

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## Introduction

## Lesson 1

### I. Review Paul's Life (See attachment)

- A. His work in Asia - A.D. 54-57 - (Acts 19:8-10)
- B. Return to Jerusalem, arrest and 2 year imprisonment in Caesarea.
- C. 2 year imprisonment in Rome (61-63) Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon written.

### II. The Four Letters

- A. Philippians
  1. Occasioned by a gift sent to him (Phil. 4:10-20)
  2. Very personal, no real rebuke, no apparent doctrinal crisis discussed.
- B. Philemon
  1. Occasioned by conversion of Philemon's runaway slave whom Paul was sending back to his master with a letter.
  2. It is a personal letter to a friend.
- C. Colossians
  1. Occasioned by a report apparently brought to Paul by Epaphras that serious doctrinal errors were being spread in Colossae. These undermined the divinity and sufficiency of Christ.
  2. The theme: **"In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him"** (Col. 2:9-10). These words should be memorized.
- D. Ephesians
  1. Many feel this was written soon after Colossians. It is less combative, but emphasizes the truth which might well serve to insulate the Ephesians from the errors found in Colossae.
  2. The theme of Ephesians: **"The church which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all"** (Eph. 1:22-23).

### III. Some Facts about Colossae

- A. Colosse [kuh-LAH-see] An ancient city of Phrygia, located on the Lycus River about 11 miles (18 km) SE of Laodicea. By NT times the city was in decline, eclipsed by the neighboring cities of Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- B. Many Jews lived there, some of whom had been influenced by Greek philosophy which they tried to harmonize with the law. They seem to have infiltrated the church bringing in their heresies.

### IV. Errors in Colossae

- A. Began with the same Hellenistic errors that formed the basis for the Gnostic heresies which developed fully in the next century. Similar errors are dealt with in I, II and III John.
  1. The intrinsic evil of matter.
  2. The absolute separation between the godhead and the created world.
- B. Threat to Christianity
  1. Made it impossible for good God to dwell in evil flesh.
  2. Required numerous intermediaries between God and man.
  3. Meant impossible to live a pure life in a fleshly body.
  4. Purest life was to be attained by severity to the body.  
*Note: Roman Catholicism retains elements of this same error borrowed from the Greeks.*
- C. Errors were being advanced by:
  1. Persuasive words (argumentation)
  2. Philosophy
  3. Traditions of men
  4. Basic Principles of the world (science?)
  5. Religious appeals (appeals to the Law)
  6. Worship pleasing to men
  7. Appeals to things seen, the fleshly mind.
  8. Appearance of wisdom.
- D. Apparently being urged as not invalidating Christianity, but serving as a *step beyond*.

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## More About Paul and the Colossians

## Lesson 2

### I. Circumstances of the Writing

1. Who was with Paul when he wrote this letter?  
In which of the other "prison epistles" did he join Paul in writing?
2. To whom is it addressed?
3. What was Paul's situation as he wrote (Col. 4:10; Phile. 1:9,10; Eph. 6:20)
4. How could he do so much sending and preaching while in this situation (See Acts 28:16, 30,31)?
5. How was the church in Colossae probably established (Acts. 19:8-10; 20, 26-27)?
6. How old would this make the church when Paul wrote to them (See "Life of Paul")?
7. Had Paul been to Colossae (2:1)                      From Col. 1:3-8, who was the likely evangelist who first brought the gospel to them?                      With what other churches was he concerned (Col. 4:12-13)
8. Where did the Colossian church probably meet (Philemon 2)?
9. What other groups are closely connected with the Colossian Christians (Col. 2:1; 4:13,16)?

### II. Paul's Thanksgiving For the Colossians (1:3-12)

1. To whom is the thanksgiving addressed?
2. What three qualities of the Colossians does Paul mention (vss. 4-5)?  
Compare with I Cor. 13:13 and I Thess. 1:3.
3. How did Paul know about these qualities?  
How does this fit with Colossians 2:1?  
Yet, what had Paul done for them (vs. 3)?
4. Where was the hope of the Colossians?                      Does this fit "Jehovah's Witness" teaching?
5. Where and how had they learned of this hope?
6. How far had the gospel spread when this was written?  
*Note: This was about 30 years after the great commission was given. What does this tell us about the completeness of Acts as a history?  
How does this help identify "the end" discussed in Matthew 24 (see Mt. 24:14)?*
7. According to verse 6, the preaching of the gospel resulted in
  - a.
  - b.
8. From whom had they learned the gospel?
9. What recommendations does Paul give to this man?
  - a.
  - b.
10. What had this man reported to Paul?  
Toward whom was this directed?
11. What did this cause Paul to do (vs. 9)?  
*Note: Is our reaction the same as Paul's when we when we hear of such love in brethren we do not know?*

