

INTRODUCTION TO Colossians

READ ALONG

☐ 06/04-06/05 Colossians 1-4

WHERE IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

- 48. GALATIANS
- 49. EPHESIANS
- 50. PHILIPPIANS
- 51. **COLOSSIANS**
- 52. 1 THESSALONIANS
- 53. 2 THESSALONIANS
- 54. 1 TIMOTHY

KEY THEME

Jesus Christ is supreme over all and our relationship with him is sufficient for us to gain the wisdom and knowledge needed to flourish in our lives.

KEY FACTS

Colossians is a letter from the Apostle Paul to the young church in Colossae. It is considered one of the “prison epistles” (along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon) and could have been written by Paul during one of multiple stints in prison (Ephesus, Caesarea, or Rome). Paul is writing to encourage the church toward thankfulness to God for Jesus Christ and growth in their Christian walk. He warns them about the dangers of the false teaching of Judaism and worldly philosophy by clearly teaching about the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus. Jesus is the creator of all that is, the head of the church, and the one through whom we have forgiveness of sins and hope for eternity. The letter is a brilliant, even if short, masterpiece that centers on Christ and how he impacts our lives as Christians (cf., 3:11, Christ is all and in all).

KEY TEXTS

- 1:15-20 – Christ Hymn
- 2:3 – *In him (Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*
- 2:6-7 – *So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.*
- 2:9 – *For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ*
- 3:2 – *Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things*
- 3:3-4 – *For you died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*
- 3:17 – *And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

BASIC STRUCTURE

4 CHAPTERS



BOOK BASICS



DATE
50's-60's AD



TYPE
Epistle



AUTHOR
Paul & Timothy

COLOSSAE

Colossae was a small town on the banks of the Lycus river in south-east Asia Minor (modern day Turkey near Denizli). While at one time a significant trade route via the Meander river, routes changed and Colossae, along with Hierapolis and Laodicea, were left to relative insignificance. About 120 miles from Ephesus, the area was home to a significant number of Jews from the diaspora and Paul's warnings include the dangers of submitting to Judaism as well as to pagan philosophies of the world.

CHURCH

The church at Colossae was not planted by the Apostle Paul, but he had heard of their faith from a Colossian believer named Epaphras. Most likely, Epaphras had heard the gospel in Ephesus under Paul's ministry and returned to plant the church. Epaphras then returned at some point and Paul heard about their “love in the Spirit” (1:8). Paul states, “Epaphras, who is one of you, . . . is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured of everything God wills” (4:12).