

Lovell C. Hayes, Minister

STUDY GUIDE – COLOSSIANS – **Part 1** – Introduction and 1:1-12

Introduction

1. Colossians is the most _____ epistle in the New Testament. More than any other epistle, it is concerned with the _____ and _____ of Christ. (cf. 1:17-18; 2:9-10; 3:11)
2. The epistles were often written in the midst of events _____ the church. For example:
 - a. 1st Peter written due to _____;
 - b. 2nd Peter due to _____; and
 - c. Galatians due to the efforts of Judaizing teachers trying to enforce _____ and keeping the _____, Acts 15:1)
3. So also, this epistle was written to combat what some have called: the _____ (see 2:8)
 - a. the teachings of the epistle indicate that an early form of _____ was _____ the church.
 - b. the heresy being addressed by Paul included a mixture of _____, _____ and Gnosticism.
4. The following may be regarded as the chief points in the Gnostic systems:
 - a. a claim to a special _____ of the _____; a tendency to regard knowledge as superior to _____ and as the special possession of the more _____, for ordinary Christians did not possess this secret and higher doctrine;
 - b. the essential separation of _____ and _____, matter being intrinsically _____ and the source from which all evil has arisen;
 - c. an attempt to solve the problems of creation and the _____ by postulating a _____, i.e., a creator of the world distinct from the deity, and emanations extending between God and the visible universe (the demiurge for the Gnostics being the God of the _____, an _____ being infinitely remote from the Supreme Being who can have _____ to do with anything material);

- d. a denial of the true _____ of Christ which considered the earthly life of Christ and especially His sufferings on the cross to be _____;
- e. the denial of the personality of the Supreme God, and also the denial of the _____ of mankind;
- f. the teaching, on the one hand, of _____ (severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence) as the means of attaining spiritual communion with _____, and, on the other hand, of an _____ that led directly to licentiousness;
- g. a tendency to _____ certain more or less misunderstood Christian doctrines and various _____ from oriental, Jewish, Greek, and other sources.

[adapted from The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia]

5. The epistle was written by the apostle Paul (1:1) and delivered to the church by _____ and _____ (4:7-9).
 - a. at the time Paul was in _____ and the time about A.D. _____
6. This epistle was delivered on the same trip as the one to the _____ [Laodiceans ?? see 3:16] (Ephesians 6:21-22)
7. Paul had _____ been to Colossae (2:1).
 - a. The church may have been started through the preaching and work of _____ (1:5-7).
 - b. The church was mainly made up of _____ (1:21, 27; 3:5-7)
 - c. They were a church of _____ and _____ (1:4, 8) and of good _____ and _____ (2:5).
8. Since the epistles were written by the same _____ at the same _____ and delivered by the same person on the same _____ about the same time and because it is possible that 4:16 is referring to the epistle of _____, there are many common _____ and _____ in the epistles of Ephesians and Colossians. The difference by that Ephesians focuses more on the _____ of _____ and Colossians focuses more on the _____ of the _____.

a. Compare the following: <u>Ephesians</u>	<u>Colossians</u>
1:7	1:14
1:10	1:20
1:21-23	1:16-18
2:5-6	2:12-13
3:2	1:25
4:16	2:19
5:19	3:16
5:22-25	3:18-19
6:1-4	3:20-21
6:19-20	4:3-4

(the following outline is from Lee, Robert. 1981. *The Outlined Bible*. Zondervan Publishing, Grand Rapids, MI, 1982. p 51)

The Epistle To The Colossians

Key phrase: He is the head

Key Verse: 2:8

Theme: The supreme glory and dignity of Christ

DOCTRINAL

Thanksgivings on behalf of the Colossians (1: 1-8)

1 Note, faith first exercised before love manifested (v.4).

2 In v.8 we have the only mention of the Holy Spirit in the epistle.

Intercession on behalf of the Colossians (1: 9-14)

1 Note 'to pray for you, and to desire' (v.9).

2 This prayer has no formal ending, but merges into 'a worshipping and enraptured confession of the glory of the Christ of God'.

