

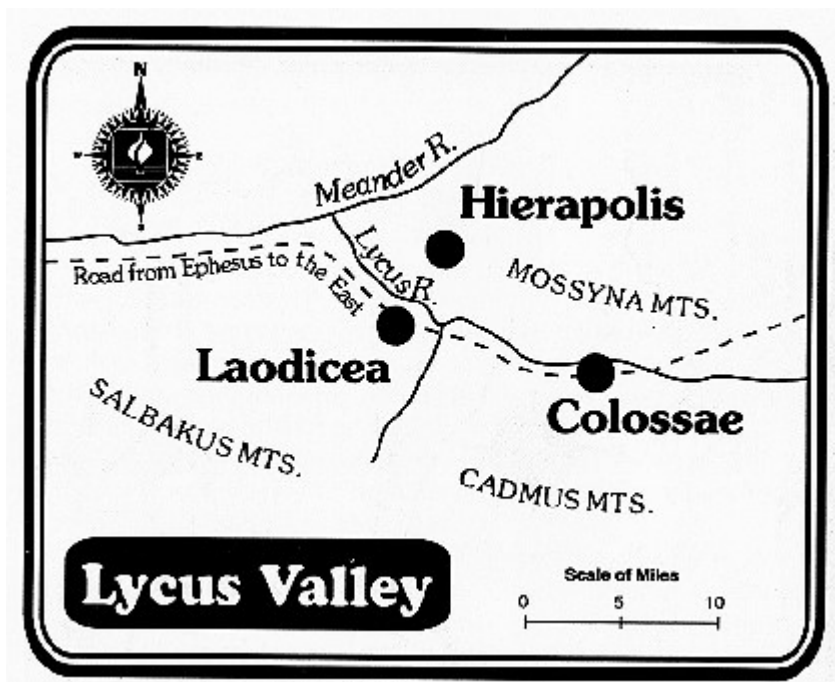
OVERVIEW OF COLOSSIANS

MAPS

Map 1. The Area where the Gospel went initially to the Gentiles



Map 2. Local map of proximity of Colossae, Laodicea, and Hierapolis



OVERVIEW OF COLOSSIANS

Fundamental Information

Title Means: **Colossal; Huge; Monstrosity (inhabitants of Colosse)**

Chapters: **4** Verses: **95** Words: _____ (Prov 30:5-6; Psalm 12:6-7 – God promised to preserve the words)

Author: **PAUL** (Colossians 1:1, 23; 4:18) Note: **One of 4 “Prison Epistles”**

Time of Writing: **62-64** AD (approx.)

Theme: **JESUS CHRIST IS OUR ALL IN ALL – HE IS ALL WE NEED!**

Keynote concerning Colossians:

- Colossians is written in the very face of the Laodicean church age (Laodicea is mentioned five times in the letter – 2:1; 4:13, 15, twice in 16.) This letter deals directly with the false doctrines purported in the last days. Gnosticism (to know things others do not) was being confronted in this letter. The end day’s equivalent is a twisted form of philosophy, which worships intellect and modern education. This satanic philosophy exalts man’s wisdom _____ God’s precious Word.

Three Basic Applications:

HISTORICAL Paul writes to believers at Colosse to encourage them of their completeness in Christ. He confronts the false doctrine of human self-sufficiency that says Christ was _____ sufficient for their every need.

DOCTRINAL Colossians is directed specifically to the _____ period of church history just prior to the rapture. Five times the “*Laodiceans*” are mentioned and the apostle commands that the epistle be read to them. An understanding of this brief letter can silence every false doctrine we face today.

DEVOTIONAL As true born again believers, indwelt by Christ, we cannot substitute man’s philosophies or traditions for the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ. We must guard against the popular trend to be directed by the wisdom and rudiments of the world.

Other important details:

Two things to consider:

1. We are “*Laodiceans*” with pride and self-centeredness pressing against us daily.
2. Although we are living in “*Laodicea*”, we can live like the Philadelphian church period (Col 3:1-3).

Key Outline:

Chapter 1 Christ's preeminence is _____.

Doctrine: *In the gospel message*
In the cross
In creation
In the church
In Paul's ministry

Chapter 2 Christ's preeminence is _____.

Danger: *Empty philosophy*
Religious legalism
Man-made disciplines

Chapter 3-4 Christ's preeminence is _____.

Duty: *In our relationship with the Lord*
In our home
In our job and work
In the body of Christ

Additional Notes:

1. OT and NT Parallels

- The OT counterpart to Colossians is the book of Judges – Judges 17:6; 21:25
- Ephesians is a compliment – the mystery revealed in it is the church is “*in Christ*”
- Colossians – the mystery revealed for the church is “*Christ in us*” our hope of glory!

2. The Church at Colosse

- The church was probably founded by Epaphras (4:12).
- Paul had probably not visited this church.
- Paul had many friends among its members.
- Philemon was one outstanding person there (4:9).
- Archippus was Philemon's son (4:17).
- Archippus was possibly the pastor there (Philemon 2).
- Epaphras was likely in prison with Paul (Philemon 23).

3. The Preeminence of Jesus Christ

- Paul identified the person of Christ as the Creator, the Divine Head of the Universe. He discusses the believer's COMPLETENESS in Him. As a result of what Christ has done for the believer, the Christian is encouraged to conduct himself accordingly by “*putting off the old man*” and “*putting on the new man.*”

4. False teaching found in Colossians that are still in operation today:

- *Enticing Words* – 2:4; 1 Corinthians 2:4
- *Philosophy* (the love of wisdom) – 2:8
- *Vain Deceit* – 2:8
- Legalism and *the traditions of men* – 2:8, 16-17
- *Mysticism (worshipping of angels)* – 2:18
- *Asceticism (touch not, taste not, handle not)* – 2:20-21
- *Rudiments of the world* (Standard Operating Procedure, SOP) – 2:8

**** Action for NEXT WEEK ... Read & Begin to write out your own copy of Colossians ****