

Purpose

To combat errors in the church and to show that believers have everything they need in Christ

Author

Paul

To Whom Written

This church at Colossae, a city in Asia Minor

Date Written

Approximately 60 AD, during Paul's imprisonment in Rome

Setting

Paul had never visited Colossae. The church had been infiltrated by religious relativism, combining paganism and secular philosophy with Christian doctrine.

Key People

Paul and Timothy

Key Places

Colossae and Laodicea

Key Verses

"In Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body, and you are complete through your union with Him. He is the Lord over every ruler in the universe."

Colossians 2:9, 10

An Overview (4 Chapters)

- What Christ Has Done (1:1-2:23)
- What Christians Should Do (3:1-4:18)

Major Themes

- *Christ Is God:* Jesus is God in the flesh, Lord of all creation, and Lord of the new creation. He is the expressed reflection of the invisible God. He is eternal, preexistent, omnipotent, equal to the Father. He is supreme and complete.
- *Christ Is the Head of the Church:* Because Christ is God, He is the head of the Church, His true believers. Christ is the founder, the leader, and the highest authority on earth. He requires first place in all our thoughts and activities.
- *Union With Christ:* Because our sin has been forgiven and we have been reconciled to God, we have a union with Christ that can never be broken. In our connection with Him, we identify with His death, burial, and resurrection.
- *Man-Made Religion:* False teachers were promoting a heresy that stressed self-made rules (legalism). They also sought spiritual growth by discipline of the body (asceticism) and visions (mysticism). This search created pride in their self-centered efforts. We must never cling to our own ideas and blend them into Christianity.