

“Introduction To Colossians”

Colossians 1:1-2

Introduction

I The People Of Colossians

- A. The _____ of the book - 1:1; 1:23; 4:18
 - 1. Paul: An _____ - 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 _____ of the book
 - 1. The city of Colosse
 - 2. The church at Colosse
 - 3. The _____ 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 _____ - Col 3:5
- B. The danger of the syncretism
 - 1. It denied the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ
 - a. For _____
 - b. For overcoming flesh
 - c. For true wisdom and _____
 - 2. It is called the "Colossian Heresy" and included:
 - a. _____ philosophy - Col 2:8
 - b. Judaistic ceremonialism - Col 2:16-17
 - c. Angel _____ - 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 _____ the believers at Colosse
 - 1. Paul informed them of their high standing:
 - a. He called them _____ brothers
 - b. He called them _____ brothers

- 2. Paul gave them insight into their true _____:
 - a. They were *in* Christ *at* Colosse - Eph 1:13-14
- 3. Paul imparted to them the _____ of God:
 - a. Grace and peace to you - 2 Pet 1:2-4
- B. To _____ the believers at Colosse
 - 1. Against _____ into paganism- Co 1:21-23
 - 2. Against syncretism- Co 2:8-10
- C. To affirm the _____ 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 _____
 - 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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