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## Paul's Prayer and Praise

## Colossians 1:9-23

## Lesson 3

- Intro.** 1. This prayer and the praise Paul expresses form one of the major sections of Colossians. What verse "leads into" this section?
2. As you study this prayer ask, "Is this the kind of prayer I pray for the church?"

### I. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians (1:9-12)

1. Paul prayed that they might be filled with \_\_\_\_\_ in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The purpose of this was that they might walk \_\_\_\_\_ so as to \_\_\_\_\_, being fruitful in \_\_\_\_\_ and increasing in \_\_\_\_\_, strengthened with all might according to His \_\_\_\_\_ (See Eph. 3:20).
3. The ultimate goal was all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.  
*Compare this prayer with the prayer for the Ephesians recorded in Ephesians 1:15-19. Can you picture a church in which such prayers are being answered? Let each of us ask, "Are these my ideals and am I making progress toward attaining them?"*
4. What has the Father done to justify the thanksgiving offered (vs. 12)?

### II. Praise to the Father and Son (1:13-20)

1. What has the Father done in addition to what is stated in verse 12?
2. List the things said about the Son in verses 15-18. How do these refute errors in Colossae?
  - a. vs. 15
  - b. vs. 15
  - c. vs. 16
  - d. vs. 16
  - e. vs. 16
  - f. vs. 17
  - g. vs. 17
  - h. vs. 18
  - i. vs. 18
  - j. vs. 18
  - k. vs. 18*Compare with Ephesians 1:20-23*
3. What was God's good pleasure (19)?
4. What did this make possible (vs. 20)?  
How extensive is it?

### III. Reconciliation of the Colossians (and of us)

1. What was their former condition (vs. 13)?  
(vs. 21)? Where was this alienation and enmity?
2. What had been done for them (22-22)?  
What was the purpose of it (22)?  
*Compare with Ephesians 2:1-10 and 5:25-27.*
3. Was this reconciliation unconditionally and eternally accomplished (vs. 23)?
4. What was the Colossians part in maintaining it?

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## Paul's Ministry

## Colossians 1:24 - 2:5

## Lesson 4

- Intro.**
1. In the previous lesson we saw
    - a. What God and Christ had done for the Colossians (1:12-22)
    - b. Their responsibility to continue unmoved in the faith (1:23).
  2. This discussion of Paul's ministry forms one of the major sections of Colossians. What statement in verse 23 "leads into" this section?

### I. Duty Assigned to Paul by God (1:24-29)

1. Of what was Paul a minister (vs. 23)?  
What are some synonyms for *minister*?
2. Who was the ideal minister (Matt. 20:28 Same word)?  
What did His ministry require (Mt. 20:21-22, 28)?
3. When Paul was first "called to the ministry" what was he shown (Acts 9:16)?  
  
*How many would want to "enter the ministry" today if this were the prospect?*
4. What kind of minister (servant, slave) was Paul (vs. 25)?  
For whose benefit did he serve?  
What did his ministry involve (vs. 25)?
5. What was the mystery which Paul's preaching revealed (26-27)
6. What three things did Paul do as a preacher (28)?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.For what purpose?
7. What is "this end" for which Paul *also* labored (29)?

### II. Paul and the Colossians (2:1-5)

1. For what three groups did Paul have great conflict (strive, struggle) according to 2:1?  
  
*What should be our attitude toward saints "who have not seen [our] face in the flesh"?*
2. What was his desire for them (vs. 2)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
3. What are hidden in Christ (3)?  
What, therefore, is revealed when Christ is preached?  
Does any wisdom and knowledge of spiritual significance remain to be obtained through human effort? Do the "secrets" of secret organizations offer Christians anything of value beyond what they have in Christ?
4. Why was Paul so concerned about those mentioned in verse 1 (vs. 4)?
5. Did his absence from them hinder his sense of identity with them?
6. What did he rejoice to see in them, even in his absence?



## COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

### Warnings Against False Religious Practice Col. 2:16 - 3:4

### Lesson 6

- Intro.
1. Lesson 5 warned against Error in thinking--being led astray by philosophy or traditions, or insistence on observance of the law of Moses.
  2. Error in thinking is usually followed by error in practice. This is the theme of these verses.
  3. As you study this section, consider what modern doctrines and practices are comparable.

#### I. Since "you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world" (Vs. 20), therefore: **Guard Your Freedom!**

##### A. From Requirements of the Law of Moses (Verses 16-17)

1. List the requirements of the law named in verse 16.
2. Why are these no longer to be kept?
  - a. Verse 14
  - b. Verse 17
3. What commandments of the law of Moses do some try to bind on us today?

##### B. From Requirements of the "commandments and doctrines of men" (verses 18-23)

1. What two practices are listed in verse 18.
2. Why were these teachers encouraging these practices (vs. 18)?

Was their humility genuine?

What were they **not** doing?
3. What will be the result when all members of the body hold "fast to the Head"?
4. How serious was it to follow the false teachers in such thinking and practice (18)?

What verse in Ephesians parallels this verse?
5. What three regulations were typical of those false teachers (vs. 21 *c.f.* I Tim. 4:1-3)?

Look up the word *asceticism* in a dictionary.
6. What was true of the things they were forbidding (vs. 22; see also Mark 7:14-23)?
7. What was the source of this religion (worship) according to vs. 23?
8. What was said to be the value of all of this toward indulgence of the flesh?
9. What are some prohibitions imposed on religious people today "according to the commandments and doctrines of men"?
10. Go back through this chapter and list the things that made this error attractive.

#### II. Since "you were raised with Christ" (3:1) therefore:

1. What things should those raised with Christ seek?

Why?
2. What position does Christ occupy in heaven?

What significance does this have for us and how does it relate to the following verses?
3. What false doctrine of that day does verse 3 refute?
4. For what do we hope?

## COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

### Things to Put Off

### Col. 3:5-11

### Lesson 7

- Intro.
1. Most of the epistles may be divided into "doctrinal" and "practical" divisions. Where does this change come in Romans? Galatians? Ephesians?
  2. Without the **doctrine** there is no authority behind the **practical**. One reason the practical teaching of the New Testament seems so impractical to the world is that they have not yet comprehended the doctrine of the New Testament. This enforces the need for doctrinal study.
  3. We have come to the practical section of Colossians. What considerations in 3:1-4 lead into it?
    - a.
    - b.
    - c.

#### I. "**Therefore, put to death your members which are on the earth**" (vs. 5) -- **Personal Immorality**

**Define:** (Consulting other translations will often be useful in finding synonyms.)

1. Fornication
2. Uncleaness
3. Passion
4. Evil Desire
5. Covetousness

#### II. **Reasons for putting these things off:**

1. Vs. 3
2. Vs. 4-5
3. Vs. 6
4. Vs. 7, 9-10

#### III. **Also Put Off Unloving Behavior toward others (vss. 8-9).** Define the following:

1. Anger
2. Wrath
3. Malice
4. Blasphemy
5. Filthy language
6. What other behavior is unbecoming between members of the body of Christ (9)?

#### IV. **The New Man (vss. 9b-11)**

1. What is the "new man" we have put on (*cf.* Gal. 3:27-28)?
2. In whose image are we created as we are renewed in knowledge (*cf.* II Cor. 3:18)?
3. Is there room for class distinction in Christ?
4. Why?

Make some practical applications of this.

## COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

### Things to Put On

### Col. 3:12-17

### Lesson 8

- Intro.
1. In our lesson we studied some things to put off? Why were they to be put off?
  2. It is not enough to "put off" evil things. We must "put on the good." Many failures to conquer bad habits and evil practices are the result of failing to begin what is good.
  3. The things to be put on begin with the same *"therefore"* that preceded things to put off. Review the reasons given in Lesson 7 for **putting off** the things named.
    - a. Vs. 3
    - b. Vs. 4-5
    - c. Vs. 6
    - d. Vs. 7, 9-10
  4. What reasons are given in verses 10-11 for **putting on** the things that follow?
    - a.
    - b.
  5. What additional reasons are given in verse 12?

