

Paul's Letter to the Colossians...

A verse by verse study of the book of Colossians...

Colossians 1

The book of Colossians is actually one of Paul's Prison Letters
written from a prison
in Rome during his 2 years of confinement...

The letter was address to the Colossians located in the city of
Colosse...

The City of Colosse was located approx 100 miles from the city
of Ephesus
where Paul directed his letter to the Ephesian Church...

*As we study this letter, we'll discover that the letter written to
the Colossians
is closely linked to the letter written to the Ephesian...*

The Church at Colosse was made up of mainly Gentile believers
who
were led to Christ by one of Paul's co-laborers Epaphras...

Although the church was growing in their Faith, the church itself
was under a subtle but significant attack... These Believers were
being exposed to a local heresy that threatened
to deprive them of many if not all of their Spiritual Blessings...

These people were dealing with some of the same things the church is confronted with today...

The church was being presented with a mixed message...

Christianity was being mixed with Paganism and Judaism diluting the message of the Gospel and the Preeminence of Jesus...

Therefore Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians to establish Jesus as Supreme Lord in who's sufficiency the believer finds completeness...

Vs.1-2... Paul's Salutation to the Colossians...

Vs.1... The letter was authored by Paul and Timothy...

Vs.2... Paul uses his traditional greeting of Grace and Peace...

Grace is unmerited favor and Peace is Shalom; nothing missing, nothing lacking, and nothing broken...

The greeting suggest that God will give to them that which is not deserved

while providing them with everything they would ever need...

Vs.3-8... Paul's Praise for the Colossians...

He praise them for:

Vs.3-4a... Their faith in Jesus...

Vs.4b... Their love for other believers...

True faith in Jesus should always be followed by a genuine love for the brethren...

Vs.5-6nl... Their hope for future Glory...
The Colossians believers maintained a joyful expectation of their future in Heaven...

The **Gospel** Paul mentions in vs.5 is **The Gospel of Grace...**

*Wherever the Gospel of Grace is proclaimed,
it will bring forth the fruit of Supernatural Lifestyle Transformation...*

Vs.7-8... Epaphras was considered their Pastor or a faithful servant of this church...
As leaders we are SERVANTS and not CELEBRITIES...

Vs.9-14... Paul's Prayer for the Colossians...

Paul prayed that they would:

- 1) vs.9... **Filled with the Knowledge of God's will...**
 - A) Understanding or Revealed insight into God's will...
 - B) Wisdom or Proper application of that insight...

- 2) vs.10... **Honor God through their lifestyle...**

- A) By being fruitful in GOOD works...
- B) By increasing in their knowledge of God...

3) vs.11... Be Strengthened by God's Power...

Which would allow them to operate with endurance, patience,
and joy...

4) vs.12... Operate with an Attitude of Gratitude...

*Regardless of where we are in life, we always have something
to be thankful for...*

Vs.13-14...

... We've been qualified or enabled to share in the inheritance set
aside for His people...

... We've been delivered or rescued from darkness...

That's the work of our Redeemer...

... We've been transferred into His Kingdom...

... We've been Redeemed by His Blood and Forgiven of our
sins...

Vs.15-23... Paul's Message to the Colossians...

Because of the false teaching that had infiltrated the church,
*Paul's message was given to establish the Preeminence of
Jesus:*

- In Creation... Vs.15-17nlt...

Image means the EXACT Revelation and Representation of
God...

- In the Church... Vs.18nlt...

We certainly need to reestablish this in the church of today...

- In Reconciliation... Vs.19-23...

Because of the Blood of Jesus even though we may miss it sometimes; We are at Peace with God...

God is not mad at us!!!

Vs.23... **If** (or *ei ge* in the Greek) is not a conditional expression or an expression of doubt;

It's actually translated *inasmuch as or since...*

Vs.24-29... Paul's Ministry to the Colossians...

Paul's ministry to this church included revealing to them God's previously hidden plan for His Church...

Vs.24-27... *The Particulars of the Revelation...*

Christ now lives in you, and this is your hope for both present and future Glory...

Vs.28-28... *The Purpose of the Revelation...*

To present the Colossians believers to God Perfect or mature in their relationship to Jesus Christ...

Also cause them to know that God sees them as perfect because of their position IN CHRIST...