

# **A verse by verse study of the Letter of Paul to the Colossian believers**

The city of Colossae was located about 100 km east of Ephesus in present day **Turkey**. It was a declining commercial center.

Paul wrote to the Colossian church while a prisoner in Rome. It is believed that an evangelist named **Epaphras** evangelized this city and started the church there.

Epaphras visited Paul in prison and reported on the conditions in this church. Paul is dealing with false teaching of syncretism fusing Jewish legalism and Greek philosophies and oriental mysticism. Specifics of false teaching included dietary observances, circumcision rites, the worship of angels, and the practice of asceticism Based on the belief that the body was inherently evil.

In combating this heresy Paul emphasizes Christ as Lord of Creation, Head of the Church and the Supremacy and all sufficiency of Jesus Christ and our union with Christ.

## **Colossians Chapter One Verses 1-20**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Verse 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus **by the will of God**, and Timothy our brother,  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Verse 2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Verse 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
when we pray for you,

Verse 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have  
for all the saints—

Verse 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven  
and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel

Verse 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and  
growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and  
understood God's grace in all its truth.

Verse 7-8 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful  
minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

### **THE PRAYER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL FOR THE BELIEVERS**

Verse 9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

### **LIVING FOR CHRIST**

Verse 10 And we pray this in order that  
**you may live a life worthy of the Lord and  
may please Him in every way:  
bearing fruit in every good work,  
growing in the knowledge of God,**

Verse 11 being **strengthened with all power** according to His glorious might so that you may have great **endurance and patience,**

Verse 12 and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

Verse 13 For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,

Verse 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS CHRIST**

Verse 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Verse 16 For by Him all things were created:  
things in heaven and on earth,  
visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;  
all things were created by Him and for Him.

Verse 17 He is before all things,  
and in Him all things hold together.

Verse 18 And He is the head of the body, the church;  
He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,  
so that in **everything He might have the supremacy.**

Verse 19 **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him,**

Verse 20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,  
whether things on earth or things in heaven,  
by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.