

EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS  
Four Seas College of Bible and Missions  
Jan. – Apr. 2012

I. OVERVIEW

- a. Review syllabus
- b. Who was the author of these books? Paul
- c. When were these written?
  - i. Ephesians – 62 a.d.
  - ii. Philippians – 63 a.d.
  - iii. Colossians – 62 a.d.
- d. What government ruled over the world around the Mediterranean Sea? Rome
- e. What were the particular problems faced by the church at this time?
  - i. Judaizing Christians – Christians who believed that people should follow at least some of the Old Law also.
  - ii. Those who denied that the spiritual man could sin. The physical man may do a lot of bad things but the spiritual man could not.
  - iii. Worldliness and idolatry.
- f. Memory tools for each book
  - i. Ephesians – The book of the church
  - ii. Philippians – An inspired thank you note
  - iii. Colossians – Superiority of Christ
- g. We will study a congregation that is faithful and encouraging, a congregation that is evangelistic minded, and a congregation plagued by false teaching.

II. ROMAN PROVINCES

- a. Galatia
  - i. Named after its early settlers – Keltoi ( Modified name to Galatia)
  - ii. Around 280 B.C., they came into Asia Minor and finally settled in north central part.
  - iii. In 189 B.C., they came under the control of Rome.
  - iv. In 25 B.C., they became the Roman province of Galatia.
  - v. Paul first comes into Galatia in Acts 14. The cities of Lystra, Derbe, and Iconium were located in Galatia, and many believe Antioch was also included in the political province of Galatia.
  - vi. At Lystra, Paul was deemed to be Mercury, the spokesman of the gods, and Barnabas was deemed to be Jupiter, the chief of the gods. (Acts 14:12ff).
  - vii. This was around 45 a.d. and with the work of Paul and Barnabas several new congregations were established.
  - viii. It was because of this work that the church had to deal with what to do with Gentile converts (Acts 15).
  - ix. On the second journey, they came back through this area (Acts 16). In the area of Lystra and Derbe, Paul finds Timothy, who becomes a traveling companion of Paul and Silas.
- b. Asia
  - i. Located in the western portion of Asia Minor.
  - ii. Originally forbidden by the Holy Ghost to go into Asia (Acts 16:6), Paul finally comes into this area in Acts 19 when he arrives at Ephesus.

- iii. It is here that he comes in contact with those who had been baptized in the baptism of John.
- iv. Paul worked in spreading the gospel in the area of Ephesus for about 3 years (Acts 20:31).

c. Macedonia

- i. Initially a Greek kingdom located in the northern part of Greece. It became a Roman province in 167 B.C.
- ii. The cities of Thessalonica, Philippi, and Berea are located here.
- iii. At Troas, Paul has the vision of one calling him to come to Macedonia. (Acts 16:6). This would have been around 50 a.d.
- iv. At Philippi, Lydia and the jailer are converted (Acts 16).
- v. At Thessalonica, the Jews made trouble for Paul and they had to leave the city (Acts 17).
- vi. At Berea, we find the people checking the things Paul was teaching (Acts 17:11). The Jews from Thessalonica came to Berea to make trouble for Paul.
- vii. It was during this time that Paul penned the book to the Galatians.

III. EPHESIANS

a. Chapter 1

- i. Paul writes this letter to the church at Ephesus (vs. 1).
  - 1. Ephesus was located in western Asia Minor and is one of the seven churches of the book of Revelation.
  - 2. He met with the elders from Ephesus in Acts 20, warning them of the possibility of apostasy.
  - 3. Sadly, in Rev. 2, it is Ephesus that is about to have itself removed from the presence of Christ because they have left their first love.
- ii. Paul reminds the Ephesians that God has given us all spiritual blessings in Christ (vs. 3).
- iii. He had chosen us before the foundation of the world (vss. 4ff). This has caused a difficulty in understanding as so many believe that everything is predetermined and nothing is in our control. The doctrine of predestination even goes so far as to say that if one is saved it is because God has chosen that person and they will be saved regardless of what they do. What the doctrine does not explain, usually, is that if one is lost it is because God chose for them to be lost. Of course, this last idea goes against God's own teaching that he wants all to be saved (Acts 17:30). Thus, the doctrine of predestination is false because of its false teaching concerning God. Then, what is this passage talking about?
  - 1. Note what he predestinated us to – “the adoption of children” (vs. 5). This happens when we come into Christ and become heirs of God (Gal. 3:29). We come into Christ through our obedience to his word, including baptism (Gal. 3:27). The plan of God was foreknown.
  - 2. What he purposed was according to his will (vs. 8). That is, it is in keeping with his desires.
  - 3. What he predestined was that he would gather all into one place in Christ (vs. 10). All the saved are added to (literally, “gathered together”) in the church (Acts 2:47).

