

- Background
  - Written by Paul
  - Church established by Epaphras
    - Paul had not actually visited the church of Colossae as of writing this letter
  - Heresy in the Church of Colossae
    - False teachings going on
    - Paul aims to remind the Colossian people about the character of Christ
    - A reminder of what holiness is and how to walk with Christ
- Colossians 1
  - Paul's compassion and example for the Colossians (Colossians 1: 1-14)
    - Paul had not even met these people at this point
      - Epaphras has established the church (Colossians 1: 7)
    - Even in prison is praying continuously for God's kingdom (Colossians 1: 9)
    - Exhibits true selfless love
      - He gains nothing by supporting them
      - No self-glorification comes from praying in secret for someone (especially when you don't meet that someone)
    - Praises God for graciously allowing the Colossians to grow in their faith (Colossians 1:5)
      - Going off of this, Paul is encouraging the Colossians to praise God for their gifts (Colossians 1: 11-14)
  - The character of Christ (Colossians 1: 15-23)
    - Christ and God are one
      - Jesus is God made manifest - an image of our Heavenly Father (Colossians 1: 15)
      - Though Jesus came to earth at a specific point in time, he is timeless and holds life as we know it together (Colossians 1: 17)
        - We are only capable of being called sons of God because Jesus adopted us into a relationship with the father (Ephesians 1: 3-6)
        - Christ has always been around, he is the living incarnation of the word (John 1: 1-4)
          - Without him, nothing exists
    - We exist out of God's will alone, therefore we should live for the purpose of fulfilling his will (Colossians 1: 16)
    - Christ is the pinnacle of our religion, the head of the church (Colossians 1: 18)
    - We have been reconciled by Christ so that he may make us Holy (Colossians 1: 22)
  - God has called Paul (Colossians 1: 24-29)

- Paul and the other saints have been entrusted by God with the fulness of his word (Colossians 1: 25)
    - Responsibility of the Saints to make the fulness of his word known to all of man
    - Paul is striving to glorify God by fulfilling his will, as he had encouraged the Colossians to do
    - An example of one way to serve God
      - Not the same way to serve that all are called to (1 Corinthians 7: 17)
      - We are to live as we are called by God, not to fill a role someone else has given for us
      - Paul is not trying to tell all of Colossae to drop everything to pick up full-time ministry
  - Though he can bear this task, being God's steward is not an easy task (Colossians 1: 29)
    - Paul has had to sacrifice a much easier life in order to endure persecution
    - Christ gives us the strength to overcome any earthly trial, but it is still a trial in the end
      - Meant to strengthen and mature us
      - We shouldn't coast through life as Christians, we have a high calling to rise up to
- Colossians 2
  - Paul's devotion to Christ and Christ's people (Colossians 2: 1-5)
    - Paul seeks to bring the Colossians to a full assurance of faith (Colossians 2: 2-4)
    - Paul's continual spiritual presence with the church (Colossians 2: 5)
  - Living with Christ (Colossians 2: 6-15)
    - We are called to walk with Christ in our daily lives (Colossians 2: 6)
      - This means showing love and compassion as God does
        - This means to be free of sin, as love is the fulfillment of God's law (Romans 13: 10), the opposite of sin (1 John 3: 4)
    - We are to strengthen our spirit against the secular nature of the world (Colossians 2: 8-10)
      - Christ is greater than this world
      - We dwell among the world now, but it will all pass
        - We should follow along with the world's doctrine when it doesn't conflict with God's so that we may reach people of this world (1 Peter 2: 13-15)
    - We are no longer of the world by Christ (Colossians 2: 11-15)
      - Through circumcision we have been indoctrinated into God's chosen people (Colossians 2: 11, 1 Peter 2: 9)

- Through baptism we have been raised up from this world (Colossians 2: 12)
  - By Christ, God has forgiven us of our sin (Colossians 2: 13-15)
- Focus on true Holiness (Colossians 2: 16-23)
  - We are no longer living under the law (Hebrews 8: 6-7)
    - We don't need to put additional restrictions on ourselves if we don't choose to/feel led by God to
      - People in Colossae had actually been ridiculing others for some of the things listed (food/drink/etc.)
      - Paul writing to say these things are irrelevant
      - We are called to love one another, this is the new command from God that is the law summed up (Romans 13: 8-10)
  - We are to worship God and God alone
    - Many people of Colossae had fallen into worshipping Angels
    - We must focus on true holiness, not getting distracted by unnecessary/false doctrines
      - Definitely a problem today with the accessibility of other views via the internet
      - We need to challenge any beliefs posed to us, comparing the views to what scripture says
        - We know that scripture is 100% from God and true in every way
        - Therefore if any views go against scripture, we should revise them according to what God says is good
    - We shouldn't disregard all of the world's teachings, as some can help us relate to other people of this world (1 Corinthians 9: 19-23)
      - That said, we need to consider what doctrines/instructions are worth following of the world
      - We should live according to our eternity, some things are extremely irrelevant in the long run and deserve less attention from us
      - What benefits do our actions give us?
        - Don't get caught up in the little things that don't matter, especially if they cause you to get distracted from your faith
        - Prioritize your actions according to eternity
- Colossians 3
  - We are no longer of this world
    - Don't live for this world, set your mind to Christ (Colossians 3: 2-4)
      - We do not serve the world, we serve God (Colossians 3: 23-24)
    - Refrain from over-indulging in the passions of this world

- Turn away from sin, as it is evil in the sight of God (Colossians 3: 5-6)
- We once lived according to the world, but have been forgiven (Colossians 3: 7)
  - However, we are told to repent and move away from our sin (Colossians 3: 8-10)
- Our identity is not in anything of this world (our bodies included) but only in Christ (Colossians 3: 11)
  - Things that do not matter (non-exhaustive):
    - Race
    - Intelligence
    - Looks
    - Circumcision
    - Wealth
    - Body
    - Social status
    - Pretty much anything of this world
- Live as God's people
  - Love one another (Colossians 3: 12)
  - Don't bear grudges (i.e. keep loving one another) (Colossians 3: 13)
  - Let Christ guide your life (Colossians 3: 15)
  - Praise the Lord for his blessings and bask in the wisdom of his word (Colossians 3: 16)
  - Serve God throughout your days (Colossians 3: 17)
- Fulfill our roles on earth as Godly husbands/wives/children/servants (Colossians 3: 18-22)
  - Wives, submit to husbands (Colossians 3: 18)
  - Husbands, love wives (Colossians 3: 19)
  - Children, obey parents (Colossians 3: 20)
  - Servants, serve masters faithfully (Colossians 3: 22)
- Colossians 4
  - Paul, one that many look up to for spiritual wisdom, is being asked for prayers of guidance from Christ (Colossians 4: 3-4)
    - Humble reminder that we aren't spiritually wise of our own accord: only through Christ
    - There is no glory in being a master of theology: that just makes you like the pharisees (spoilers: Jesus didn't like the pharisees)
      - Theology isn't bad, but it's important to know the only value of Theology is when you apply it
    - Above all, God speaks through us: we are only his vessel

- For example, I'm not good at talking about scripture, but God has decided to use me in my unique position to lead this bible study