

# Colossians

“Christ the Fullness of God”

Colossae, Laodicea and Hierapolis were a tri-city group a days walk from each other in Asia Minor (Turkey)

It set on the trade route going east to the Euphrates river through the “Lycus Valley”

It was a multi-ethnic city with Phrygians, Greeks and Jews

From the west came the philosophy of “dualism”

A spiritual (*buffer*) realm exists between the physical realm and where god(s) dwelt

*Spirit world    good                      physical world    bad*

Through self denial you can navigate through the spiritual realm into the presence of god(s)

From the east, Jewish belief was that the way to God was through obedience to the Torah

When the church was established, they tried to mix the Biblical view with the world view of east and west

This is called “Syncretism”



1<sup>st</sup> 46-48AD

2<sup>nd</sup> 49-52AD

3<sup>rd</sup> 46-48AD

Rome 59-60AD

# Lycus River Valley



## Paul's ministry in Ephesus – 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey

Ac 19:8 Then Paul went to the synagogue and preached boldly for the next three months, arguing persuasively about the Kingdom of God.

9 But some became stubborn, rejecting his message and publicly speaking against the Way. So, Paul left the synagogue and took the believers with him. Then he held daily discussions at the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

10 This went on for the next two years, so that people throughout the province of Asia--both Jews and Greeks--heard the word of the Lord. *(NLT)*

Ac 19:8 Durante unos tres meses, entrando en la sinagoga, Pablo predicaba con valentía discutiendo y persuadiendo acerca de las cosas del reino de Dios.

9 Pero como algunos se endurecían y rehusaban creer, hablando mal del Camino delante de la multitud, se separó de ellos y tomó a los discípulos aparte, discutiendo cada día en la escuela de Tirano.

10 Esto continuó por dos años, de manera que todos los que habitaban en Asia, tanto judíos como griegos, oyeron la palabra del Señor.

Epaphras was a hometown boy from Colossae

He had heard Paul's teaching during his time in Ephesus (Ac 19) and believed the "Good News"

Paul sent him to return to his home, where he began a small fellowship, the church at Colossae

About 10 years later Paul is under house arrest in Rome where he ministers to a slave who had stolen from his master

His name is Onesimus, the slave of Philemon

Epaphras has sent a message to Paul concerning the mixing of the "Good News" with philosophy from the east and the traditions of the east

Paul's response to those concerns is what we call the "Letter to the Colossians"

**I. Doctrine: “what you need to know”** **ch. 1**

- A. Greetings 1:1-12
- B. Christ alone is Redeemer 1:13-14
- C. Christ alone is Creator 1:15-27
- D. Christ alone is Head of the church 1:24-29

**II. Danger: “what you need to avoid”** **ch. 2**

- A. warnings from Paul 2:1-5
- B. about philosophy 2:6-12
- C. about legalism 2:13-17
- D. about spiritism 2:18-19
- E. about tradition 2:20-23

### III. Duty: “what you need to do”

chs.3-4

- A. In Christlike purity 3:1-11
- B. In Christlike fellowship 3:12-17
- C. In the Christlike home 3:18-21
- D. In Christlike service 3:22-4:17
- E. Salutation 4:18



A. Greetings 1:1–12

**Col 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,  
and Timothy our brother,  
**2** To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in  
Colosse:

Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Col 1:1 Pablo, apóstol de Cristo Jesús por la voluntad de  
Dios, y el hermano Timoteo;  
**2** a los hermanos santos y fieles en Cristo que están en  
Colosas:

Gracia a vosotros  
y paz,  
de parte de Dios nuestro Padre.

apostle – apostolos = one specifically sent (*Heb – shi lach = to go forth, dispatch*)

grace Grk - charis = unmerited or unearned kindness (*Heb – che sed = favor, kindness, to stoop to help to lift up, mercy*)

peace Grk - ee-ray-nay = quietness, rest (*Heb - shalom*)

Col 1:3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4 For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people,

5 which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

Col 1:3 Damos gracias a Dios, el Padre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, orando siempre por vosotros;

4 porque hemos oído de vuestra fe en Cristo Jesús y del amor que tenéis por todos los santos,

5 a causa de la esperanza reservada para vosotros en los cielos, de la cual habéis oído en la palabra de verdad del evangelio

Good News - yoo-ang-ghel'-ee-on = good message

Good message or good speech in 18<sup>th</sup> century Anglo Saxon is “*got spiel*”

**Gospel**

Col 1:6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.

8 He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

Col 1:6 que ha llegado a vosotros. Y así como está llevando fruto y creciendo en todo el mundo, lo mismo sucede también entre vosotros desde el día en que oísteis y comprendisteis de veras la gracia de Dios;

7 tal como aprendisteis de Epafra, nuestro consiervo amado, quien es fiel ministro de Cristo a vuestro favor.

8 El también nos ha informado de vuestro amor en el Espíritu.

Col 1:9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

10 Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,

12 always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

Col 1:9 Por esta razón también nosotros, desde el día en que lo oímos, no cesamos de orar por vosotros y de rogar que seáis llenos del conocimiento de su voluntad en toda sabiduría y plena comprensión espiritual;

10 para que andéis como es digno del Señor, a fin de agradarle en todo; de manera que produzcaís fruto en toda buena obra y que crezcáis en el conocimiento de Dios;

11 y que seáis fortalecidos con todo poder, conforme a su gloriosa potencia, para toda perseverancia y paciencia.

12 Con gozo damos gracias al Padre que os hizo aptos para participar de la herencia de los santos en luz.

I. “what you need to know” ch. 1

B. Christ alone is Redeemer 1:13–14

Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,  
14 who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Col 1:13 El nos ha librado de la autoridad de las tinieblas y nos ha trasladado al reino de su Hijo amado,  
14 en quien tenemos redención, el perdón de los pecados.

1<sup>st</sup> rescued - rhoo'-om-ahee = deliver (*from a rushing current*)

2<sup>nd</sup> transferred - meth-is'-tay-mee = to turn away, to transfer, remove

3<sup>rd</sup> purchased - ap-ol-oo'-tro-sis = to ransom, to redeem

4<sup>th</sup> forgave - af'-es-is = liberty, freedom, pardon

