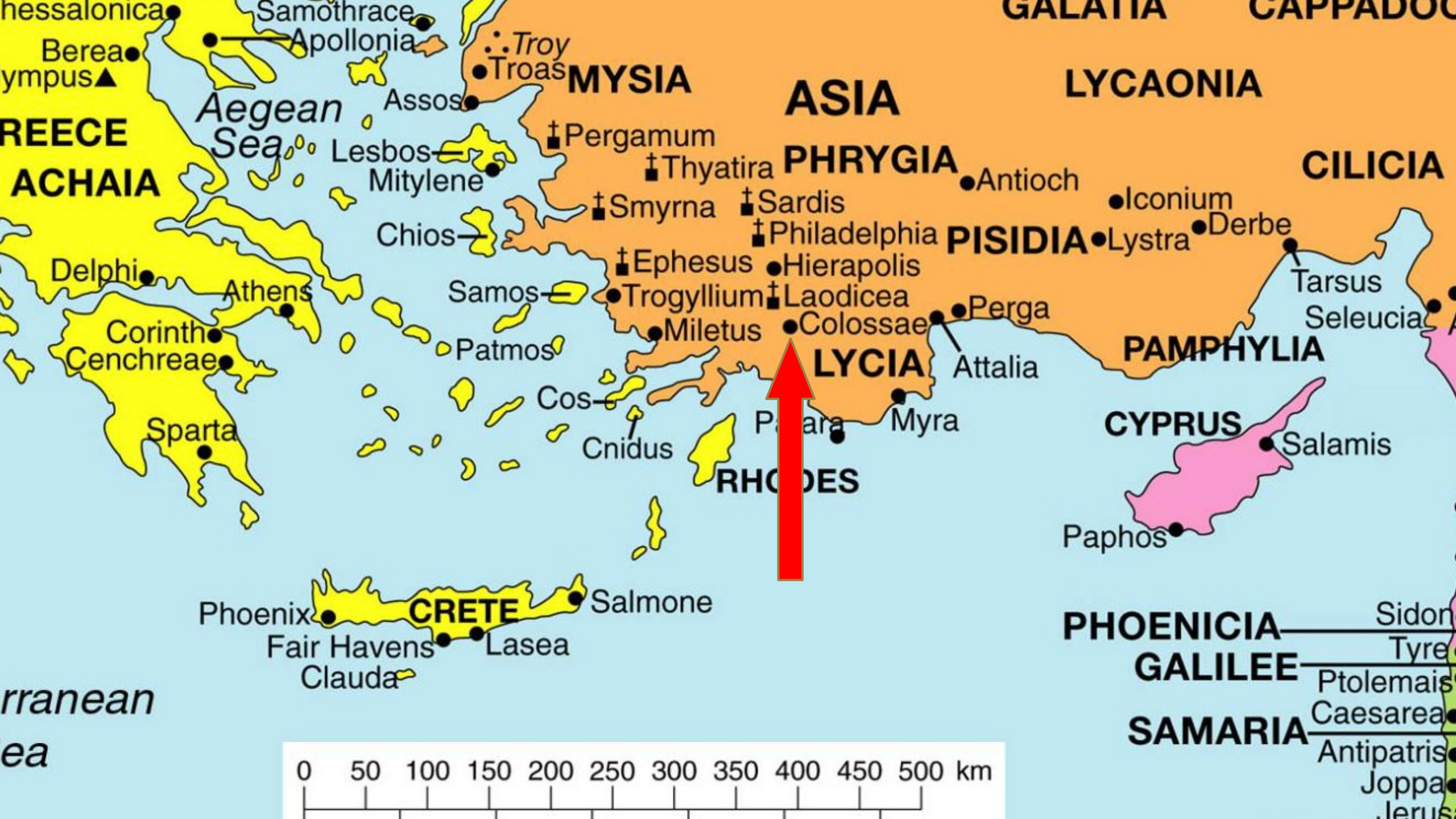
Colossians

Studies in the Book


hessalonica
Samothrace
Apollonia
Berea
ympus
Troy
Troas
MYSIA
ASIA
LYCAONIA
Assos
Aegean Sea
REECE
ACHAIA
Pergamum
Lesbos
Mitylene
Thyatira
PHRYGIA
Antioch
CILICIA
Smyrna
Sardis
Iconium
Philadelphia
Derbe
Chios
PISIDIA
Lystra
Ephesus
Hierapolis
Delphi
Athens
Samos
Trogyllium
Laodicea
Tarsus
Perga
Seleucia
Corinth
Miletus
Colossae
Cenchreae
Patmos
LYCIA
PAMPHYLIA
Attalia
Cos
Myra
Sparta
CYPRUS
Salamis
Cnidus
RHODES
Paphos
Phoenix
CRETE
Salmone
PHOENICIA
Sidon
Fair Havens
Lasea
GALILEE
Tyre
Ptolemais
Claudia
Caesarea
SAMARIA
Antipatris
Joppa
0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 km

The City of Colossae

- Located 120 miles east of Ephesus
- Close to Laodicea (11) & Hierapolis (6)Lycus Valley
- Founded by Epaphras (1:7,8; 4:12,13) who is with Paul
- Acts 19:1-**10** (3rd Missionary Journey)
- Paul wrote this letter and Philemon to the people here
- Written between 59-61 or earlier (55)
- Known for flocks, dyes, dark red wool called colossinum

Paul author of Colossians & philemon

1. Timothy, is his companion in both (Col. 1:1; Phile 1).

2. Paul's companions Epaphras, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke are mentioned (Col. 4:12f; Phile 22-23).

3. Paul in prison in both (Col. 4:7f; Phile 1).

4. Sent a message to Archippus in both (Col. 4:17; Phile 2).

5. Paul had Onesimus to travel with Tychicus in taking the letter to the church of Colosse. Onesimus was the slave or the subject of the Philemon letter (Col. 4:7-9; Phile 10).

Focus of the book -

- A serious cultic teaching had come to the city:
  - Stressed astrology and elemental signs (2:8)
  - Hidden “enlightenment” (2:3,8,18,23)
