

5) The danger of *Asceticism* - which called for harsh treatment of the BODY as the means to control its lusts (2:20-23).

Listen to Paul's heart for these believers in 2:1-7.

## II. The IMPORTANCE of CHRISTIAN *DUTY* (chapters 3-4)

? How do we avoid heretical beliefs and godless lifestyles?

9 practical ways...

- 1) Set Your Mind on Things *Above* (3:1-4)
- 2) Put Off the *Old* Man (3:5-9)
- 3) Put On the *New* Man (3:10-14)
- 4) Allow God's *Word* to Change You (3:15-16)
- 5) Live Your Live *Everyday* for Jesus (3:17)
- 6) Make Your *Family* a Priority (3:18-4:1)
- 7) Devote Yourself to *Prayer* (4:2-4)
- 8) Walk in God's *Wisdom* (4:5)
- 9) Guard Your *Speech* (4:6)

Paul ends his letter by Commending his Fellow Messengers (4:7-9) and Sending Greetings from His Friends (4:10-14).

CONCLUSION (4:15-18)

What message should we remember from this great letter?

Because Jesus is pre-eminent He is MORE THAN ENOUGH for every need we have!



SERMON SERIES: Route 66 - Word of the Living God

MESSAGE: Colossians Overview

TEXT: Colossians 1-4

DATE: January 22, 2017 (p.m.)

SPEAKER: Pastor Dean Haun

## I. THE *CITY* OF COLOSSAE

The city was located about 100 miles east of Ephesus in Asia Minor (modern day Turkey).

Together with Hieropolis (4:13) and Laodicea (2:1; 4:13-16; Revelation 3:14-22), Colosse made up a tri-city area.

It was predominantly a pagan city but had a strong intermingling of Jews.

## II. THE *AUTHOR*

The apostle Paul, joins with Timothy in his salutation.

(1:1; 4:18)

## III. THE *CHURCH* AT COLOSSE

The establishment of the church is uncertain.

We don't know if Paul himself ever visited there.

(Acts 18:23; Acts 19:1; Colossians 2:1; Colossians 1:5-8; Colossians 4:12-13)

#### IV. THE TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

Colossians is one of Paul's four "PRISON EPISTLES" (4:18; cf. Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon) written while he was imprisoned at Rome.

(Acts 28:16; Acts 28:30-31)

If that's the case, then Paul wrote Colossians around 61-63 A.D. from Rome.

#### V. THE THEME OF THE EPISTLE

The theme of this letter is The PRE-EMINENCE of JESUS, the CHRIST (Colossians 1:18).

(Colossians 2:9-10)

#### VI. THE OUTLINE OF THE LETTER

Colossians can easily be divided into two sections.

##### 1. The IMPORTANCE of CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (1-2)

In 1:1-2 Paul introduces himself along with Timothy...

He also reveals his ministry to them... (1:24-29)

He also compliments the Colossian believers for their growing faith (1:3-8)

For the most part Paul's response to them was favourable...(2:5)

Beginning in verse 9 Paul tells them he is praying for them...

Paul then introduces the theme of his letter to them as he declares the PRE-EMINENCE of CHRIST... (3 truths)...

1) Christ is pre-eminent over Creation (15-17)

2) Christ is pre-eminent in the Church (18)...

3) Christ is pre-eminent because of the Cross (19-20)...

The subject matter of chapters 1-2, especially chapter two, strongly suggests that the church was facing several doctrinal dangers.

There are five issues Paul addresses with them in what is often called...

#### "The Colossian Heresy"

The danger of...

1) Relapse into Paganism with its gross immorality (1:21-23; 2:6; 3:5-11)

2) The danger of accepting the Philosophies of MEN - which denied the all sufficiency and pre-eminence of Christ. (2:8)

3) The danger of the influence of the Judaizers

This was the group who attached special significance to the rite of circumcision, food regulations, and observance of special days. (2:11; 2:16-17)

4) The danger of Angel worship

...which detracted from the UNIQUENESS of Christ (2:18)