

“A Greeting In Chains”
Colossians 1:1-2 & 4:18

The Heart of the Letter to the Colossians

Paul’s invitation for the Colossians and for us is to embrace the supremacy Christ and to then walk in a way that establishes Him as Lord of all we are and do.

A Greeting In Chains – Colossians 1:1-2 & 4:18

Several significant literary and philosophical works have been given voice from a prison cell. The apostle Paul wrote the book of Colossians while incarcerated.

Prison Epistles

- Four books in the New Testament are referred to as the “Prison Epistles.”
 - Ephesians
 - Colossians
 - Philemon
 - Philippians
- They are so named because in each letter mention is made of Paul being in prison or in chains.

The Church at Colossae

Located in Asia Minor (present day Turkey).

The Colossian church was not founded by Paul, but rather, one of his disciples – very likely Epaphras (1:7).

The church was probably founded some time around 55 A.D.

The Colossians Letter

The Colossian letter was written by Paul in 61-62 A.D.

The book roughly divides into two basic parts:

Doctrinal/Theological

Pragmatic / Application

A Prisoner for Christ

It is almost certain it was during Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome that he wrote the ‘Prison Epistles.’

Shaped by the Chains

There is no doubt that time spent in chains shaped Paul’s personal and theological life. He understood his hardships, including his incarcerations, as part of the price to be paid for being faithful.

Philippians 3:8

Furthering the Cause of Christ

There is every chance God will put us in circumstances we don’t particularly like, understand, think necessary or effective that he will use to shape our lives and extend the gospel.

Paul’s imprisonment served to further the cause of Christ:

- *It was a means by which a clear testimony to Christ became evident.*
- *It bolstered confidence in other Christians*
- *It encouraged others involvement and boldness in proclaiming Christ*
- *It allowed for writings such as the Prison Epistles*

