

LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS INTRODUCTION COLOSSIANS 1:1-2

Topics:

Author, Audience, Date Written, Setting, Occasion/Purpose for Writing, Message; and Themes, Christ's Divinity, Christ as Head of the Church, Union with Christ, and Man-made Religion

Open It Questions

- A. What resources do you rely on to help make quick decisions in tough life situations?**

- B. Do you have any unique or special knowledge or expertise in a subject area for which others look up to you or seek you out? If so, what is it?**

INTRODUCTION

The human brain is amazing. God has created us with the ability to think, react, reason, consider, meditate, learn, imagine, understand, philosophize, know, perceive, evaluate, theorize, reflect, predict, and communicate. Enamored with the incredible power of our minds, however, we can become complacent in our wisdom, proud of our mental abilities, and reliant on ourselves.

To be complimented as “smart,” “a genius,” or “very intelligent” feels great. Beyond this, to have special knowledge feels even better. We like to be seen as experts and sought out, as though we have a secret formula or inside information.

The philosophical system of Gnosticism emphasized the mind and taught that salvation could be obtained through knowledge (*gnosis*) instead of faith. This “knowledge” was esoteric [mysterious] and could only be acquired by those who had been initiated into the mysteries of the Gnostic system, not by study or the normal process of learning. Gnosticism distorted Christian theology and twisted biblical truths in order to support its concepts. Perhaps the most foundational of these false teachings was that matter is inherently evil and only the spiritual or non-material is good. This led to denying the doctrines of Creation and the Incarnation (“How could God take on an ‘evil’ body?”), elevating the role of angels, and reducing Christianity to just one of many religions (Gnosticism sought to combine the “best” of all religions).

As you read Paul’s letter to the Colossian believers, use your God-given mind to evaluate your own belief system. Is it based on God’s word and centered on Christ? Or do you rely on human philosophy and your ability to think?

Definitions

Proto- (prefix)

first, especially from which other similar things develop; original

Gnosticism is a collection of religious ideas and systems which originated in the first century AD among early Christian and Jewish sects. These various groups emphasized personal spiritual knowledge over the orthodox teachings, traditions, and authority of the church. [Wikipedia](#)

Syncretism is the combining of different religions, cultures, or ideas.

Background and Historical Context

AUTHOR

1. Who is the author of the Letter to the Colossians? (1:1; 4:18)

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy (1:1 NLT).

*HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL.
Remember my chains. May God's grace be with you (4:18 NLT).*

AUDIENCE

2. To whom was this letter addressed? (Colossians 1:2)

We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace. (1:2 NLT)

3. How did Paul address the believers in this city? (1:2)

We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace. (1:2 NLT)

DATE WRITTEN

4. Approximately when and where was Colossians written? (Colossians 4:3, 4:10, 4:18; and Philemon 1:23) (Also see handout entitled “Paul’s Missionary Journeys and Letters”)

SETTING

5. Where was the City of Colosse located in relation to the City of Ephesus? (See Map Showing Colosse)

The City

The City of Colosse lay about one hundred miles east of Ephesus, in the Lycus River valley in Phrygia, a district of Asia Minor (Turkey) that had been incorporated into the Roman province of Asia in the second century B.C. (See the Map of Paul’s Journeys).

6. What were some of the features of the City of Colosse?

Located on the great east-west trade route linking the Aegean Sea and the Euphrates River, Colosse thrived as a center of commerce. At one point the city also may have been a military base. Colosse was known for the distinctive, glossy, deep purple wool from the sheep that grazed in the surrounding hills.

Together with Hierapolis (4:13) and Laodicea (2:1; 4:13-16; Re 3:14-22), Colosse made up a tri-city area. Each city had its own distinction:

- ◆ **Hierapolis**, a place for health, pleasure, and relaxation
- ◆ **Laodicea**, known for its commercial trade and politics
- ◆ **Colosse**, known simply as a small town

By the time of Paul's missionary journeys, the trade route had changed, placing Colosse off the beaten path. Thus, Colosse had been surpassed in power and importance by Laodicea and Hierapolis (see 4:13), neighboring towns in the Lycus Valley. Colosse was further reduced by an earthquake at about the same time this letter was written.

