

# 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
  - a. Christian conduct (3:1-4:6)
    - (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