

**Context:**

Colossae is located in \_\_\_\_\_ and has been abandoned for over 1000 years.

Author: Paul, never visited Colossae, imprisoned in Rome

Local leader: Epaphras traveled over \_\_\_\_\_ miles to find Paul in Rome.

Audience: Colossian church

Faithful and loving (1:3-4)

Growing Heresies: Philosophy (2:8), Legalistic Observance of OT festivals (2:16), Worship of angels (2:17) Self-made religions (2:23)

Paul and Epaphras response: \_\_\_\_\_, Letter, helpers

**Content:****Paul's prayer for the Colossians: Colossians 1:9-12**

(v. 9) To have a deeper knowledge of the will of God.

(v. 10) To walk worthy of the Lord, To walk fully pleasing God, To be fruitful in every good work, To be increasing in the knowledge of God,

(v. 11) To be strengthened with all might according to God's power for long suffering with joy

(v. 12) Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the light.

Paul's desire: Colossians 1:28, 29; 2:6-7

**Teaching on Christ and the Gospel: (1:13-23; 2:11-15; 3:1-4)**

Paul addressing the \_\_\_\_\_

Colossians 1:15-18 – Description of Christ

Colossians 1:19-23 – The Work of Christ

**Heresies confronted:**

(2:8-10) Philosophy cheating the Colossians.

(2:16-17) OT festivals meant to magnify Christ, not replace.

(2:18-19) Praying to angels instead of Christ.

(2:20-23) \_\_\_\_\_ religion. What spiritual actions are we using to replace Christ instead of pursuing intimacy with Him

**Our response: Colossians 3:1-4**

We are to seek the things above. Christ alone is our hope.

**Moral Teachings: Colossians 3:5-4:1**

Paul uses a proper understanding of Christ and the gospel to correct the Colossians theology as well as their behavior.

(3:5) "Therefore put to death the members which are on earth" The Colossians are given a list of behaviors to reject.

(3:12) The Colossians are given a list of virtues to adopt.

(3:17) Everything is to be done in the name of Christ.

(3:18-4:1) Family relations, work relations

**Final Greetings: Colossians 4:2-18**

(v. 2-4) Paul commands the Colossians to pray

(v. 5-6) to be gentle and gracious in their speech.

(v. 7-9) He is sending Tychicus and Onesimus to bring the letter back to Colossae, but \_\_\_\_\_ stays in Rome, where he is later imprisoned (Philemon 23).

Paul exhorts the various members of the Colossian church and tells them to pass the letter to the other churches in the area (Laodicea).

Paul writes "Grace be with you. Amen."

**Application:****Message to the audience:**

What is cheating us of a deeper intimacy with Christ?

What spiritual actions are we using to replace Christ instead of pursuing intimacy with Him?

Colossians 3:17 Is there a part of our life undevoted or changed by Him?

**Example of the authors:**

Prayer - Are we praying for others?

Desire - Do we desire others' sanctification?

Christ's Desire (1:21-22) To see the church sanctified

Paul's Response (1:28) To present everyone perfect in Christ.

Epaphras Response (4:12) That the Colossians would stand complete in all the will of God.

Our prayer? Our desire? Our response?