

Colossians: The All-Sufficiency of Christ

Jesus is God and Nothing Less. In Him You Have All You Need. Cancel the Quest for Something More.



Paul's Connection with the Colossian Church

1. The Colossian church was not started by Paul (1:4; 2:1).
2. The church was likely started during Paul's extended stay in Ephesus recorded in Acts 19 during his 3rd missionary journey.
3. It was likely started by Paul's co-worker Epaphras (1:7; 4:12-13) who was a local convert.
4. Epaphras also worked at the church in the nearby cities of Hierapolis and Laodicea (4:13).
5. Colossians and Philemon are written during Paul's Roman "house arrest" along with Ephesians & Philippians.



The Colossian "Heresy"

1. Philosophical Character (1:19; 2:3)
2. Human traditions (2:8)
3. Religious laws and festivals (2:16)
4. Following a dietary code (2:16,21)
5. Veneration of angels (2:8,18)
6. Asceticism (2:20)
7. Attacks on the centrality of Christ (1:15-19;2:9-10)
8. A tendency toward exclusivism (1:20,28, 3:11)

Personal Christ is Sufficient for Ministry				Doctrinal Christ is Sufficient for Salvation		Practical Christ is Sufficient for Sanctification					
Epistolary Prescript: Salutation and Greeting		Thanksgiving and Prayer		A High Christology Proclaimed and Applied		A Heavenly Perspective in Your Mind		Lifestyle Evangelism:		Greetings from the Pauline Circle	
Thankful for Faith, Hope, and Love (1:3-8)		Praying for Pleasing Fruit (1:9-14)		A Warning about Empty and Deceptive Teachings (2:8)		Christ frees us to have God's perspective on the source of life found in Christ (3:1-4)		Pray for the clear proclamation of the Mystery of Christ (4:2-5).		Establishing lines of communication (4:7-9)	
Biographical Prologue: The Supremacy of Christ		The supremacy of Christ in Creation, the Church & Redemption (1:15-23)		Christ, who is fully God, has victoriously brought us fullness of life and forgiveness of indebtedness as a demonstration of His power.		God's chosen people live a new lifestyle of love and Christian character. (3:5-14)		Live a winsome life and know your theology (4:6).		Greetings from friends and neighbors (4:10-17)	
Creation (1:15-18) • The Church (1:19-20) • Salvation (1:21-23)		Paul's Ministry of Proclaiming the Mystery of Fullness in Christ (1:24-2:5)		Christ is the reality of which all other religious ritual activities and practices are merely a shadow (2:16-19).		The peace and message of Christ are to control our thinking, speaking and living. Christ at the Center (3:15-17) • Marriage (3:18-19) • Family (3:20-21) • Employment (3:22-4:1)		Christ at the Center (3:15-17) • Marriage (3:18-19) • Family (3:20-21) • Employment (3:22-4:1)		Epistolary Postscript: Reminder and Blessings	
Mystery: Christ in You (1:24-27) • Purpose: Unified in Maturity (1:27-2:5)				Christ frees us from legalistic human rules and regulations.		Christ frees us from legalistic human rules and regulations.					
Free from Man Made Rituals (2:16-17)		Free from Secret Knowledge (2:18-19)		Free from Man Made Rules (2:20-23)							
2:8		2:23		3:1		4:1		4:2		4:18	
Introduction				Body				Conclusion			
Prescript		Exordium		Probatio (Development and Defense)				Peroratio		Postscript	
Narratio		Propositio									

Main Idea: Live Life with Christ at the Center (2:6-7)

When Epaphras reported that the healthy church at Colossae was encountering false teaching that diminished the sufficiency of Christ, Paul wrote to the church from prison affirming the deity and supremacy of Jesus Christ and reminding them that in Christ they have all they need for maturity and godliness in order to make it clear they should not be seeking after anything other than fullness in Christ.