

Church at Colosse

Colossians 1:1-8

I. Introduction to the Letter - 1:1-2

1. City in province of Asia - modern Turkey
In Lycus Valley about 100 miles east of Ephesus
About 12 miles from Laodicea – Col. 4:16
Colosse was not visited by Paul - 2:1
Outreach of Ephesus - Acts 19:10
2. Church faced heresy & pagan philosophy
Greek philosophy of dualism - 2:8
Mystical religion with worship of angels - 2:18
Jewish legalism added to grace - 2:16-17
3. Writer - Paul with Timothy – 1
An apostle of Jesus Christ – not of the 12
“by the will of God” – 1 Cor. 15:7-10; Acts 9:15
And Timothy our brother
Mother was a Jew, Father was a Gentile
Acts 16:1-3
Written from Rome where Paul was in prison
Probably carried by Tychicus & Onesimus
Along with Ephesians and Philemon letters
Colossians 4:7-9; Ephesians 6:20-21
4. Theme - Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ
Colossians 1:1:15-19
He is all we need, answer to all heresies
5. Recipients - Saints & faithful brethren - 2

II. Church's Positive Qualities - 1:3-6

1. In spite of problems, reasons to give thanks - 3
Paul gave thanks to God as he prayed for them
2. Thankful for their spiritual development – 4-5
Their faith in Christ Jesus - 4
Their love for all the saints - 4
The hope which they have embraced - 5
3. Thankful for the power of the Gospel – 5-6
Hope born out of the truth of the Gospel
Reception of this message produces fruit in one's life
It is all a gift of God's grace

III. Church's Faithful Minister - 1:7-8

1. Since Paul had never been to Colosse
They had to hear the Gospel from someone else - 7
Epaphras may have gone from Ephesus
to start a work in Colosse
2. A fellow servant with Paul
He was again with Paul when letter was written - 4:12
3. He was a fellow prisoner with Paul - Philemon 23
4. A faithful minister to this church - 1:7; 4:12-13
Had a real burden for this church & prayed for them
5. Had reported to Paul their love in the Spirit - 8