

Lesson #30
Book Overview
Colossians

Colossians addresses problems in the Church and challenges believers to examine their lives and be transformed through the love of Jesus.

Written by Paul while in prison.

He didn't start this Church. Epaphras started it because he was from that city.

He wrote because the believers were being pressured not to believe. Paul addressed these.

Outline: 1. Exalted Messiah, 2. Paul's suffering in prison is for the exalted Jesus, 3. Addresses pressures to turn away from Jesus and, 4. New resurrection life in Jesus.

1. Col. 1:1-23 Opening prayer.
 - a. Colossians faithfulness during persecution.
2. 1:15-20 Paul adds poem to encourage colossians. It's about the crucified and exalted Messiah.
 - a. Jesus is the full image of God.
 - i. In the Messiah we discover author and king of the universe.
 - ii. Messiah also bringing about a new creation.
 - iii. He is the head of a NEW body of which we have a part.
3. Paul's suffering. 1:24 to 2:5.
 - a. Paul's in prison because he's preaching to the Roman world that Jesus is King!
 - i. He thinks its good because he's participating in the suffering of Jesus.
 - ii. His hardships are a cause for joy.
 - iii. Messiah creating a multi-ethnic family.
4. The pressure to turn away from Jesus. 2:6-23
 - a. Two influences to resist.
 - i. Polytheism i.e. Jesus is just one more deity.
 - ii. Observe the Law i.e. many rules.
 - b. Don't compromise because it indicates a failure to understand who Jesus really is and what He did on their behalf.

- i. Jesus released us from fear of spirits.
 - ii. Jesus fulfilled all the laws of the Torah. This can't transform us.
- 5. Power of the Resurrection. Chapter 3-4.
 - a. Following Jesus means being part of His NEW humanity.
 - i. Set mind on Jesus in heaven.
 - ii. Live in the present like the NEW humans they will become.
 - iii. No division based on race or nationality.
 - b. Ch. 3:18 to 4:1 The new Roman household.
 - i. Patriarch held power over life and death of the family. God was changing this in Christ.
 - ii. For Christians, Jesus is the true Lord.
 - 1. Wife allows husband to be responsible for her.
 - 2. Husband is subject to Jesus in loving his wife. Places her well-being above his own.
 - 3. Children respect their parents.
 - 4. Children are not just things.
 - 5. Slaves, honor their masters because Jesus is true master.
 - 6. Masters understand that slaves are not their property. Part of the family of God.
- 6. Conclusion: 4:2-18
 - a. Tychicus – read this letter to Colossians.
 - i. Onesimus also there, a former slave of Philemon.
 - ii. Church should accept Onesimus as a brother.
 - iii. Paul wrote Philemon and told him to also receive Onesimus as a brother!
 - b. **No part of human existence remains untouched by Christ and His rule!!!**