

New Testament Survey  
COLOSSIANS

**Author:** Paul (1:1,23; 4:18)

**Date:** 61

**Theme:** Pre-eminence & Sufficiency of Christ. A right view of Christ corrects heresy.

**Misc.** Colossae was a small city about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the fertile Lycus Valley. The church had been founded by Epaphras (1:4-8; 2:1) and not Paul (who does not appear to have visited it). Paul writes to refute a threatening heresy that presented a diminished view of Jesus Christ. This letter and Ephesians were carried by Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21; Col. 4:7).

**Brief Outline**

**I. THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST (1-2)**

A. Introduction 1:1-14

B. Pre-eminence of Christ in Creation, Redemption & in the Church. (1:15-2:3)

C. Power of Christ over Heresy 2:4-23

**II. THE PRACTICE OF THE BELIEVER (3-4)**

A. Position of Believer 3:1-17

B. Practice of Believer 3:18-4:6

C. Conclusion 4:7-18

**People to Know:** Paul, Timothy, Epaphras

**Key Chapters & Verses:** (Bold required for Elders)

**1:3-18..**

1:10. . . “so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”

1:15. . . Christ; He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”

1:27-28 “to whom God willed to make known... mystery.. which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. And we proclaim Him, admonishing/teaching...”

2:9-10.. “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.”

**2:16-17** Error of Legalism - “let no one act as your judge in regard to food/drink/respect of days

**3. . . . .** The position & practice of the believer

3:9-10.. old self laid aside, new self put on.

## *COLOSSIANS*

### I. THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST (Chapters 1-2)

#### A. Introduction

1. Greeting (1:1-2)
2. Thanksgiving upon Hearing About Them (1:3-8)

3. Prayer for Them (1:9-14)

- a. Petitions (9-12)

- b. Foundation (13-14)

#### B. The Pre-eminence of Christ

1. In Creation (1:15-18)

- a. His Pre-eminence (15)

- b. His Work of Creation (16)

- c. His Work in Creation (17-18)

2. In Redemption (1:19-23)

- a. Reconciliation of the World (19-20)

- b. Reconciliation of the Colossians (21-23)

3. In His Calling (1:24 - 2:7)

- a. His Commission of Paul (1:24-25)

- b. His Message through Paul (1:26-29)

- c. Paul's Desire for Them (2:1-5)
    - i. His Burden (1-3)
    - ii. His Concern (4-5)
    - iii. His Charge (6-7)
- C. The Superiority of Christ (2:8-23)
  - 1. Over Philosophy, Heresy and Traditions (8-15)
    - a. Warnings (8)
    - b. Christ's Position (9)
    - c. God's Actions In Christ (10-15)
  - 2. Over Legalism, Asceticism & Mysticism (16-19)
    - a. Legalism (16-17)
    - b. Asceticism & Mysticism (18-19)
  - 3. Over False Wisdom (20-23)

## II. THE PRACTICE OF THE BELIEVER (Chapters 3-4)

- A. Living a New Life - General Practices (3:1-17)
  - 1. A Mind Set on Things Above (1-4)
  - 2. Proscribed Practices (5-11)
  - 3. Prescribed Practices (12-17)

B. Living a New Life - Relationships (3:18-4:6)

1. Family Life (3:18-22)

a. Wives (18)

b. Husbands (19)

c. Children (20)

d. Fathers (21)

2. Work Life (3:22-4:1)

a. Slaves (3:22-25)

b. Masters (4:1)

3. Public Life (4:2-6)

a. Prayer (2-4)

b. Wise Conduct (5)

b. Gracious Speech (6)

C. Final Instructions and Greetings (4:7-18)

1. The Coming of Tychicus & Onesimus (7-9)

a. Tychicus (7-8)

b. Onesimus (9)

2. Greetings (10-14)

3. Final Instructions (15-18)

New Testament Survey  
PHILEMON

**Author:** Paul (verses 1, 9, 19)

**Date:** A.D. 61

**Theme:** Bondage to Brotherhood in Christ. Paul's tactful letter to Philemon asking him to forgive and accept his runaway slave - Onesimus.

**Misc.** Philemon is a Christian slave owner who had previously benefitted from Paul's ministry. Onesimus is a slave who receives Christ under Paul's ministry in Rome and must now return to his master. Paul writes this letter and sends it with Onesimus who is accompanying Tychicus back to Colossae (Colossians 4:7-9).

**Brief Outline**

- I. Commending Philemon (1-7)
- II. Interceding for Onesimus (8-25)

Detailed Outline

- I. Introductory Salutation (1-3)
  - A. Introduction (1-2)
  - B. Salutation (3)
- II. Paul's Commendation of Philemon (4-7)
  - A. His Thanksgiving for Philemon (4)
  - B. His Commendation of Philemon's Love & Faith (5)
  - C. His Prayer for Philemon (6)
  - D. His Joy and Comfort in Philemon (7)
- III. Interceding for Onesimus (2-22)
  - A. Plea to Philemon (8-19)
    - 1. Paul's Position (8-9)
    - 2. Paul's Relationship with Onesimus (10-16)
    - 3. Paul's Plea (17-20)
  - B. Paul's Confidence in Philemon (21)
  - C. Paul's Instructions to Philemon (22)
- IV. Closing Salutation (23-25)
  - A. Greetings (23-24)
  - B. Salutation (25)