The Church

7. Who founded the church in Colosse? (Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13)

The church may have been started by Epaphras who had been sent by Paul to preach to the Colossians (1:7). Epaphras probably began the work in Laodicea and Hierapolis as well (see 4:12-13).

The People

8. What was the ethnic background of the people in the church in Colosse?

Colosse was mostly a pagan city, with a strong intermingling of Jews (in 62 B.C., there were 11,000 Jewish freemen in the tri-city area). This may explain the nature of some of the problems that arose among the church in Colosse (problems with both pagan and Jewish origin). The church in Colosse was comprised mainly of Gentiles (including Apphia—Philemon 2). Archippus may have been the church's pastor (4:17).

Philemon and his slave Onesimus lived there. In fact, the church met in Philemon's home (Philemon 2). Another group met in Nympha's house (4:15).

OCCASION/PURPOSE

9. Why was the Letter to the Colossians written? (2:8-10, 16-19)

⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers^[a] of this world, rather than from Christ.

⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. (Colossians 2:8-10 NLT)

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¹⁶ So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

¹⁸ Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud,

¹⁹ and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. (Colossians 2:16-19 NLT)

Word had come to Paul of **false teaching in Colosse**, so Paul wrote **to encourage the believers in Colosse** and **to combat errors in the church**.

A kind of proto-Gnosticism was gaining popularity in Colosse; it was a combination of Gnostic concepts and Judaism. Full-fledged Gnosticism did not

appear until the second century. In any event, Paul wrote to refute the error and to get the believers back on track. To do so, Paul highlighted the preeminence of Christ and the importance of godly living. (Colossians 2)

- He warned against ritualism that had strict rules about permissible food and drink, religious festivals (2:16-17), and circumcision (2:11; 3:11).
- He warned against asceticism—the idea that the body is evil and that through self-torture or self-denial a person can attain exalted spirituality (1:22; 2:20-23).
- He warned against relying on human philosophy, knowledge, and tradition (2:4, 8).
- He warned against trying to obtain secret knowledge (2:18; see also 2:2-3).
- He warned against the worship of angels (2:18-19).
- He warned against making Christ any less than the divine Son of God, Lord of the universe, and Head of the church (1:13-20; 2:2-3, 9-10, 17).

Paul recognized that the most dangerous element of this heresy was the deprecation of Christ, so he focused much of his attention on Christ's supremacy. In fact, Colossians is the most Christ-centered book in the Bible.

The Message

10. What was the main message that Paul wanted to convey in the Letter to the Colossians? Why?

Paul's introduction to the Colossians includes a greeting, a note of thanksgiving, and a prayer for spiritual wisdom and strength for these brothers and sisters in Christ (1:1-12). He then moves into a doctrinal discussion of the person and work of Christ (1:13-23), stating that Christ is "the visible image of the invisible God" (1:15), the Creator (1:16), "head of the church" (1:18), and "the first of all who will rise from the dead" (1:18). His death on the cross makes it possible for us to stand in the presence of God (1:22).

Paul then explains how the world's teachings are totally empty when compared with God's plan, and he challenges the Colossians to reject shallow answers and to live in union with Christ (1:24–2:23).

Against this theological backdrop, Paul turns to practical considerations—what the divinity, death, and resurrection of Jesus should mean to all believers (3:1–4:6). Because our eternal destiny is sure, heaven should fill our thoughts (3:1–4), sexual impurity and other worldly lusts should not be named among us (3:5–8), and truth, love, and peace should mark our life (3:9–15). Our love for Christ should also translate into love for others—friends, fellow believers, spouses, children, parents, slaves, and masters (3:16–4:1). We should constantly communicate with God through prayer (4:2–4), and we should take every opportunity to tell others the Good News (4:5–6). In Christ we have everything we need for salvation and for living the Christian life. Paul had probably never visited Colosse, so he concludes this letter with personal comments about their common Christian associations, providing a living lesson of the connectedness of the body of Christ.