The supreme dignity, glory, and pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus, viewed from every standpoint (1: 15 to 2: 3)

The heart of the epistle. In hushed, and awed mood, Paul gives a heart-moving, soul-subduing affirmation of the glory of the Lord Jesus. Christ is seen as 'all and in all' —

in DEITY — equality with God — 'image of God' (v.15), abode of fulness (1: 19; 2: 9), and firstborn (v.15), a title of dignity. in CREATION — Christ is cause, head and goal of the created universe (v.16). in PROVIDENCE — In v.17, he who by one creative act formed the universe, by continuous activity sustains it.

in CHURCH — In Ephesians we see what the body is to the head, in Colossians what the head is to the body (v.18). In Ephesians, emphasis is placed on the church as body, in Colossians on Christ as its head. in REDEMPTION — (vv.20, 23) he is the redeemer, and his redemption has wide extent. in GOSPEL MYSTERY — (vv.24-29) the mystery is 'Christ in you'.

Chapter 1:1-12

1. v. 1-3 As he commonly does (cf. Galatians 1:1-3; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-2), Paul opens the epistle by identifying himself and with a greeting of _____ and _____ from God, the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - a. v. 1 Paul was an apostle by the _____.
 - b. Note: not all who claim to be apostles are apostles by the will of God (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15)
2. In verses 3-8, Paul expresses _____ to God and _____ for their (v. 4) _____, _____ and (v. 5) _____.
3. v. 4. Remember that this faith in Christ Jesus and the love they had demonstrated for all the saints is an _____ faith in the midst of fierce _____ and false _____ and the love is an _____ love.
4. v. 5 They had enduring faith and exhibited love because of their _____, which was
 - a. _____ in heaven, and
 - b. taught to them through the word of the _____ of the _____ (cf. 1:23; 1 Peter 1:3-9, 20-25)
5. v. 6 The gospel had come to them and it had gone (v. 6) into _____ or (v. 23b) preached to _____ under heaven.
 - a. This has been considered a challenging expression to understand.
 - (1) Paul could be saying that the gospel had been preached to the _____ . (cf. Matthew 24:14; 28:18).
 - (2) Paul could have been speaking via _____ [a figure of speech that contains an obvious _____ for the purpose of _____ a truth]. (cf. Genesis 13:16; 1 Samuel 13:5; Mark 1:4-5)
 - (3) Paul could have been using then term as a “_____ for the whole _____” [mankind], particularly the two main divisions of _____ and _____ (cf. Titus 2:11-12; Mark 16:15; Acts 2:17-18).

6. v. 6 The gospel was bringing forth fruit. This fruit is seen:

- a. in the _____ of the _____ and souls being added to the Lord
(cf. John 15:16; Romans 1:13; Acts 6:7; 12:24), and
- b. in the _____ of faith and love within the _____ (v. 9-11;
Romans 6:22; Hebrews 12:11)

7. v. 7 They had heard the truth of the gospel from Epaphras who is described by Paul as

- a. our dear _____, and
- b. a _____ of Christ

8. v. 9-12 Paul prayed:

- a. v. 9 that they be _____ with the _____ of God's will;
 - (1) this knowledge is _____ rather than gnosis which indicates a
_____ and _____ knowledge; an experiential knowledge and
not just _____ information.
 - (2) However, the _____ is involved in that we must _____ with the
ears and _____ with the _____ (cf. Romans 10:17;
Matthew 13:15)
- b. for their spiritual _____ and _____
- c. v. 10 that they would _____ of the Lord, fully
_____ Him (cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:12; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27)
- d. that they would be _____ in every good _____
- e. that their knowledge of God would _____
- f. v. 11 that they would be _____ with all might according to His glorious
_____ (see Ephesians 3:16)
- g. which would result in them having _____ and _____ with _____.
- h. v. 12 and result in their _____
 - (1) We will give thanks when we _____ what God has done _____
_____ through Jesus Christ.
 - (2) He has _____ us. The word used only here and in 2 Corinthians 3:6 means
“to make _____, to _____, to authorize, to _____”.
 - (3) qualified to be _____ of the _____ of the saints.

