

COLOSSIANS

1. TITLES:

- A. The Epistle to the Colossians
- B. The Book of The Head of The Body

2. AUTHOR:

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. DATE:

Probably written between 60 and 64 A.D. during Paul's first imprisonment at Rome (Acts 28).

4. KEY WORDS

- A. Body ('s) - 8
- B. Fulness, Complete (Greek word) - 7
- C. Wisdom - 6
- D. Mystery - 4
- E. Glory (ious) - 4
- F. Head - 3

5. KEY VERSES: 1:18; 2:9, 10

6. PURPOSE:

- A. To warn them against the heresies concerning the person and nature of Christ.
- B. To warn them against ritualism and asceticism.
- C. To present Christ as the Head of the Church and in His Deity and Humanity.
- D. To exhort them to put off the old man and to put on the new man.

7. MESSAGE:

- A. Christ is in all, through all, and above all. He is the fulness of the Godhead bodily and the Church is complete in Him.
- B. We are to set our affections on things above and not on things on the earth.

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8. OUTLINE:

- I. Doctrinal: The Glory of the Head 1:1-2:5
- II. Practical: The Conduct of the Body 2:6-4:18

9. SUMMARY:

There is no record in Acts of Paul's visiting Colosse, and he evidently did not found the church there (2:1). Possibly Epaphras founded the church (1:7; 4:12, 13) which probably met in Philemon's home (4:9 with Philemon 10, 23; Philemon 2 with 4:17). According to Acts 19:10, the church was probably founded while Paul was in Ephesus only 100 miles away. Paul was well acquainted with the progress of the church and the heresies that had arisen. Thus he wrote to refute them. In section one Paul sets forth the glory and pre-eminence of Christ, refuting the heresies concerning the person and nature of Christ; in particular his pre-existence, deity, and humanity. He also exhorts them to recognize the proper position of the Head over the Body. In the second section, Paul exhorts them to the practical application of the doctrine contained in the first section by putting off the old man with his deeds and by putting on the new man. The Church is seen as being complete in Christ apart from asceticism, ritualism and formalism.

10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Pre-existent, Creator, Ruler, Redeemer, Head of the Body who is the Fulness of the Godhead Bodily.