Main Themes and Importance for Today

- 11. What were the four (4) main themes in the letter to the Colossians?
What is the importance of each for today?**

Christ's Divinity (1:15–20; 2:2, 9–12).

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, Lord of all creation, and Lord of the new creation. He is the expressed reflection of the invisible God. He is eternal, preexistent, omnipotent, and equal with the Father. He is supreme and complete. Jesus is God!

Importance for today.

Christ as Head of the Church (1:15–20; 3:15–17, 23–24). Because Christ is God, he is the head of the church. Christ is the founder, leader, and highest authority on

earth. As such, he expects his followers to listen to him carefully and obey him completely. Christ requires first place in all of their thoughts and activities.

Importance for today.

Union with Christ (1:13, 21-23; 2:6-15, 20; 3:1-4, 11, 15-17). Because believers' sins have been forgiven and they have been reconciled to God, they are united with Christ. That union can never be broken. Being united with Christ means being identified with his death, burial (2:20), and resurrection (3:1).

Importance for today.

Man-made Religion (2:8, 16-23). False teachers were promoting a heresy that stressed keeping rituals and rules (legalism). They also taught that spiritual growth was attained by discipline of the body (asceticism) and visions (mysticism). Emphasizing human knowledge, they missed God's wisdom; focusing on human philosophy, they did not understand God; attempting to combine a variety of religious viewpoints, they lost sight of Christ.

Importance for today.

[Source: Life Application New Testament Commentary and Adult LessonMaker]

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WELCOME TO BIBLE STUDY

THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS - AN INTRODUCTION

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Letter to the Colossians

BIBLE STUDY RESOURCES

- ☐ Holy Bible
- ☐ Colossians Teaching Schedule
- ☐ Participant Questionnaire/Worksheet
- ☐ A Chronology of Paul's Writings
- ☐ Colossae Location Map
- ☐ Outline of the Letter to the Colossians



Letter to the Colossians

TOPICS

- ☐ Authorship
- ☐ Audience/Addressees
- ☐ Date Written
- ☐ Setting
- ☐ Purpose for Writing
- ☐ Message
- ☐ Themes
- ☐ Christ's Divinity
- ☐ Christ as Head of the Church
- ☐ Union with Christ
- ☐ Man-Made Religion



Letter to the Colossians

OPEN IT QUESTIONS



Letter to the Colossians

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

- A. What resources do you rely on to help make quick decisions in tough life situations?



Letter to the Colossians

OPEN IT QUESTIONS

B. Do you have any unique or special knowledge or expertise in a subject area for which others look up to you or seek you out? If so, what is it?



Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION



Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION

The human brain is amazing. God has created us with the ability to think, react, reason, consider, meditate, learn, imagine, understand, philosophize, know, perceive, evaluate, theorize, reflect, predict, and communicate. Enamored with the incredible power of our minds, however, we can become complacent in our wisdom, proud of our mental abilities, and reliant on ourselves.



Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION

To be complimented as “smart,” “a genius,” or “very intelligent” feels great. Beyond this, to have special knowledge feels even better. We like to be seen as experts and sought out, as though we have a secret formula or inside information.



Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION

A kind of *proto-Gnosticism* was gaining popularity in Colossae; it was a combination of *Gnostic* concepts and Judaism. Full-fledged Gnosticism did not appear until the second century. In any event, Paul wrote to refute the error and to get the believers back on track. To do so, Paul highlighted the preeminence of Christ and the importance of godly living.



Letter to the Colossians

INTRODUCTION

As you read Paul's letter to the Colossian believers, use your God-given mind to evaluate your own belief system. Is it based on God's word and centered on Christ? Or do you rely on human philosophy and your ability to think?



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS



Letter to the Colossians

Definitions

Proto-

first, especially from which
other similar things develop;
original:



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Gnostic (adjective)
relating to knowledge, especially
knowledge that most people do
not have.



