

Colossians Introduction

1. Context

- a. Colossae was in Phrygia, in Asia minor. Paul had been through here before, but has not met the audience he writes to in the epistles to the Colossians. (Acts 18:23, Col 1:4, 8)
- b. Paul is in bonds, there are no mentions of sign gifts. (Col 4:3)
- c. Clearly speaks of the revelation of the mystery of Christ. "mystery" **4x** → (Col 1:26, 1:27, 2:2, 4:3)
- d. The Colossians:
 - i. Saved members of the body at Colosse, heard gospel through Epaphras. Paul has not met them. (Col 1:5-7)
 - ii. Were affected by philosophy and vain deceit. (Col 2:3, 2:8)
 - iii. Letter also shared with Laodicea - (Col 4:16)

2. Purpose of the Book

- a. To be filled with the knowledge of His will... (Col 1:9)
- b. That ye may walk worthy... (Col 1:10)
- c. In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. (Col 2:3, Eph 3:8)
- d. That ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. (Col 4:12, 2 Tim 3:16-17)

3. Passages we Often Reference

- a. **1:9-10** (filled with knowledge, worthy walk), **1:14** (redemption through His blood), **1:16** (Jesus Christ created all things), **1:25-26** (dispensation of God, mystery)
- b. **2:6** (so walk ye in Him), **2:10** (ye are complete in Him), **2:14-15** (making a show of principalities and powers)
- c. **3:2** (affection on things above), **3:10** (ye have put on the new man), **3:23** (whatsoever ye do)

4. General Overview/Themes of Colossians

1. Greetings (Col 1:1-2)
2. Thanksgiving for faith and growth (Col 1:3-8)
3. Desire for understanding that would produce service (Col 1:9-11)
4. Gospel, who Christ is and what He's accomplished (Col 1:12-22)
5. Ministering the mystery (Col 1:23-2:3)
6. Warning against men's wisdom (Col 2:4-9)
7. Completeness in Christ (Col 2:10-15)
8. Stand fast in the liberty (Col 2:16-23)
9. Our life in Christ (Col 3:1-4)
10. Our death to the world (Col 3:5-7)
11. The one new man (Col 3:8-11)
12. Reasonable service (Col 3:12-4:6)
13. Salutations and faithful workers (Col 4:7-18)