



The Canadian *Lord's Day* Association

Bible Course

Acts to Revelation

Lesson 36

Name: _____

Colossians

Colosse was once a considerable city of Phrygia, but its influence was waning. Colosse was not far from Laodicea and Hierapolis; we find these mentioned together (4:13). It is now buried in ruins, and the memory of it chiefly preserved in this epistle. This epistle, like that to the Romans, was written to those Paul had never seen, nor had any personal acquaintance with. The church planted at Colosse was not by Paul's ministry, but by the ministry of Epaphras or Epaphroditus, an evangelist, one whom he delegated to preach the gospel among the Gentiles. There was a flourishing church at Colosse, and one, which was eminent and famous among the churches. One would have thought none would have come to be flourishing churches but those, which Paul himself had planted; but here was a flourishing church planted by Epaphras. God is sometimes pleased to make use of the ministry of those who are of less note, and lower gifts, for doing great service to his church. God uses what hands He pleases, and is not tied to those of renown, that the *excellence of the power may appear to be of God and not of men* (2 Cor. 4:7). Although Paul did not start this church, yet he did not therefore neglect it; nor, in writing his epistles, does he make any difference between that and other churches. You will see many similarities between this book and the book of Ephesians.

The design of the epistle is to combat false teachings particularly of the Jewish zealots who denied the greatness of Christ by stressing the necessity of observing the ceremonial law; and also to fortify the Colossians against the mixture of the Gentile philosophy with their Christian principles and walk of life. The mixture of various beliefs is called syncretism. God through Paul in the book of Colossians stresses the supremacy of Christ alone and the need to avoid syncretic error.

Paul professes a great satisfaction in the Colossians' steadfastness and constancy, and encourages them to perseverance. Colossians was written about the same time with the epistles to the Ephesians and Philippians, A.D. 62, and in the same place, while Paul was a prisoner at Rome. Paul was not idle in his confinement, and the word of God was not bound.

-- Adapted from Matthew Henry

1. Which verse in chapter 1 show that Epaphras brought Paul a report of the Colossians state? _____
2. This book of the Bible was written by _____ when he was a _____ in Rome around _____ A.D.
3. To whom was the book written? _____
4. The church at Colosse was planted by _____.
5. Paul did not _____ this church just because he did not plant it.
6. Which book is Colossians similar to? _____
7. What is a key message of Colossians? (v. 18) _____

8. Of what value is this theme to us today?

9. Circle the approximate location of Colosse on the map of the Middle East.



Read Colossians 1

Paul begins in chapter one to greet the church, pray for spiritual wisdom and express the supremacy of Christ.

10. In Paul's prayer (v. 9-14), Paul says that he ceases not to _____ for the Colossian church. His great desire is that they may walk _____, and be _____ in every good work, increase in the _____ of God, and be strengthened with all _____. It is God who alone can deliver us from the _____ of darkness and _____ us into the kingdom of His dear _____.

11. Paul then reminds the Church that it is in Christ that we have redemption through his _____. The root of redemption which is "redeem" means: to ransom, to deliver from sin, to recover.

12. Paul gives a "full length portrait" of Christ (v. 15-18) He lists seven features:

- a. Christ is the _____ (visible form) of the invisible God
- b. The _____ of every creature.
- c. By Him were all things _____. Though the creation of the world is ascribed to God the Father, yet here we see it (similar to John 1:1) ascribed to God the Son. Hence we see the Trinity and Unity – it is impossible to separate each work of each person of the Trinity from one another.
- d. He is _____ all things.
- e. By Him all things _____.
- f. He is the _____ of the _____, the _____.
- g. Christ is the _____ from the dead. But you may ask, "But were there not people raised from the dead before Christ? He was not the first! We must answer that he was, in the mind of God – from eternity, just as Christ was crucified from the foundation of the world.

13. Paul ends with... that in _____ things Christ might have the preeminence. “Preeminent” means: distinguished above others, outstanding.
14. Paul is anxious that the Colossians know the mystery of God by which salvation is available for the Gentiles (v. 19-27).
- a. It pleased God the Father that in Christ should all _____ dwell. This means not only fully human, but also fully God. Later in chapter 2, Paul makes this even more clear: “For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the _____bodily (Col. 2: 9).
 - b. Christ made peace (with enemies and fighters against Him) by the _____ of His cross, to reconcile all things unto Himself. ‘Reconcile’ means: to conciliate, to restore to friendship, to make agree
15. After speaking about Christ, he looks back to the Church to say that they **were** alienated and _____ in their mind by _____ works. But **now** Christ hath reconciled them in the _____ of his flesh through death, to present the Church as holy and _____ and unreprouable in his sight. Paul tells them not to move away from the _____ of the gospel (Col. 1: 23). Then a few verses later he speaks of this same thing, _____ in you, the _____ of glory (Col. 1: 27).

Evaluator: _____

Meditation:

“The quickening of a dead soul is a far greater miracle than raising a dead body; both are beyond man, but the latter is most divine.”

Taken from: Gems of Robert Murray McCheyne