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Gnosticism is a collection of religious ideas and systems which originated in the first century AD among early Christian and Jewish sects. These various groups emphasized personal spiritual knowledge over the orthodox teachings, traditions, and authority of the church. [Wikipedia](#)



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Gnosticism -

- emphasized the mind
- salvation obtained through knowledge (*gnosis*) instead of faith
- knowledge esoteric [mysterious]
- knowledge only acquired special initiation in Gnostic system,
- not obtained by study or normal process of learning



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Gnosticism –

- distorted Christian theology
- twisted biblical truths
- declared that matter is inherently evil
- declared that only the spiritual or non-material is good



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Gnosticism –

- denied Creation and the Incarnation
- elevated the role of angels
- reduced Christianity to just one of many religions
- sought to combine the “best” of all religions [*syncretism*]



Letter to the Colossians

DEFINITIONS

Syncretism is the combining of different religions, cultures, or ideas.



Letter to the Colossians

**BACKGROUND AND
HISTORICAL CONTEXT**



Letter to the Colossians

Author

Background and Historical Context

1. Who is the author of the Letter to the Colossians? (1:1; 4:18)

This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy (1:1 NLT).

HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL. Remember my chains. May God's grace be with you (4:18 NLT).



Letter to the Colossians

Author

Background and Historical Context

2. To whom was this letter addressed? (1:2)

We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.
(1:2 NLT)



Letter to the Colossians

Audience

Background and Historical Context

3. How did Paul address the believers in this city? ([1:2](#))

We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colossae, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.
(1:2 NLT)



Letter to the Colossians

Date Written

Background and Historical Context

4. Approximately when and where
was Colossians written?
(Colossians 4:3, 4:10, 4:18; and
Philemon 1:23)

(Also see handout,
“A Chronology of Paul’s Writings”)



Letter to the Colossians

Date Written

Background and Historical Context

This letter to the Colossians was written from a Roman prison in approximately A.D. 60.

Colossians was written in the same year as Ephesians and Philemon. According to the reference in Colossians 4:3 to being in chains, in 4:10 to fellow prisoner Aristarchus, and in 4:18 to his chains, clearly Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter. Evidently Epaphras, who was visiting Paul or was imprisoned with him (Philemon 1:23), told him of the problems in Colossae (1:7).



Letter to the Colossians

The City of Colossae

Background and Historical Context

5. Where was the City of Colossae located in relation to the City of Ephesus?

(See Colossae Location Map)



Letter to the Colossians

The City of Colossae





Letter to the Colossians

The City of Colossae

Background and Historical Context

The City of Colossae lay about one hundred miles east of Ephesus, in the Lycus River valley in Phrygia, a district of Asia Minor (Turkey) that had been incorporated into the Roman province of Asia in the second century B.C.



Letter to the Colossians

The City of Colossae

Background and Historical Context

- 6. What were some of the features of the City of Colossae?**



Letter to the Colossians

The City of Colossae

Background and Historical Context

Located on the great east-west trade route linking the Aegean Sea and the Euphrates River, Colossae thrived as a center of commerce. At one point the city also may have been a military base.

Colossae was known for the distinctive, glossy, deep purple wool from the sheep that grazed in the surrounding hills.



Letter to the Colossians

The Church

Background and Historical Context

7. Who founded the church in Colossae?



Letter to the Colossians

The Church

Background and Historical Context

The church may have been started by Epaphras who had been sent by Paul to preach to the Colossians ([1:7](#)). Epaphras probably began the work in Laodicea and Hierapolis as well (see [4:12-13](#)).



Letter to the Colossians

The People

Background and Historical Context

- 8. What was the ethnic background of the people in the church in Colossae?**



Letter to the Colossians

The People

Background and Historical Context

Colossae was mostly a pagan city, with a strong intermingling of Jews (in 62 B.C., there were 11,000 Jewish freemen in the tri-city area). This may explain the nature of some of the problems that arose among the church in Colossae (problems with both pagan and Jewish origin).



