Colossians

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# Introduction to Colossians; Colossians 1

“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. **Him we preach**, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 1:27, 28

1. City of Colosse.

a. Located in the Lycus Valley about 100 miles east of Ephesus, by the first century Colosse was somewhat overshadowed by the neighboring cities of Hierapolis and Laodicea.

b. Historically considered a Phyrgian city, the Romans had made it part of the province of Asia.

c. Though it was a Gentile city and the church appears to have been predominantly Gentile, there was a significant Jewish population in the region.

2. Establishment of the church.

a. How long did Paul spend in Asia (Ephesus) on his third preaching journey?

b. Though it would appear that Paul had not personally preached in Colosse (Col. 2:1), the church probably began during the time he was preaching in Ephesus. Acts 19:10

c. Epaphras seems to have been the one who first took the gospel to Colosse. Col. 1:6, 7

3. The epistle to the Colossians.

a. Written about the same time as Ephesians, it was carried by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Col. 4:7-9

b. Though there are many similarities to Ephesians, there is one major difference. False teachers were causing great problems for the Colossian saints.

c. There is much uncertainty about the exact nature of the “Colossian heresy.”

1) Some believe it reflects an early form of Gnosticism, a philosophy popularized in the second century.

2) Others believe it was primarily a Jewish heresy, but with a greater emphasis on philosophical and mystical elements than the Judaizers encountered in Acts 15; Galatians; Romans; et al.

3) Whatever the exact nature of the problem might have been, the solution was to hold fast to the Head (Col. 2:19). Jesus was the answer to the Colossian heresy. Col. 2:8-10

4. Define the word saints.

5. Paul gave thanks because he had heard about the Colossians’ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for all the saints.

6. Where was the Colossians’ hope laid up?

7. Epaphras is mentioned twice in Colossians and once in Philemon. List as many facts as you can about him.

8. Paul’s prayer for the brethren (1:9-11). He desired that they…

a. Be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His will.

b. Walk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, being \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in every good work and increasing in the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God.

c. Be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with all might, according to His glorious power, for all

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. For what things was Paul thankful in 1:12, 13?

10. In Christ we have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through His blood, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of sins.

11. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over all creation.

12. How many times is the word *all* used in 1:15-18 to show the preeminence of Christ?

13. Through what did Jesus did make peace and reconcile all things to Himself?

14. The body of Christ’s flesh through death (i.e. the cross) brought reconciliation, but what condition did Paul attach to their being presented to God above reproach?

15. Paul rejoiced in his sufferings for the sake of Christ’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

16. What is the Christian’s hope of glory?

17. What did Paul hope to accomplish through his preaching of Christ as he warned and taught in all wisdom?

# Colossians 2

“As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:6-10

1. One of the “secrets” to Paul’s success was his great concern for people. V. 1 is his assurance to the Colossians and Laodiceans that even though he had never seen most of them he was as concerned about them as he was any other saints.

2. What did the apostle desire for their hearts?

3. Whatever the exact nature of the Colossian heresy, Christ was the answer.

a. What was hidden in Christ?

b. As they had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Christ Jesus the Lord, they were to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

c. They were to be rooted and built up in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

d. What dwelt in Christ?

e. The Colossians were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

f. In Him they were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ made without hands.

g. They were buried with Him in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. What was Paul worried that some might do with persuasive words (plausible arguments—ESV)?

5. The Colossians were warned not to be cheated by what?

6. Read Gal. 5:1-6.

a. What would happen to those who were circumcised as a Mosaic ordinance? 5:2

b. They would also become debtors (obligated) to keep the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

c. Fleshly circumcision no longer mattered, but God desires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ working through

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. What other NT passage speaks of being buried in baptism?

9. The Christian is raised by faith in what?

10. Cf. Col. 2:13-17 and Eph. 2:14-18.

a. What was done with the handwriting of requirements that was against us?

b. The Law with its regulations of food, drink, holy days, etc. was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of

things to come, but the real \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is of Christ.

11. While ch. 3 will deal with things Christians are to avoid, Col. 2:16-23 is a warning not to allow others to impose their own rigid laws on them.

12. The nourishment of the body takes place when all hold fast to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

# Colossians 3:1—4:1

“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”

Colossians 3:1, 2

1. When were the Colossian saints “raised with Christ?”

2. According to 3:3, 4, why are we to seek the things above?

3. List at least three practical ways seeking the things above will affect our daily lives.

4. What does it mean to put to death your members which are on the earth?

5. List and give a brief definition for each of the sins listed in 3:5.

6. Because of such sins as those in 3:5, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God was coming.

7. What is the difference between wrath and anger?

8. What reason is given for not lying?

9. The new man is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in knowledge according to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of

Him who created him.

10. List and define the different things the elect of God are expected to put on.

11. Singing not only gives praise to God, but it can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

fellow-saints.

12. What does it mean to do all things in the name of the Lord?

13. What instructions are given in this passage to…

a. Wives?

b. Husbands?

c. Children?

d. Fathers?

e. Bondservants?

f. Masters?

14. Bondservants were to heed these instructions because if they did well they would receive the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the inheritance.

15. Why were masters to treat their servants properly?

# Colossians 4

“Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:6

1. “Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving….” Col. 4:2 (NKJV).

a. Find two other NT passages that exhort devotion to prayer.

b. What does it mean to be vigilant in one’s prayers?

2. What did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for on his behalf?

3. Read 4:5 carefully. List some things that should characterize our relationships with “outsiders.”

4. What does it mean to have speech that is with grace and seasoned with salt?

5. Why was Tychicus being sent to the Colossians?

6. Paul urged the Colossians to receive Mark if he came to them. How did Paul feel about Mark at the time of Acts 15? Where does Paul describe Mark as useful to him?

7. Epaphras was said to have labored fervently (struggled) for the Colossians in his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Epaphras was not only concerned for the Colossians, but also for the brethren in what two cities?

9. Find two other New Testament references to Demas.

10. Other than Colosse, where was this letter to be read?

11. What other New Testament book mentions Archippus?

12. What instructions did Paul give Archippus?

13. Why did Paul add a salutation with his own hand? Cf. 2 Thes. 3:17.