

Introduction To Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2

Introduction

I The People Of Colossians

- A. The **author** of the book - 1:1; 1:23; 4:18
 - 1. Paul: An **apostle** - Jn 17:18; 2 Cor 5:20
 - a. Of Christ Jesus - 1 Cor 6:19-20
 - b. By the will of God
 - 2. Timothy: Our brother
- B. The **recipients** of the book
 - 1. The city of Colosse
 - 2. The church at Colosse
 - 3. The **members** of the Colossian church
 - a. Epaphras - Col 1:7; 4:12-13; Phile 23
 - b. Archippus - Philem 1-2; Col 4:17
 - c. Philemon - Philemon
 - d. Onesimus - Col 4:9; Philemon

II The Problems Of Colossians

- A. The danger of **paganism** - Col 3:5
- B. The danger of the syncretism
 - 1. It denied the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ
 - a. For salvation
 - b. For overcoming flesh
 - c. For true wisdom and **knowledge**
 - 2. It is called the "Colossian Heresy" and included:
 - a. **False** philosophy - Col 2:8
 - b. Judaistic ceremonialism - Col 2:16-17
 - c. Angel **worship** - Col 2:18; Rev 22:8-9; 1 Tim 2:5
 - d. Asceticism - Col 2:20-23; Rom 6:22

III The Purpose Of Colossians

- A. To **encourage** the believers at Colosse
 - 1. Paul informed them of their high standing:
 - a. He called them **holy** brothers
 - b. He called them **faithful** brothers

- 2. Paul gave them insight into their true **identity**
 - a. They were **in** Christ **at** Colosse - Eph 1:13-14
- 3. Paul imparted to them the **blessing** of God:
 - a. Grace and peace to you - 2 Pet 1:2-4
- B. To **warn** the believers at Colosse
 - 1. Against **relapse** into paganism- Co 1:21-23
 - 2. Against syncretism- Co 2:8-10
- C. To affirm the **supremacy** of Christ - Jn 14:6; Acts 4:12
 - 1. He is the Son of God - Co 1:13-15
 - 2. He is the all-sufficient **Savior**
 - 3. He is the pre-eminent Lord - Co 1:14-3:4

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

- 1. Take time this week to read through the Book of Colossians.
What are your overall impressions? What did you find challenging or inspirational? What questions did it raise?
- 3. How is the Colossian Heresy (which required more than simple faith in Christ) like the New Age Movement of today?
- 4. Syncretism is defined as the blending or mixing of differing beliefs or practices. What practices did the Colossian believers mix with the simple teachings of the gospel? What beliefs or practices do Christians sometimes practice today in addition to the clear teaching of the? Is there any area in your life where you have blended biblical Christianity with other religious beliefs or practices?
- 5. From where do you derive your identity? From your life, values, vocation, and the world around you? Or from your identity as a believer in Jesus Christ? Read 1 Pet 1:1, 17-18; Heb 11:13 and Col 3:1-4. What do these verses teach you about your true identity? What will be your response?
- 6. Take time to acknowledge your identity in Christ and to honor Him for who He is – the One and only Son of God, the all-sufficient Savior and pre-eminent Lord of your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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