

## Colossians Overview Study Guide

Who wrote Colossians? \_\_\_\_\_, with \_\_\_\_\_ assisting him.

When was it written? AD \_\_\_\_\_ while Paul was in \_\_\_\_\_.

What are the "prison" epistles? Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Who was it written to? The \_\_\_\_\_ in Colossae, located in the Roman province of \_\_\_\_\_. Colossae was probably the smallest and \_\_\_\_\_ important city that Paul ever wrote to.

With Paul teaching in Ephesus for about 2.5 years, Acts 19:10 tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord. The residents of Colossae heard about the gospel from \_\_\_\_\_, who had traveled to Ephesus and become a believer under Paul's preaching and then later returned home.

The population of Colossae was predominately \_\_\_\_\_ but included a Jewish community.

The Colossian church was at risk because serious heresy (\_\_\_\_\_ teaching) had arisen.

Epaphras was so concerned he made a 1000+ mile trip to \_\_\_\_\_ to visit Paul. Paul wrote Colossians to warn the believers against the heresy and to prevent them from \_\_\_\_\_ thinking and believing.

### Heretics

- Gentile \_\_\_\_\_, viewing gospel as too simplistic. They \_\_\_\_\_ the humanity and deity of Christ and His sufficiency for salvation.
- Asceticism (\_\_\_\_\_ -denial and severe bodily \_\_\_\_\_)
- Worship of angels and visions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Jewish practices (circumcision, religious feasts/holidays, dietary laws).

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Why was Colossians written? To 1) expose \_\_\_\_\_ teaching and 2) to teach about the supremacy, sufficiency, and preeminence of \_\_\_\_\_. Preeminence means Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ in everything – in importance, in honor, in exaltation. To counter the false teaching, Paul focused on \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ.

**Who Christ is** (much of this comes from Curtis Vaughan in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*)

- God's \_\_\_\_\_ (1:13)
- Our redeemer who forgives our sins (1:14)
- The \_\_\_\_\_ image of the invisible God (1:15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ and supreme over all creation (1:16)
- Holds everything together (1:17)
- \_\_\_\_\_ of the church (1:18)
- Preeminent – first in \_\_\_\_\_ (1:18)
- All God's fullness lives in Him (1:19 and 2:9)
- Reconciler of the universe and peacemaker (1:20)
- Christ living in us is our \_\_\_\_\_ of glory (1:27)
- Source of all treasures of wisdom and knowledge (2:3)
- Over all power and authorities (2:10)
- Makes us \_\_\_\_\_ in Him (2:13)
- The victor on the cross, triumphing over all (2:15)
- Enables our Christian growth (2:19)
- \_\_\_\_\_ at God's right hand (3:1)
- Completes, hides, and protects us (2:10, 3:3)

How did the letter get to Colossae? Paul entrusted Tychicus with three epistles; in Colossae, he delivered \_\_\_\_\_ and Philemon. Tychicus was accompanied by a runaway \_\_\_\_\_ named Onesimus. Onesimus' master was \_\_\_\_\_, who also was a believer and leader in the Colossian church.

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### Structure of Colossians

Chapters 1 & 2	Chapters 3 & 4
Provide doctrinal truth about Jesus	Practically bring truth to life to transform lives, _____ us in Christ-likeness, and impact _____
Supremacy of Christ over _____	Submission to Christ
Doctrine about Christ to correct _____ thinking	Practical instruction for _____ living
What Christ _____ for us	What Christ _____ through us (or how Christians should live)

The emphasis in Ephesians is on the church, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ; the emphasis in Colossians is on \_\_\_\_\_, the head of the body.

Paul was an \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ Jesus, an \_\_\_\_\_ spokesman for God. What he says isn't his opinion, it is \_\_\_\_\_'s word. Paul's authority as an apostle and recognized church leader gave him \_\_\_\_\_ in declaring truth about Christ and refuting false teaching.

Timothy, a beloved companion of Paul, acted as a \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul.

Paul addressed Colossians to the \_\_\_\_\_ and faithful brothers in Christ. A saint is someone set apart by God.

Paul used the greeting "grace to you and peace" at the start of all 13 of his New Testament letters. \_\_\_\_\_ is God's favor of undeserved kindness, and \_\_\_\_\_ is the result that comes to all who receive God's grace. \_\_\_\_\_ pictures God stooping down to sinful men and women in loving, tender compassion; \_\_\_\_\_ is the result in the life of

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someone who accepts God's grace as a free gift. Peace comes from the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, not the absence of trouble.

Our culture today is permeated with \_\_\_\_\_ against authority and against holding fast to absolutes taught in Scripture. \_\_\_\_\_ is viewed as relative. Claiming one religion is exclusively true is regarded as \_\_\_\_\_ and bigoted. Our culture demands we be \_\_\_\_\_, accepting, and tolerant of anyone with any belief; Jesus is not viewed as \_\_\_\_\_.

### Instructions to Stimulate our Christian Maturity

- Grow in learning to know God better and better (1:10)
- Continue in the faith, firmly established and \_\_\_\_\_ (1:23)
- Have roots that grow deep, lives built on Him, faith growing strong in truth, overflowing with \_\_\_\_\_ (2:7)
- Set our hearts on the realities of heaven (3:1)
- Let Christ's peace rule in our hearts (3:15)
- Let God's \_\_\_\_\_ have its home in our hearts (3:16)
- Sing with thankfulness in our hearts (3:16)
- Do everything in dependence on Christ as His representative (3:17)
- Continue \_\_\_\_\_ in prayer (4:2)
- Make the \_\_\_\_\_ of every opportunity (4:5)

Knowing the truths in Colossians will \_\_\_\_\_ our faith, increase the \_\_\_\_\_ of our salvation, and make us more confident of God's ability to use us for great things.

In the ESV Bible, "steadfast" appears \_\_\_\_\_ times, predominantly referring to God's love.

Colossians 1:23 "If you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the

gospel that you heard...." **Steadfast** can be defined as firm, \_\_\_\_\_, loyal,

unswerving, immovable, without shifting, resolute, rock \_\_\_\_\_. I Cor. 15:58, Psalm 57:7



**Christ  
Preeminent in All Things  
Supreme Lord - Sufficient Savior**

Colossians 1	Colossians 2	Colossians 3	Colossians 4
<b>Supremacy of Christ</b>		<b>Submission to Christ</b>	
Doctrinal and Corrective		Practical and Reassuring	
What Christ Did For Us		What Christ Does Through Us	
Christ Our Lord		Christ Our Life	Christ our Love
Christ the Head of the Body	Christ the Lord of the Universe	Christ the Head of the Home	
Instruction	Warnings	Exhortations	Reminders
Reconciliation	Creation	Submission	Conversation
His Person and Word		His Peace and Presence	