



Sunday, August 9th, 2026

Part 2: “Jesus is the Answer...Through the Good News of the Gospel”

Colossians 1:1-8

Colossians Timeline

....52 AD.....59 AD.....60-62 AD

Paul met Philomon and Epaphras in Ephesus. Epaphras becomes a follower of Christ, takes the gospel back to his hometown of Colossae and plants the church there.

Paul starts his journey to prison in Rome

Epaphras visits Paul in prison and reports both the good and challenging aspects of the Colossian Church. Paul writes the letter to the church and sends it by Tychicus and Onesimus along with the letters to the Ephesians and to Philemon

Top Ten Things to Know About the Epistle of Colossians

1. The Apostle wrote this epistle (means letter) to the church in the city of Colossae (Col. 1:1; 4:18). The church met in the home of Philemon (Philemon 2), one of the church leaders saved under Pauls’ ministry in Ephesus, and the recipient of one of Paul’s other letters named after him.
2. Paul wrote the letter while in prison in Rome for sharing the gospel (Col. 4:16). While there he also wrote the letters of Ephesians, Philippians, and one to Philemon, the only epistle in the N.T. written to an individual. These four N.T. books are called “the prison epistles.”
3. The church in Colossae was likely planted by Epaphras who was from there but had heard the gospel during Paul’s time in Ephesus and returned home to share the gospel (Acts 19:10; Col. 1:7; 4:12), and most likely planted churches in two neighboring cities as well.
4. Colossae was part of a tri-city area in the Lycus River Valley in N.T. Asia (modern Turkey) 100 miles from Ephesus, that included the cities of Laodicea and Hierapolis. It once had been a prominent and influential city, but by the mid-first century had declined in importance and size. The city was made up of Gentiles but also included a large population of Jews.
5. The Colossians were immersed in a cultural environment full of spiritual pluralism and syncretism and were being pressured to add these to their Christian faith. Most people borrowed bits and pieces from the various religious and philosophical ideas of the day, especially from the Greeks.



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6. The purpose of Paul's letter was to encourage them for their faith and love, to not give in to the false teachers and the cultural pressures they were facing, and to live their lives the way Christ wanted them to in the power of the resurrected Christ, allowing Him to shape every aspect of their lives.
7. To achieve his purpose for the letter, Paul highlights the personhood of Christ and His sovereignty and sufficiency over all and for all, as well as the true identity of everyone who is "in Christ" (saved individuals).
8. There are 25 Statements or Truths about Jesus Christ and His work for us, and 35 Statements about Believers in Christ in the epistle of Colossians. Our knowledge and belief in these truths is critical to our spiritual health and growth (Pick up a copy of all of these statements at the Tower in the lobby).
9. Like other writings of Paul, the first half of the letter is theological in nature while the second half provides the instructions of how all believers should respond to the truth and live it out.
10. Ephesians and Colossians are companion epistles, written around the same time, so they have a lot in common. Philippians emphasizes the church of Christ while Colossians emphasizes the head of the church – Jesus Himself.

Our Responses to the Gospel:

1. We should spread it (like Jesus did) – Matt. 4:23
2. We should defend it – Philippians 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15
3. We should live worthy of it - Philippians 1:27a
4. We should work hard to advance it – Philippians 1:27b
5. We should partner together in fellowship with others for it – Philippians 1:3-5
6. We should be ready to suffer for it – 2 Tim. 1:8
7. We should not hinder it with unwise living – 1 Corinthians 9:12
8. We should never be ashamed of it – Rom. 1:16a

Our position in Christ:

1. We are saints (set apart from sin and for God) – Col. 1:2