He created one creature who created another until finally Christ—one of many, not monogenesis (1:15-19; 2:18)
- Asceticism: avoiding the joys of life and the practice of self-denial (2:16, 23)
- Licentiousness: unrestrained immorality (3:5-9)

### Outline

- What Christ Has Done (1:1–2:23)
- How Believers Should Live (3:1–4:18)

### Theme

**Colossians 1:1-8**—Paul's Connection at Colosse: Ephras

**Colossians 1:9-14**—Paul's Petition for Colosse

It is a prayer for \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**Colossians 1:15-29**—Paul's Intention at Colosse

The theme of Colossians is to \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ in the church and  
His \_\_\_\_\_ over all things.

### Insights

#### The Issue for Every Church in Every Generation: Christ and Christ Alone!

- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1:15)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1:16-17)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1:18)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1:19-20)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (1:21-29)

#### The Issues in Colosse and For Us Today

- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Law for all! (2:4, 8; 2:14)
- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us to live for Him. (1:27; 2:13-14)
- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us to a higher life. (3:1-4, 12-17)
- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ us to be "salt" in this world. (4:5-6; Matthew 5:13)

### Closing

Col. 4:7-17 = \_\_\_\_\_

I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand.  
Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

—Colossians 4:18 ESV