  - Philosophy (2:8,20)
  - Soul over body (2:21)
  - Ritual, tradition, man-made rules (2:20-21)
- Gnostics – “Docetism”= “to seem”
- In other words – attacking the Deity of Christ

Major Themes of the Book

- **Preeminence of Christ**
- Marks of Maturity
- Contrasts between Christ and “religion”
- Need for Character in Lifestyle
- Responsibilities of Believers – everyday
- Makes for a powerful response against cultural “blending”
- Makes for a powerful appeal to “living as a Christian in all circumstances

Greetings!

- Paul and Timothy together
  - An Apostle by the will of God…
  - This was the one and only thing for Paul
  - To be what God wanted him to be…
  - Can we say the same? Your profession??
  - A(n) _____ by the will of God???
  - The work God chooses for you to do
  - Are we defined by our intentions or our actions?
  - Mt 12:50; Jn 7:17; 15:16; He 13:21; Ja 4:15

To the saints

- One and only one Christina relationship
- BROTHERHOOD! Paul & Timothy…others?
- Saints and faithful brethren…
- Shouldn't they be the same??
- Does that mean there were un-faithful brethren?
- Some suggest this is two levels of people…
- Mature=faithful; saints=carnal
- Automatic, costless maturity in Christ? NOT!!!!
- 2 basic needs: Grace & Peace

Warren W. Wiersbe,

"The church today desperately needs the message of Colossians. We live in a day when religious toleration is interpreted to mean 'one religion is just as good as another.' Some people try to take the best from various religious systems and manufacture their own private religion. To many people, Jesus Christ is only *one* of several great religious teachers, with no more authority than they. He may be prominent, but He is definitely not preeminent.”