

COMMENTARY

COLOSSIANS

Introduction:

The apostle Paul wrote the letter of Colossians to the church at Colassae. Paul was familiar with this congregation and had probably visited when living for three years at Ephesus. Paul then wrote this letter around 58 A.D. from prison in Rome.

This is also one of the 4 Prison Epistles (the others being: Ephesians, Philipians and Philemon).

Paul wrote mainly concerning the Supremacy of Jesus Christ and how we as Christ's followers should live.

Chapter 1:

vs. 1-14

Paul begins by commending the Colossians on their faith in Christ and their love for their fellow believers. He states that the source of faith and love, is the hope that God has given us. That hope is eternal life. The gospel is spreading and others are growing closer to the Lord, Paul says.

Since Paul has recently heard of how well the Colossians have been doing, he has been praying for them that they might continually grow in knowledge of God's wisdom and understanding. They should be striving to live lives that are pleasing to God. As they grew in Christ, they would develop endurance and patience. The reason for continual faithfulness, is because of thankfulness that God has saved us from the power of sin and has forgiven us and made us a part of Christ's kingdom.

vs. 15-23

Paul continues to show that Christ has not only redeemed us and has made it possible for us to be forgiven; but that Jesus has done more than that and He is worthy of our service. Jesus is as God and was actively involved in the Creation; existing before Creation began, just as God did. Jesus now holds ALL things together. Not only was He part of Creation, but He is now Head of the Church, which serves as His body, doing His bidding on earth. He is the head because of His sacrificial death and the fact that He is the first ever to be raised from the dead and then never die again!

Because of Jesus, we are clean and are no longer the enemies of God. For that to remain true, we need to be faithful and firm, never moving from the hope given to us in the gospel.

COMMENTARY

COLOSSIANS 2:

vs. 1- 5:

Paul's purpose throughout his ministry was to help encourage Christians and help them be united in love. Then they would be able to enjoy the benefits of understanding God's mystery of sending Christ for the sake of mankind. Paul did not want anyone to be deceived by man's teaching and reminds them that even though he was not there physically, he was there in spirit.

vs. 6-23:

Paul charges the Colossians to continue to live for Christ, grow in faith and thankfulness. He warns them not to be led astray from serving Jesus, by legalism (following Jewish traditions and practices).

Paul reminds them that Jesus is as God in bodily form. They have already pledged their allegiance and service to Him, who is in control and rules over everything. Having been buried and raised (during baptism) through faith in God's power, they have become God's people (just as the Jews had formerly done when circumcised).

God has made Christians alive again in Christ, after they had been dead in sin. Sins have been forgiven, legalism was done away with, and all powers were disarmed through the power of Christ's death on the cross.

Since legalism was destroyed by Christ through His death on the cross, there is no reason ever to become subjected by it again. Those teaching traditions and manmade rules and regulations are teaching falsely and are not to be listened to. They are not following the leading of Christ. In fact, these false teachers have no part in Christ. Paul warns that these things may sound good and right, but they are not and will show their uselessness in time.

COLOSSIANS 3:

vs. 1-17

Paul moves from all that Christ has done to all that Christians should do. The place to start is with the mind and attitudes. Our attitudes are to conform and be centered on that which God would approve of. The time is coming when Christ will return and His people will spend eternity with Him, for they have died to their former way of life and turned their lives over to Him.

All sin is to be done away with in the Christians life. It no longer has any place, but should be replaced with a new life based on the knowledge of the Creator. Through Jesus, all have become equal and one.

After Christians put off the ways of the world, they now are to become: compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, forgiving and finally loving (this will unite God's people and allow them to truly become one). Christians should find peace and be thankful. Christ's teachings should be ingrained in our lives so we can teach and correct one another through the music that we share with gratitude to God. Whatever Christians do, is to be done for Christ, giving thanks to God for the possibility of such service for our King.

vs. 18-25

Paul reminds the Colossians of how they are to act and behave in their relationship with one another. The main issue that he stresses, is putting other people first and serving them. Husbands and wives are to act in each others best interest. Children and Fathers are to get along, as children obey, and fathers act in a manner which will keep their children from being discouraged. Employes and employees act in one anothers best interest, just as they would if they were serving Christ. In reality, it is the Lord that we are serving at work and not our companies.