Letter to the Colossians

The People

Background and Historical Context

The church in Colossae was comprised mainly of Gentiles (including Apphia—Philemon 2). Archippus may have been the church's pastor (4:17). Philemon and his slave Onesimus lived there. In fact, the church met in Philemon's home (Philemon 2). Another group met in Nympha's house (4:15).



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

- 9. Why was the Letter to the Colossians written?
(2:8-10, 16-19)**



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

⁸ Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

⁹ For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.

¹⁰ So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. (Colossians 2:8-10 NLT)



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

¹⁶ So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths.

¹⁷ For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality.

*¹⁸ Don't let anyone condemn you by insisting on pious self-denial or the worship of angels, saying they have had visions about these things. Their sinful minds have made them proud, ¹⁹ and they are not connected to Christ, the head of the body. For he holds the whole body together with its joints and ligaments, and it grows as God nourishes it. **(Colossians 2:16-19 NLT)***



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

Word had come to Paul of false teaching in Colossae, so Paul wrote to encourage the believers in Colossae and to combat errors in the church.



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

A kind of *proto-Gnosticism* was gaining popularity in Colossae; it was a combination of Gnostic concepts and Judaism (*syncretism*). Full-fledged Gnosticism did not appear until the second century. In any event, Paul wrote to refute the error and to get the believers back on track. To do so, Paul highlighted the preeminence of Christ and the importance of godly living. (Colossians 2)



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

Although Paul was a Roman prisoner, his prison was a rented house (Acts 28:16, 30-31). He was allowed to entertain many visitors and to preach and teach. One of Paul's visitors was Epaphras (although he may have been a prisoner as well—Philemon 23). Epaphras reported on the situation in Colosse, including word of false teaching that was threatening the church (1:8; 4:12).



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

Paul wrote quickly to warn the believers of the dangers of this heresy. Paul also wanted to send a letter to Philemon, along with his runaway slave, Onesimus. He was able to send both letters with Tychicus (4:7-9).



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

The heretical poison in Colosse was a deadly Judaic-Gnostic combination. So Paul wrote to warn the Colossian Christians of several errors of doctrine and practice.



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

- ritualism (2:16-17, 2:11; 3:11)
- asceticism (1:22; 2:20-23)
- human philosophy, knowledge, and tradition (2:4, 8)
- desiring secret knowledge (2:18; and 2:2-3)
- worship of angels (2:18-19)
- making Christ any less than the divine Son of God, Lord of the universe, and Head of the church (1:13-20; 2:2-3, 9-10, 17)



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

Paul recognized that the most dangerous element of this heresy was the deprecation of Christ, so he focused much of his attention on Christ's supremacy. In fact, Colossians is the most Christ-centered book in the Bible.



Letter to the Colossians

Purpose for Writing

Background and Historical Context

- 10. What was the main message that Paul wanted to convey in the Letter to the Colossians? Why?**



Letter to the Colossians

Paul's Message

Background and Historical Context

- ☐ Thanksgiving and prayer
- ☐ Total emptiness of the world's teachings compared to God's plan of salvation
- ☐ Love for Christ = Love for Others
- ☐ Significance of Witnessing to Others
- ☐ Connectedness of the Body of Christ



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

- 11. What were the four (4) main themes in the letter to the Colossians? What is the importance of each for today?**



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

The main themes in the book of Colossians include--

- ❑ *Christ's Divinity*
- ❑ *Christ as Head of the Church*
- ❑ *Union with Christ, and*
- ❑ *Man-made Religion.*



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Christ's Divinity (1:15-20; 2:2, 9-12)

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh, Lord of all creation, and Lord of the new creation. He is the expressed reflection of the invisible God. He is eternal, preexistent, omnipotent, and equal with the Father. He is supreme and complete. Jesus is God!



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Christ's Divinity – Importance for Today

Because Christ is divine and the Lord of all creation, our lives must be centered around him. We must honor him as our God and our Lord; we must not accept any substitutes, tolerate any additions, or entertain any thoughts of a diminished role. This means regarding our relationship with him as most vital and making his interests our top priority.



