

## Introducing Colossians

**Introduction:** Colossians was written by Paul around 60-61 AD while imprisoned in Rome. It was part of at least three letters, Colossians, Ephesians and Philemon and maybe even Philipians.

**Colossae:** Likely started by Epaphras (Colossians 1:5-7; 4:12), a convert of Paul (Acts 19-20). Colossae was influenced by Roman religions, Asia Minor paganism and legalistic Judaism. This was the perfect setting for **Syncretism**: the combining of different beliefs and blending practices of various ideas.

**Precept:** No one comes into the family of God without wrong ideas and deep influences. What this means is that we each need to be trained to think and respond to the world we live in with a Biblical worldview.

**Precept:** The most striking thing about this Epistle is its Christology. Jesus Christ is sufficient and saves to the uttermost.

### The Outline:

Greetings - Colossians 1:1-2  
The Work of the Father - Colossians 1:3-14  
The Work of the Son - Colossians 1:15-23  
The Work of the Apostle - Colossians 1:24-2:5  
The Work of Believers - Colossians 2:6-4:1  
The Mission to the World - Colossians 4:2-6  
Greetings - Colossians 4:7-18

## Colossians

**Greetings** - Colossians 1:1-2 - "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God" - (Acts 9:15; 1 Corinthians 15:8-9)

**Precept:** 'Apostolic work' and an Apostle. 'Apostolic work' was leading the advance of the church. An Apostle had to have followed Jesus during his earthly ministry (Acts 1:21-22a). Seen Jesus after His resurrection (Acts 1:22b). Be appointed by Jesus (Acts 1:24-25; Galatians 2:6-9), and perform miracles (Acts 2:43).

"To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ" - Paul is writing to believers, saints, people who are on the road of sanctification to become like Jesus Christ.

"In Christ" - Israel was defined by blood relationships, the people of God in the New Testament Church are defined by "in Christ". (Ephesians 1:3-14)

**Conclusion:** God chose Paul for his role in the Church, God has also chosen each of us for a place

and a responsibility in the Church. That calling is not great; the one who called is!

A child of God means: I am justified and I am in the process of being sanctified. Justification is all God's work and sanctification is God's work and the cooperation of each believer, with the Holy Spirit.

To be 'in Christ' is the privilege of each of God's children. It means that we have been chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son and sealed by the Holy Spirit.