The Preeminence of Christ
Lesson 11
Colossians 1

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
March 15, 2020
The Development of the New Testament

Acts 1:8 “...and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

The life and ministry of Jesus Christ

The Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 1-7: 33-34 AD
- Acts 8-12: 35-47 AD

- 48 AD: Acts 13-14 - 1st missionary journey
- 49 AD: Acts 15 - Jerusalem council
- 57-62: Acts 22-28 - Roman prison #1
- 62-67: Release and ministry
- 67-75: Roman prison #2

- 70 AD: Acts 13-14 • 1st missionary journey
- 75 AD: Acts 15 • Jerusalem council
- 85-96: Acts 16-18 • 2nd missionary journey
- 95-96: Acts 18-21 • 3rd missionary journey
- 95-96: Acts 22-28 • Roman prison #1
Ephesians and Colossians Compared

- Paul claims apostleship
- Each deals with a fundamental doctrine of the Christian faith
- The core messages are different
  - Ephesians – the mystery and the administration of the mystery
  - Colossians – the pressure to turn away from the mystery
- The common structure of both epistles
  - A message to saints and faithful brethren in Christ Jesus
  - A review of the work of salvation
  - A presentation of the main issue
  - A demonstration of the outcome of the work of salvation in the believer
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<th>Christ, our exalted Savior</th>
<th>prison epistle 60-62</th>
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<td></td>
<td>the supremacy of Christ</td>
<td>the sufficiency of Christ</td>
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<td><strong>foundation in Christ</strong></td>
<td>1-2  salutation in Christ</td>
<td>1-4  “set your mind on Christ!”</td>
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<td>3-8  thanksgiving to God</td>
<td>5-11  attend to personal holiness in Christ</td>
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<td>9-12  intercession to God</td>
<td>6-7  “walk in Christ!”</td>
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<td>15-23  the preeminence of Christ</td>
<td>8-15  standing firm in the victory in Christ</td>
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<td>24-29  the Gentile mystery:</td>
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<td>“Christ in you, the hope of glory”</td>
<td>16-19  holding firm to the substance of Christ</td>
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<td>6-7  “walk in Christ!”</td>
<td>18-4:1  attend to outward behavior in Christ</td>
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<td>8-15  standing firm in the victory in Christ</td>
<td>2-6  devotion to prayer, conduct with wisdom, speech with grace</td>
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<td>16-19  holding firm to the substance of Christ</td>
<td>7-9  coming information</td>
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<td>20-23  submitting only to the person of Christ</td>
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<td>16-18  final words</td>
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Outline of Colossians

- Introduction (1:1-2)
- The Gospel Message (1:3-2:7)
- The Danger Confronting the Colossian Church (2:8-3:4)
- The Result of the Gospel Message in the Life of a Believer (3:5-4:18)
The Preeminence of Christ (Colossians 1)

- Introduction (1:1-2)
- The testimony of the Colossian Church (1:3-8)
- Paul’s prayer for the Colossian Church (1:9-14)
- Paul’s teaches about Christ (1:15-23)
- Paul’s apostleship (1:24-29)
Introduction (1:1-2)

- Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ
- To the saints and faithful brethren
- Grace and peace
The Colossian Believers (1:3-8)

- Thanksgiving to God
- Faith in Christ Jesus
- Love for the saints
- Hope laid up for them in heaven
- The word of truth of the Gospel
- Fruitfulness
- Epaphras commended
Paul’s Prayer for the Saints (1:9-14)

- An appeal to God
- To be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and understanding
- A walk worthy of the Lord
  - Fruitful
  - Increasing in the knowledge of God
  - Strengthened by His power
  - Steadfast with joyful patience
- Thanksgiving to God the Father
A Lesson on Christology (1:15-23)

- Christ’s Person (1:15-20)
  - Image of the invisible God
  - Firstborn of all creation
  - Creator of all things
  - Possessor of heaven and earth
  - Before all things – preeminent
  - Firstborn from the dead
  - All the fullness of God in Him
  - Savior through the Cross
A Lesson on Christology (1:15-23)

▪ Christ’s Work (1:21-23)
  – His subjects – alienated, hostile, evil
  – Christ reconciled all things to God
  – Christ presents us holy and blameless and without reproach before the Father
  – His subjects – continue in the faith
Paul the Apostle (1:24-29)

- Paul, an apostle or steward of the mystery
- The sufferings of Christ in Paul
- Paul’s ministry – teaching “Christ in you, the hope of glory”
- Paul’s method – proclaiming, admonishing, laboring, striving
The Preeminence of Christ

- The key to the Christian message is Christ
- The need to be grounded and growing in the truth
- Complete in Christ