

COLOSSIANS

Colosse was a city in the province of Phrygia, known today as Asia Minor. It was located about _____ miles east of Laodicea and _____ miles southeast of Hierapolis (4:13). Colosse was positioned on the Lycus river. Interesting piece of information, cold water springs flowed from Colosse. They would join with the hot springs of Hierapolis producing a _____ water as they flowed into Laodicea. The city sat beside a busy Roman thoroughfare, which made it a melting pot of ethnic _____. That led to a church of mainly saved gentiles but possibly with some saved Jews as well.

The letter to the Christians in the city of Colosse was written by the Apostle Paul (Ch 1:1) from _____. Unlike the letters to the churches of Ephesus and Corinth we have no biblical account of the historical founding of this church. Matter of fact, Paul didn't start this church, he had never even _____ to it. Scholars believe it was started by Epaphras (Ch 1:7), who was possibly a _____ from Paul's three year ministry in Ephesus. The letter to the church in Colosse was the result of a visit Epaphras made to Paul in prison. He informed Paul of some of the issues the church was having, namely how it was being attacked and influenced by false _____ (Ch 2:4) and false _____ (Ch 2:16-23). It's the same type of doctrinal issues that the churches of Galatia and Philippians had faced, the _____ teaching of the Judaizers. This letter was the response by Paul.

Chapter 1

Paul opens the letter with a greeting (v1-8) recognizing Epaphras as their _____ and representative. In (v9-14) Paul let's the church know the things that he is praying will come to pass as they _____ spiritually. He moves the conversation to the preeminence of Christ, first in _____ (v15-17) then in the _____ (v18-23) Paul ends the letter by informing them that his suffering in prison was because of his message about this Jesus (v23-29).

Chapter 2

Paul begins the chapter lamenting his desire to _____ the churches of Colosse and Laodicea (v1-5). He is concerned about the report of _____ seeking to impact the church (v4). In (v6-23) he begins to address and dismantle the false doctrines they were being _____ with.

Chapter 3

After helping them understand why they should reject the false doctrine of the Judaizers who sought to put them under the _____ for salvation. Paul now transitions his message into the _____ lifestyles of the Christians at Colosse (v1-17). He teaches them that living righteously can never be _____ salvation but should be _____ salvation or as a result of it. This type of radical change which comes from salvation, should work it's way not only into the practical lives but also into institutional structures of their lives like their _____ and _____ lives (v18-25).

Chapter 4

Paul's admonition _____ in (v1-6), with a real life call to action in (v7-9). He ends the letter with somewhat of a laundry list of both _____ and recognitions (v10-18).