

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 1:1-8

- As you well know Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians were all written by the Apostle Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome probably between around A.D. 60-62. By this time the church was roughly around 30 yrs old still considered in its infancy stage, yet old enough where some serious internal problems began to rear its head and therefore needed immediate attention from both the Apostles and the leadership of the church before things really got out of hand.
- One of those problems was the identity of Christ and His role within the church, in fact since Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians were written at the same time and are called the prison Epistles, it doesn't surprise us that they are so closely related when it comes to the audiences it wants to impact. As Ephesians can be labeled the letter portraying the "**Church of Christ**" Colossians can be the letter describing the "**Christ of the church**" and as Ephesians focuses on the body, the people within the church, Colossians emphasizes the Head of the church.

V1-8

- **V1-2** Paul in his greeting mentions who he is and who he is writing to, as well as by who's authority he is writing this letter. Also he lets the church know that where there's grace there should be peace, and where peace dwells you will usually find Jesus as well. **V2** in speaking about the city of Colosse it was one of three cities located within a **100** mile radius of Ephesus, the other two being Laodicea, and Hierapolis, and the city itself is never mentioned in the book of Acts because Paul didn't start the church nor did he ever visit it, and yet it was important enough for him to write to it, and we'll see exactly why as the letter goes on.
- **V3-6** Paul says since he was told of the faith, love, hope, and embrace of truth, he and his companions have continued to give thanks to the Lord for them. We should always remember to keep that genuine wonder for everyone that we hear has given their lives over to the Lord Jesus Christ, it's still the greatest miracle that can ever happen in a person's life. Because anytime you can get a person's attention off of what is happening in this life and have them concerned about what God and His word has said concerning the life to come it's an amazing thing, for most people are so caught up into the here and now that heaven is obsolete.
- **V7-8** the person who were told as starting the church in Colosse was "**Epaphras**" and were told three things about him **1st Dear fellow servant, 2nd a faithful minister, 3rd a testifier of others people's faith**, as he was the one who told Paul that everything he had heard was true. A fellow servant simply means someone who is on the front lines with you, who has your back, it's a military term, and you could count on him as he was faithful, you could trust him, and because of those first two things God used him to accurately share with the leadership the testimonies of others, this is so important because sometimes people don't always accurately report the facts.