#### I. Things to "Put On" (vss. 12-15) Define (As noted previously, other translations will help):

1. Tender mercies
2. Kindness
3. Humbleness of mind
4. Meekness
5. Long suffering (verse 13 will help)
6. Who is our example in all of this? What previous verses suggest why this would be true?
7. What is to be put on "above all these things"? What is it called in 14b?
8. What is to rule in our hearts? (*cf.* Eph. 2:11-19, 4:1-6)

#### II. Means of Encouraging these Qualities (vs 16).

1. What must dwell in us richly?  
Is this the same as being filled with the Spirit (See Ephesians 5:18-19, a parallel passage)?
2. How can we teach and admonish one another?
3. What tests of a song would this verse suggest?  
What tests of our manner of singing?
4. Though we teach and admonish one another, to whom are our songs directed?  
*Note: "Grace" in the KJ is translated "thankfulness" (RSV) continuing the thought of vs. 15.*

#### III. A General Rule for Christian Conduct (vs. 17):

1. Find some things in other scriptures that are said to be "in the name of the Lord."
2. What is meant by this expression?

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## "Be Subject"

Col. 3:18 - 4:1

Lesson 9

- Intro.
1. In this section, Colossians regulates domestic relationships.
  2. Similar regulations had been given by various pagan and Jewish philosophers. If those who received instructions from those sources asked, "Why?", what answer could be given?
  3. If the same question is asked regarding regulations in Col. 3:18-4:1, what is the answer?  
  
What expression recurring in these verses emphasizes this?
  4. What does this teach about the relationship between religion and family relations?

### I. Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)

1. What is to be the wife's position in reference to her husband?  
Why? Will this always be considered "fitting" to those who are out of the Lord? Do these words suggest any limitations on her submission (See Acts 5:29)?
2. What one word sums up the husband's positive duty to his wife?  
How is this more fully treated in Ephesians 5:25, 28-29?
3. What must the husband avoid in his relation with his wife? How does Peter express this sentiment (I Pet. 3:7)?
4. What does the Lord desire in the home (3:15, I Cor. 7:15)? How will these regulations contribute to that?
4. Why might Ephesians 5:22-33 treat this subject much more in detail?

### II. Children and Parents (3:20-21)

1. What is the responsibility of children in reference to parents?
2. What reason is given? Will this impress children who do not know the Lord? How should the reason given affect parents' interaction with their children?
3. What are fathers forbidden to do? Why?  
List some kinds of treatment from parents that may result in this.  
  
If children get angry when a father corrects them does this prove he has violated this teaching? What positive instruction is given in Ephesians 6:4?

### III. Servants and Masters (3:22 - 4:1)

1. This teaching was primarily for slaves and masters. How does Eph. 6:8 expand the application?
2. What is the responsibility of servants? Why?  
How would this affect their service even in the absence of their master?
3. What additional reasons are given for working heartily and honestly?
4. Does God recognize any difference between slaves and masters?
5. What does he require of masters? Why?  
Compare this with Eph. 6:9, I Pet. 3:7, Matt. 18:35.

**Conclusion:** How will putting on the things listed in Col. 3:12-17 affect one's reaction to this teaching?

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## "Watch and Pray"

## Colossians 4:2-6

## Lesson 10

- Intro. 1. After Paul had completed instructions regarding relationships in Ephesians, and after urging the Ephesians to put on the "whole armor of God," what did he encourage them to do (6:18)?
2. Compare this with the final instructions to the Colossians in the verses we are studying.

### I. Prayer

1. What is Paul's instruction concerning prayer?  
How do the following verses express this admonition?
  - a. Luke 18:1
  - b. Acts 1:14
  - c. Acts 2:42
  - d. Acts 6:4
  - e. Romans 12:12
  - f. I Thessalonians 5:17
2. What have we already seen *in Colossians* about Paul's practice of such prayer?
3. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? What was his situation?  
Yet, what two things did he ask them to request in prayer for him?
  - a.
  - b.
4. How would prayer help them face the errors surrounding them both in and out of the church?

### II. Vigilance

1. Find some other people who were urged to be vigilant and give the references.
2. How does this fit with prayer?

### III. Thanksgiving

1. With a concordance go back and find the occurrence of *thank, thankful, thanksgiving* in Colossians.
2. What importance would this have in resisting the error around them?