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Christ as Head of the Church (1:15-20; 3:15-17, 23-24).

Because Christ is God, he is the head of the church. Christ is the founder, leader, and highest authority on earth. As such, he expects his followers to listen to him carefully and obey him completely. Christ requires first place in all of their thoughts and activities.



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Christ as Head of the Church – Importance for Today

To acknowledge Christ Jesus as our head, our Lord, we must welcome his leadership in all we do or think. No Christian individual, group, or church should regard any loyalty (to family, friends, country, employer, church, or denomination) more important than loyalty to Christ.



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Union with Christ (1:13, 21-23; 2:6-15, 20; 3:1-4, 11, 15-17).

Because believers' sins have been forgiven and they have been reconciled to God, they are united with Christ. That union can never be broken.

Being united with Christ means being identified with his death, burial (2:20), and resurrection (3:1).



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Union with Christ – Importance for Today

Because we have been united with Christ, we can have assurance of our salvation. Because we have been united with Christ, we should focus on heaven (3:2). And we should live as those who have been raised with Christ, ridding ourselves of all sinful habits related to life before Christ (3:8-11) and committing ourselves to good works (3:12-17).



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Man-made Religion (2:8, 16-23)

Background and Historical Context

False teachers were promoting a heresy that stressed keeping rituals and rules (legalism). They also taught that spiritual growth was attained by discipline of the body (asceticism) and visions (mysticism).

Emphasizing human knowledge, they missed God's wisdom; focusing on human philosophy, they did not understand God; attempting to combine a variety of religious viewpoints, they lost sight of Christ.



Letter to the Colossians

Main Themes

Background and Historical Context

Man-made Religion – Importance for Today

We must not hold on to our own theories and ideas and try to blend them into Christianity. Nor should we allow our hunger for a more fulfilling Christian experience to cause us to trust in a teacher, group, or system of thought more than in Christ and in God's word. Do not be swayed or moved away from Christ by smooth-talking teachers, and do not be confused by attractive arguments and sophisticated philosophies. Keep your focus on Christ and live by God's word.

A Chronology of Paul's Writings

1st Missionary Journey (45 - 47 A.D.)

No books were written

2nd Missionary Journey (51 - 54 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. | 1 Thessalonians | (52 - 53 A.D.) | Written from Corinth |
| 2. | 2 Thessalonians | (52 - 53 A.D.) | Written from Corinth |

3rd Missionary Journey (54 - 58 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 3. | 1 Corinthians | (Spring, 57 A.D.) | Written from Ephesus |
| 4. | 2 Corinthians | (Autumn, 57 A.D.) | Written from Macedonia |
| 5. | Galatians | (Winter, 57 A.D.) | Written from Greece |
| 6. | Romans | (Spring 58, A.D.) | Written from Corinth |

First Roman Imprisonment (61 - 63 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 7. | Philemon | (61 or 62 A.D.) | Written from Rome |
| 8. | Colossians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | Written from Rome |
| 9. | Ephesians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | Written from Rome |
| 10. | Philippians | (61 or 62 A.D.) | Written from Rome |

Between First & Second Imprisonments (63 - 67 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|------------------------|
| 11. | 1 Timothy | (67 A.D.) | Written from Macedonia |
| 12. | Titus | (67 A.D.) | Written from Ephesus |

Second Roman Imprisonment (68 A.D.)

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
| 13. | 2 Timothy | (68 A.D.) | Written from Rome |
|-----|-----------|-----------|-------------------|



*"I Paul have written it
with mine own hand"*

Philemon 19



NOTE: { It is believed by many that Paul wrote the book of Hebrews. If in fact he did, that would bring to 14 the total number of books of the New Testament written by this great soldier of the cross.

Map Showing the City of Colossae in relation to the Cities of Ephesus, Philippi, and Rome



[Source: <https://bibletalk.tv/introduction-to-colossians>]

Colossians

- I. Introduction: the apostolic greeting (1:1-8)
- II. The apostle's sevenfold prayer (1:9-14)
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