Those who fail to treat their spouses, parents, children, employees or employers improperly, will be punished by God for the wrong that they have done.

COLOSSIANS 4:

vs. 1- 6:

Paul concludes his past section with instructing employers to be fair with their employees.

Paul challenges them to become people who pray. He asks for their prayers for his ministry, that he will be effective for Christ. He reminds them to be kind and considerate to others, making the most of every opportunity, including what you say. In this way, they can have a greater impace on winning people to Christ and will be able to avoid just criticism.

vs. 7-18:

Paul informs them that he is sending Tychicus and Onesimus to them at Colassae, to let them know how he is doing. He also tells them about some of the other people that are in Rome, that he is around, people that they know and might be wondering about. After updating them on these individuals, he closes his letter.

STUDY GUIDE

COLOSSIANS 1:

1. What do faith and love, spring from?
2. What is the gospel producing all over the world?
3. What did Paul ask God, to fill the Colossians with?
4. What type of life did Paul want the Colossians to live?
5. Why were they being strengthened? (see vs. 11, 12)
6. What do we have, in Jesus? (see verse 14)
7. What was created by Christ?
8. What does Jesus hold together?
9. What is Christ the head of?
10. Why were the Colossians enemies of God, in their minds?
11. What did Paul tell them to continue in, and not move from?
12. Why did Paul proclaim, admonish and teach?

BONUS:

1. Explain the importance of faith, hope and love.
2. Who created the world, God or Christ? Explain.
3. Explain what "perfect in Christ" means.

STUDY GUIDE

COLOSSIANS 2:

1. What was Paul's purpose?
2. What was Paul concerned about the Colossians being deceived by?
3. How did Paul want them to live in Christ?
4. What did Paul not want them taken captive by?
5. What lives in Christ, in bodily form?
6. How have we been buried and raised with Christ?
7. What has God cancelled?
8. What are they not to let others judge them by?
9. What do some delight in? (see vs. 18)
10. How does the body grow?
11. Why were the rules, destined to perish?
12. What do such regulations appear to have, and what do they lack?

BONUS:

1. Why do you think Paul stresses unity and oneness?
2. How are people taken captive by deceptive philosophy?
3. Explain what Christ accomplished on the cross.

STUDY GUIDE

COLOSSIANS 3:

1. What are we to set our hearts on?
2. Where will we appear, when Christ appears?
3. What are we to put to death?
4. What are we to rid ourselves of?
5. How is our new self, being renewed?
6. What are God's people to clothe themselves with?
7. What does love do, to the virtues mentioned?
8. How do we teach and admonish one another?
9. How are we to do, whatever we do in word or deed?
10. How are husbands and wives to relate to each other?
11. How are slaves to obey, in everything?
12. Who are we serving?

BONUS:

1. What do you need to put to death and rid yourself of?
2. What virtues do you need to clothe yourself with?
3. How can you do everything in the name of Jesus, giving thanks?

STUDY GUIDE

COLOSSIANS 4:

1. What are the masters to provide their slaves with?
2. What were they to devote themselves to?
3. What are they to make the most of?
4. What does Paul say about one's conversation?
5. How is Tychicus described?
6. What was the purpose of sending Tychicus?
7. How is Onesimus described?
8. How is Epaphras described?
9. What was Epaphras praying for?
10. What were they to do, after they read the letter?
11. What were they to tell Archippus?
12. What were they to remember?

BONUS:

1. Are employers fair and right, in what they pay employees? Do employees expect too much? Explain.
2. How do our actions and conversation affect evangelism?
3. How would the Apostle Paul describe you?

