

Colossians

Breakdown

- Colossians is the 7th epistle in the New Testament and was written by Paul to the church at Colossae which is a small city located in modern day Turkey.
- Paul didn't ever visit the city of Colossae, but while he was in Ephesus, Epaphras was there. He heard Paul's messages and retold them in his hometown of Colossae.
- Paul wrote this letter to the Colossian Church during his imprisonment in Rome around 62 A.D. This letter and the letter to the Ephesian Church were both delivered by Tychicus.

Main Points

- According to God's plan of redemption, Jesus is now the way that we are reconnected with God, and He is also the fulfillment of everything we need while we live here on the earth. As people who had lived their entire lives under the Old Covenant and the Law, it was hard for some in the early churches to believe that salvation comes through grace and not by following the letter of the Law. Because they found it difficult to fully believe in Jesus, some strict Jews tried to add certain requirements from the Law to this new faith.
- Even though Paul had never actually met the believers in Colossae, he wanted to encourage the church and head off any persuasive arguments from false teachers. Jesus' sacrifice changed everything for all believers because anything we could ever want or need can only be found in Him, and Paul wanted everyone to understand that.

Did you know?

- Paul said that he always prayed for the believers at Colossae that God would give them complete knowledge of His will with spiritual wisdom and understanding. What did Paul say believers would do when that happened?
- Even though God is invisible, there is a way that we can clearly see Him. What did Paul say was the visible image of God?
- There is a message that was kept a mystery throughout all the past generations. What did Paul say the mystery was?
- Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to "put on" several characteristics of Christ. What did Paul say we should clothe ourselves with above all?
- Paul said believers should do all their work as if they were working for God. What is our reward for do this? What happens if we don't do this?
- Colossae was located very near 2 other cities that Paul said that Epaphras was working hard for. What were the other 2 cities?

Further Thought

- Paul encouraged the Colossian believers to be sure of their belief in Jesus and to guard their minds against anyone or anything that might try to persuade them of a different way. Is it important for us to guard our minds? What can we do to protect our faith in Jesus?
- Paul said that since we have a new life in Christ, we should set our sights on the realities of heaven and not think about the things of the earth. Why should we think about heaven instead of the things of the earth? How can we keep our thoughts on the right things?