### IV. "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time."

1. Where do non-Christians obtain their impressions of Christianity?
2. What are some things they must see in us if we are to "redeem the time" or take advantage of our opportunities?
3. What things are unwise in our relationships with "them that are without" (see I Cor. 9:19-23)?

### V. "Speech always with grace, seasoned with salt."

*"Speak pleasantly to them, but never sentimentally" (Letters to Young Churches - J.B. Phillips)*

1. What does speaking with grace suggest?
2. What does "seasoned with salt" mean?
3. How is this said in Eph. 4:29?
4. How will this affect our response to those who ask questions (See also I Pet. 3:15)

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## Paul's Companions and Friends Colossians 4:7-15

## Lesson 11

- Intro.
1. Companionships and friends exercise a mutual influence upon each other. We are blessed or cursed by ours and we either bless or curse them. This is something we can determine.
  2. It is clear from Paul's letters that his personal friends were an important part of his life.
  3. Learn what you can about Paul's friends mentioned in Colossians. Do what you can to reconstruct their lives in chronological order and note especially their relationship with Paul.

### I. Paul's Messengers:

1. Tychicus (vs. 7)
2. Onesimus (vs. 9)

### II. Paul's Companions Sending Greetings to the Colossians

1. Aristarchus (vs. 1)
2. Mark (vs. 10)
3. "Jesus who is also called Justus" (vs. 11) Nothing more is known of him.
4. Epaphras (vss. 12-13, also 1:7)
5. Luke (vs. 14) What very important thing do you learn about Luke comparing vss. 11 and 14?
6. Demas (vs. 14)

### III. Friends in Colossae Greeted by Paul

1. "Nymphas (or Nympha) and the church that is in his (her) house"
2. "The church of the Laodiceans"
3. Archippas

### IV. Closing Exhortations (vss. 16-18)

1. Were the epistles written to one church for that church only? How does this fact help us in interpretation of the epistles in our day?
2. What do vss. 13 and 16 together with this epistle teach us about how many churches were in Asia?

**Conclusion:** Find other examples of the "post script" contained in verse 18.

# COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

## Review of Colossians

## Lesson 12

### I. Background

1. Name the author and state his location and circumstances?
2. Who were the readers, their location and race/
3. What other churches were close by?
4. What were the approximate dates of the writing?
5. Who carried the letter?
6. What other letters were written about the same time?
7. What seems to be the reason for the writing of Colossians?

**II. Theme:** State the theme in your own words or quote verses which state it.

### III. Errors Demanding the Writing of the Epistle

1. List three errors apparently being taught in Colossae. (Later incorporated in Gnostic heresy)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. What were some appeals mentioned in chapter 2 which made this error attractive?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.

### IV. Questions from the Text:

1. What two things had Paul heard of in the Colossian church?
2. What did Paul ask for them in prayer?
3. List three things Christ rules, controls or dominates.
4. List some important things about the Son stated in 1:15-18.
5. What was the former condition of the Colossians (and of us)?  
What did God do for us?
6. What was the "mystery" which Paul was appointed to reveal?
7. What is our defense against "Persuasive Speech" and "Human Philosophy"?
8. What are two reasons one should not subject himself to "regulations" of men.
9. What two circumcisions are described here?
10. When were we buried and raised with Christ?  
Where then should our affections be?
11. Name three things we should put off.
12. Name three things we should put off.
13. What motivates us to do right in all our relationships?
14. List some of Paul's friends and companions.
15. In what other church was this epistle to be read?

What were the Colossians to read?

## COLOSSIANS AND PHILEMON

### Philemon

### Lesson 13

Intro. Read through the entire book and then answer the following questions:

1. What was Paul's situation when he wrote Philemon? Who joined him?
2. List the names in this book also found in Colossians.
3. Whom did Paul send along with both books (Col. 4:8-9; Phil. 10-12)?
4. What do these considerations indicate about the time of this writing and where Philemon lived?

