

## Colossians

**BACKGROUND:** Paul wrote four letters while in prison: Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon about the same time, 60 or 61 A.D., and Phillipians toward the end of the imprisonment about 62 A.D. Colossae was a city about 100 miles from Ephesus and it is evident that Paul had never visited the church there, which was founded by Epaphrus (1:4-8; 2:1).

Colossians is one of the most Christ-centered books of the Bible. Paul stresses the supremacy of Christ and the salvation he provides in order to fight a growing heresy in the church at Colossae. Christ, the Lord of creation and Head of the body which is His church, is completely sufficient for every spiritual and practical need of the believer. The believer's union with Christ in His death, resurrection and exaltation, is the foundation upon which life must be built. The believer's transformation is demonstrated daily in and outside the home through his walk.

The letter, like others from Paul, begin with doctrine: the supremacy of Christ and what Christ did for us (chapters 1 and 2), and end with practical application: submission to Christ and what Christ does through us (chapters 3 and 4).

A brief outline:

Introduction (1:1-1:14)

Preeminence of Christ (1:15-2:3)

Freedom in Christ (2:4-2:23)

Position of the Believer (3:1-3:4)

Practice of the Believer (3:3-4:6)

Conclusion (4:2-4:18)

**HELPS:** Before turning to these, read prayerfully the Word of God, praying that the Holy Spirit will guide you and instruct you.

If you don't own a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, atlas, or reference search, don't worry. They are all available on the link below.

[http://preceptaustin.org/colossians\\_commentaries.htm](http://preceptaustin.org/colossians_commentaries.htm)