

COLOSSIANS – Introduction

“Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”

- Colossians 4:12

1. Purpose of the study of Colossians

- a. To “be filled with the knowledge of his will” - Col 1:9
- b. To equip us to live the resurrected life in Christ - Col 3:1
- c. To furnish unto good works and not confusion - 2 Tim 2:15, 3:16

2. What to Expect

- a. Dispensational context: Paul’s later writings, from prison - 4:3
 - i. The relationship to other epistles: It is not just a copy, but unique
 - ii. It is about “Christ”, but not after the flesh - 2 Co 5:15-16
 - iii. Possibly a post-Acts epistle; you don’t find signs and powers
 - iv. Paul ministered to the area - Acts 16:6, 18:23 - but these are new people
 - v. Epaphras preached the gospel to Colosse - 1:7
 - vi. Notice who else was in Phrygia; strangers from Israel - Acts 2:10
- b. Subject: The preeminence, sufficiency, and supremacy of Christ
- c. Purpose: To present every man perfect in Christ - 1:28, 4:12
- d. Themes:
 - i. The knowledge and wisdom of God in Christ - 1:9, 2:3, 3:16
 - ii. Being “in Christ” (BoC) - 1:28, 2:6, 2:9-13

3. Significant/Popular Passages

- a. Col 1:15 - The deity and person of Christ; Paul makes a large contribution here
- b. Col 1:26 - The dispensation of the mystery given to Paul
- c. Col 2:8-10 - Being complete in Christ; beware of man-spoiling
- d. Col 2:16 - Let no man judge you...
- e. Col 3:2 - Your affections and where they belong
- f. Col 3:23 - Doing what you do as to the Lord Jesus

4. Brief Outline

- a. Introduction - To the saints in Christ (1:1-5)
- b. Gospel of Christ:
 - i. Preeminence of Christ (1:6-20)
 - ii. Preaching Christ (1:21-2:3)
- c. Complete in Christ (2:3-23)
- d. Risen with Christ:
 - i. Putting on Christ (3:1-15)
 - ii. Service to Christ (3:16-4:6)
- e. Salutation - Servants of Christ (4:7-18)