**I. Insights Into the Character of Philemon:** What do the following verses indicate about Philemon?

1. Vs. 1
2. Vs. 2
3. Vs. 5
4. Vs. 7
5. Vs. 21
6. Vs. 22

**II. Facts About Onesimus:** What facts do the following verses reveal about Onesimus?

1. Vs. 10
2. Vs. 11a
3. Vss. 11b and 13
4. Vs. 16 He had been a \_\_\_\_\_, now he was also a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Vss. 18-19

**III. Insights Into the Character of Paul:**

1. From some reference book try to determine the general Gentile attitude toward slaves. What was Paul's attitude toward a run-away slave as indicated by the following verses:
  - a. Vs. 10
  - b. Vs. 12
  - c. Vs. 16
  - d. Vss. 18-19

*Note: Being a Christian should cause us to rise above the prejudices of our society. What did Paul say is true in Christ (Gal. 3:38, Col. 3:11)?*

2. What one thing did Paul definitely want Philemon to do in regard to Onesimus?  
What more is implied in verse 21?
3. How did Paul go about getting Philemon to do what was "fitting"?
  - a. Vs. 1
  - b. Vs. 4
  - c. Vss. 5-7
  - d. Vss. 8-9
  - e. Vs. 17
  - f. Vss. 18-19
  - g. Vs. 20
  - h. Vs. 21

On what basis did Paul make his appeal?
4. Why did Paul not keep Onesimus to minister to him?
5. What verse indicates that Paul believed in the special providence of God?  
Did he definitely state that Onesimus' departure was providential. What does this teach us?
6. What do you think Philemon owed Paul (vs. 19)?
7. Why do you think Paul sent Onesimus back to Philemon?
8. From this letter, how do you think Paul felt about slavery?

*Thought Question: Is it possible that Paul's dealing with Philemon indicates God's plan for dealing with the entire institution of slavery? The hearts of masters had to be changed if right was to be done..*

## OUTLINE OF THE COLOSSIAN LETTER

### I. PAUL'S PRAYER: THANKS TO GOD; REQUEST FOR THE COLOSSIANS; AND THANKS FOR DELIVERANCE INTO THE KINGDOM AND DESCRIPTION OF ITS KING (COL. 1:1-23)

#### A. Thanks to God for the Colossians' Hope (1:3-8)

1. Occasion: Heard of their Faith and Love (1:4)
2. Reason: Hope of Heaven (1:5)
3. Source: (1:6,7)
  - a. heard and understood (6)
  - b. learned from Epaphras (7)

#### B. Request to God for Colossians' Growth and Strength (1:9-11)

1. Request: Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding (1:9)
2. Reasons / Results: (1:10,11)
  - a. walk worthy
  - b. please God
  - c. bear fruit
  - d. increase in knowledge
  - e. be strengthened
  - f. [for:] steadfastness and patience

#### C. Thanks for Deliverance to Kingdom and Description of King (1:12-23)

1. Our Entry (1:13,14)
  - a. from darkness to Kingdom
  - b. with redemption, forgiveness
2. Christ's Greatness (1:15-18)
  - a. with respect to God: image, firstborn (15)
  - b. with respect to Creation: beneficiary, maintainer (16-18)
  - c. with respect to Church: beginning, head, firstborn... (18)
3. Christ's Work (1:19-23)
  - a. importance: all the fulness dwells (19)
  - b. what: reconcile all things to God (20)
  - c. how: through the cross (20)
  - d. the change: before and after (21,22)
  - e. conditions: continue steadfast in the faith (23)

## **II. PAUL'S WORK IN THE GOSPEL FOR COLOSSIANS (1:24-2:3)**

### **A. Description of the Duty Given to Paul by God (1:24-29)**

1. Suffering for the Body (1:24)
2. Service in the Word (1:25-27)
  - a. made a servant by God (25)
  - b. duties: make the mystery manifest (26)
  - c. the Mystery: Christ in you, the hope of Glory (27)
3. Paul's Goal: Present every man Perfect (1:28,29)

### **B. Expression of Concern for, and Closeness to, the Readers (2:1-4)**

1. A Great Struggle for them (3:1)
2. Purpose: (2:2,3)
  - a. hearts encouraged
  - b. hearts knits together in love
  - c. (attain) full assurance of understanding
  - d. (resulting in) true knowledge of Mystery: Christ

