

A Study of the Epistles of Paul

NT Survey Lesson 126--Colossians 1

Introduction: The epistle to the Colossians is wonderfully Christ-centered. In it Paul shows us how that Christ provides all that we need to be complete spiritually (1:28; 2:10). The first two chapters emphasize who Christ is and what He has done for us. The last two chapters emphasize the Christ-like life God wants us to live.

Lesson aim: To encourage each Christian to appreciate the incomparable greatness of Jesus Christ.

Paul's greeting and prayers for the Colossians--Col. 1:1-12

1. The letter to the Colossians is from whom? How are the Colossians described?
2. What two features of the Colossians caused Paul and Timothy to give thanks?
3. What did these Christians have "laid up" in heaven? In what had they heard of this hope?
4. What did Paul say the gospel was doing in all the world? Who taught the gospel to the Colossians? About what did Epaphras' preaching enable the Colossians to hear and understand?
5. Of what quality of the Colossians did Epaphras inform Paul and Timothy? What did they prompt Paul and Timothy to do?
6. For what did Paul pray in behalf of the Colossians? Make a list of the results of this in the Colossians lives (v. 10-11).

Paul's description of the preeminent Christ--Col. 1:13-23

1. From what had God delivered the Colossians? Into what were they translated?

2. What did Paul say the Colossians had in Christ?
3. How does Paul describe Jesus' relation to God? Does being the "firstborn of creation" mean Jesus was created? Does Paul say that Jesus himself was the creator of all things?
4. What is Jesus' relation to the creation itself? (v. 17)
5. Of what is Jesus the head? He is the beginning of what? What place or position do these characteristics cause Christ to have?
6. What was the Father's good pleasure? What did God accomplish through Christ? How was peace made?
7. What was the former state of the Colossians? Now what were they? In what kind of life does this result?
8. The Colossians would be able to live the life God wanted for them if they did what things? (v. 23)

Paul's desire for the Colossians--Col. 1:24-29

1. In what did Paul say he rejoiced? Paul regarded his sufferings as filling up what?
2. Why was Paul made a minister? For whose benefit? What is the mystery that Paul preached?
3. Whom does Paul say must be in us to have the hope of glory? Who then did Paul proclaim?
4. How did Paul admonish every man? What was his purpose in doing this? (v. 28) What was working in Paul to achieve this purpose? (v. 29)