- (a) Part of our inheritance are the _____ we enjoy in the _____
(Ephesians 1:3, 13-14; Colossians 1:14, 21; 2 Timothy 1:9)
- (b) and also that which is a part of being _____ with _____ and
_____ with God in _____ (1 Peter 1:4; Matthew 25:34;
Romans 8:17, 30).

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STUDY GUIDE – COLOSSIANS 1 – **Part 2 – 1:13-18**

Chapter 1:13-18

1. Paul's _____ for them could be extended through verses 12, 13, or 14 even though the _____ is thanking God for what He has _____ for us _____ Jesus Christ.
- Paul taught in Philippians 4:6 to pray with _____
 - There are examples of prayers that focused on _____ and/or _____ God for His wondrous works (cf. 1 Chronicles 29:10-19; Psalm 63; Psalm 86:1-13; Jeremiah 32:16-23; Acts 4:24-31).
2. We ought to be filled with thanksgiving because through Jesus Christ, God has
- v. 12 _____ us to be partakers of the _____
 - v. 13 _____ us from the _____ or _____ (jurisdiction) of _____ (cf. Luke 1:76-79; Luke 22:53; Ephesians 6:12)
 - v. 13 _____ or _____ us into the _____ of His dear Son
 - v. 14 _____ us through Christ's blood (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 5:9)
 - v. 14 _____ our sins (Ephesians 1:7)
3. Jesus Christ is qualified to qualify us because He is:
- v. 15 the _____ of the invisible _____ (cf. Hebrews 1:3)
 - Note: _____ was created in the _____ or likeness of God (1 Corinthians 11:7; Genesis 1:26-27)
 - How is Christ's being in the image of God different than man?

[a] Man was created in God's image in a _____ aspect, but our human bodies are not "the _____ of God" (Philippians 2:6). One day we will be changed to live in, Philippians 3:20-21 a new and _____.

[b] Jesus is part of the "_____" (Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:5; John 1:1-3) before He came in the flesh and ascended back to _____ to be in His rightful _____ within the heavenly realm and reign (Hebrews 1:1-3)

[c] Jesus was and is _____ (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
Man sins (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10)

[d] _____ Jesus, we see the _____ because He and the Father are _____, sharing in the same _____ (John 5:19-30; 6:46; 10:30 & 38; 17:5)

b. v. 15b-16 the _____ of all creation and by Him _____ were created

(1) not the "_____" as one religious group falsely claims

(2) Jesus is not the "_____ g" god who was created by the "_____ G" God (see Isaiah 43:10)

(3) v. 16 for by Him were _____ created

(4) Jesus is the "firstborn" in terms of _____ or primarily _____, not in terms of chronologically.

[a] Just as _____ was God's _____ (Exodus 4:22; Jeremiah 31:9) in _____ among all _____, but they were not the first nation. In fact, the son through whom Israel developed (_____) was not the firstborn _____, yet he received the _____ of the firstborn (Genesis 25:23; 27:27-29; Malachi 1:2-3; Romans 9:6-13)

[b] Just as Jesus was the *firstborn from the* _____, (1:18), but not the _____ person to be raised from the dead.

c. v. 17 He is _____ all things and in Him all things consist (_____)

d. v. 18 He is the _____ of the _____, the _____ (cf. Ephesians 1:19-23)

e. he is the _____ (cf. Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 12:2)

f. the firstborn from the dead

g. _____ in all things, even over the _____, dominions, _____
and powers mentioned in verse 16 (cf. Ephesians 1:20-21)