## **III. ERRORS OF MEN COMPARED WITH THE TRUTH OF CHRIST (2:4-3:4)**

### **A. Warnings Against Persuasive Argument (2:4-7)**

1. Paul, with them in Spirit, sees their stability (2:4,5)
2. Paul encourage them to hold to the faith, as they were instructed (2:6,7)

### **B. Warnings Against Human Reasoning [Philosophy, Deception, Traditions of Men, Rudiments of the World - v. 8] (2:8-15)**

1. Christ: All of Deity (2:9)
2. Christ: Makes us Complete (2:10)
3. Christ: Separates us from Sin (2:11-15)
  - a. circumcision (11)
  - b. buried and raised (12)
  - c. death to life (13)
  - d. debt paid (14)
4. Christ: Conquered all Evil Powers (15)

### **C. Warnings Against Being Judged with respect to Old Law (2:16,17)**

1. No one else our Judge (15,16)
2. Christ: the Substance of the Shadow (vs 17)

### **D. Warnings Against False Religious Practices (2:18-3:4)**

1. Contrast to Holding to the Head (2:18,19)
2. Have Died with Christ to the World (2:20-22)
3. Valuelessness of False Practices (2:23)
4. Mind Set on Christ (3:1-4)

#### **IV. THINGS TO PUT OFF AND PUT ON (3:5-17)**

##### **A. Things to Put Off (3:5-9)**

1. Personal Immorality (3:5-7)
  - a. members dead to these sins (5,6)
  - b. wrath of God to come on those who practice (6)
  - c. once walked in them (among them) (7)
2. Unloving Behavior Put Aside (3:8,9)

##### **B. Things to Put On (3:10-17)**

1. The Image of Christ for All (3:10,11)
  - a. renewed to this image (10)
  - b. former distinctions removed (11)
2. The Character of God's Chosen (3:12,13)  
[compassion, kindness; humility, gentleness; patience, bearing with...]
3. The Heart of Christlikeness (3:14-17)
  - a. love: the bond of unity (14)
  - b. peace: arbiter in our hearts (15)
  - c. word of Christ within us -- teaching and admonishing (16)
  - d. all that we do "In the name of the Lord Jesus" (17)

#### **V. BEHAVIOR IN EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS (3:18-4:6)**

##### **A. Family Relationships (3:18-21)**

1. Husbands and Wives (3:18,19)
2. Parents and Children (3:20,21)

##### **B. Servants and Masters (3:22-4:1)**

1. All work done for the Lord (3:22-25)
2. Masters rule, knowing they have a Master in Heaven (4:1)

##### **C. Exhortations to Prayer and Wise Living (4:2-6)**

1. Prayer (4:2-4)
  - a. vigilant in Thanksgiving (2)
  - b. for Paul's Work: opportunities, clear message (3,4)
2. Wise Conduct toward Those Without (4:5,6)
  - a. redeeming the time (5)
  - b. careful speech (6)

#### **VI. PERSONAL GREETINGS TO AND FROM FRIENDS (4:7-18)**

##### **A. Introduction of Letter Carriers (4:7-9)**

##### **B. Salutations from Rome (4:10-14)**

##### **C. Salutations to Colossae (4:15-18)**

# A Brief Life of Paul

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Letters</u>
36	Conversion	Acts 9	
40	First Jerusalem Visit (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 9:26-30	
41-43	In Tarsus	Acts 9:30	
44-45	In Antioch with Barnabas	Acts 11:25,26	
45	Second Jerusalem Visit (w/ Gifts)	Acts 11:27	
46-47	First Journey (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 13,14	
48-49	In Antioch	Acts 14:26-28	
50	Third Jerusalem Visit (Conference)	Acts 15	
50-53	Second Journey (w/ Silas and Timothy)	Acts 15-18	I,III Thess.
53	Fourth Jerusalem Visit ("the church") (To Antioch)	Acts 18:22	
54-58	Third Journey	Acts 18:23-21:14	I,II Cor. Galatians Romans
58	Fifth Jerusalem Visit (Imprisoned)	Acts 21:15-23:30	
58-60	Imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 23-26	
60-61	Taken to Rome	Acts 27,28	
61-63	Early Imprisonment in Rome	Acts 28:16	Colossians Ephesians Philemon Philippians I Tim., Titus
63-67	?? Release, Journey to Spain, etc. ??		
67-68	Later Imprisonment in Rome, Death		II Timothy