Paul's Letter to the Colossian Church

Main Characters:
  Paul – in Prison (60-62)
  Pastor Epaphras
  Tychicus

The situation in Colosse
  Divine or human?
  Gnosticism?

The theological issues:
  Distractions from Christ
  Obstacles to holiness

The purpose of the letter (1:9-12)
  Filled with knowledge of His will
  Walk worthy of the Lord

The outline
  1. Doctrine
     a. Personal matters (1:1-14)
        (1) Greeting (1:1-2)
        (2) Thanksgiving (1:3-8)
        (3) Prayer (1:9-14)
     b. Doctrine
        (1) Christ (1:15-23)
        (2) Paul's ministry (1:24-2:7)
        (3) Paul's warnings (2:8-23)
  2. Duty
        (1) Principles of Christians conduct (3:1-17)
        (2) Specific Christian conduct (3:18-4:6)
     b. Personal matters (4:7-18)
Paul’s Message to the Colossian Church

The nature of salvation (1:13-14)
– delivered from the power of darkness
– conveyed into the Kingdom of the Son of His love

Christ (1:15-23)
– Deity
– Work

Paul’s ministry (1:24-2:7)
– Stewardship
– Preach Christ
– Present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

Distractions from Christ
– Paul’s concern for the Colossian believers (2:1-7)
  The focus of his ministry to them
– The threat that Paul perceived in Colosse (2:8-23)
  Turning from Christ
Paul’s ministry to the Colossian church (2:1-7)

Foundational principles (1:24-29)
   A stewardship from God
   Mystery is the core – Christ in you, the hope of glory
   We preach Christ to present you perfect in Him.

Goal of the ministry (2:1-5)
   Paul’s zeal – great effort/striving
   Knit together in love
   Attain full knowledge of Father and Christ
   Good order and steadfast faith

Exhortation (2:6-7)
   Beginning and continuing
   Rooted in Christ
   Built up in Christ
   Abounding with thanksgiving
Distractions from Christ (2:8-23)

Do not be cheated (2:8)
   “Seduce” – lead one away from duty, accepted principles or proper conduct

Philosophy and empty deceit
   “Love of wisdom”
   Tradition of men
      Matthew 15:1-9
      1 Peter 1:18

Basic principles of the world
   Human wisdom regarding God
      Col. 2:20-22
      Gal. 4:3
   This is “not according to Christ.”
      Romans 4:4, 16
      Gal 2:21

Do not be seduced!
According to Christ

The fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him bodily.
We are complete in Him

Two metaphors
  Circumcision – Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6
  Baptism

Two provisions
  Removal of Divine condemnation
  Disarmed principalities and powers

Distractions from Christ and Christian living (2:16-23)
  Shadow of things to come
  Cheats you of your reward:
    Genesis 15:1; Hebrews 10:35-36 and 11:6
    Deceptive religious practices.
  Not holding fast the Head – Christ

The deception of distractions (2:20-23)
  We died with Christ – from the basic principles
  Not able to control the flesh