4. The inheritance was predestinated. That is, known beforehand by God. Eph. 3:10 teaches us that the plan of God, including the church, was known by God before the foundation of the world (also see 1:4).
  5. They were saved when they trusted in Christ and obeyed his word (vs. 13). The result was they were sealed with the Holy Spirit, the earnest of their inheritance (vss. 13,14). God knows those who are his (“sealed”) and assures them of their salvation (“earnest”) until the redemption of our souls (vs. 14).
  6. As Christians, we are redeemed through his blood and have the forgiveness of our sins (vs. 7).
- iv. Paul was thankful for the Ephesian brethren because of their faith in Christ and prayed that they might continue to grow in Christ (vss. 15-23).
  - v. He reminds us that Christ now reigns at the right hand of God (vs. 20) and that he is the head of the church (vs. 22). We are the body and he is the head. As head, he is in charge.
- b. Chapter 2
- i. Although at one time dead in our sins, we have been made alive in Christ (vs. 1).
  - ii. They had at one time been the children of disobedience (vss. 2,3).
  - iii. But now, they have been saved by grace, but note carefully, not by grace alone (vss. 4-10).
    1. We have been saved by grace in Christ. When we became Christians we were saved. Salvation is the gift of God (Rom. 6:23) which we do not deserve, but have because Christ was willing to die for us (Rom. 5:7,8).
    2. Verse 8 clearly teaches us that while we are saved by grace, it is coupled with faith. That is, although Christ has died for us and made possible our salvation, without our faith we will not be saved.
    3. Verse 9 helps us to understand that it is not by our own works that we are saved. However, this does not mean that we must not do the works of God in order to be saved (cf. Matt. 7:21; Phil. 2:12).
    4. We are his workmanship and are to maintain good works (vs. 10).
  - iv. Although Christians were at one time outside of Christ, we have now been saved (vss. 11-22).
    1. We were lost (vs. 12).
    2. In Christ, we have been brought into the fold of God (vs. 13).
    3. Christ has made all in Christ one, both Jew and Gentile (vs. 14).
    4. He has taken out of the way the Old Law (vs. 15).
    5. He has reconciled the saved in the church by his death on the cross (vs. 16).
    6. We now have access to the Father (vs. 18).
    7. We are fellow-citizens in the house of God vs. 19).
    8. The church is built upon the teachings of the apostles and prophets with Christ as the chief corner stone. We are the holy temple of God (vss. 20-22).
- c. Chapter 3
- i. Paul is a prisoner because he is a Christian (vss. 1,13).
  - ii. It has been given to him to make known the manifold wisdom of God to the Gentiles (vss. 2ff).
    1. His message was inspired by God (vss. 3,4).

2. The Gentiles are fellow-heirs as members of the church (vs. 6).
3. Paul was given this responsibility to preach among the Gentiles (vss. 8,9).
4. It is the work of the church to spread the manifold wisdom of God (vs. 10).
5. The church was eternally purposed. It was not an afterthought (vs. 11).
- iii. Paul desires that they be strengthened in the Lord (vss. 14-16).
- iv. He also wants them to understand the great love that Christ has for us (vss. 17-19).
- v. God is able to do more than we can possibly comprehend (vss. 20,21).
- d. Chapter 4
  - i. We must walk worthy of our calling (vss. 1-3).
    1. With all lowliness (“humility”).
    2. With all meekness (“gentleness”).
    3. With longsuffering (“endurance”).
    4. Forbearing (“to put up with”) one another in love.
    5. Endeavoring (“to make effort, be prompt or earnest”) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
  - ii. The seven ones (vss. 4-6)
    1. One body
    2. One Spirit
    3. One hope
    4. One Lord
    5. One faith
    6. One baptism
    7. One God
  - iii. Those areas of our work (vss. 7-11)
    1. Given by Jesus who ascended to Heaven (vss. 7-10). He was the one who died for us.
    2. The areas of work (vs. 11)
      - a. Apostles (the apostles of Christ).
      - b. Prophets (inspired speaker).
      - c. Evangelists (preacher of the gospel).
      - d. Pastors (Shepherd, i.e., elders).
      - e. Teachers (instructor).
    3. The purpose of these works (vss. 12-16)
      - a. For the perfecting of the saints.
      - b. For the work of the ministry.
      - c. For the edifying of the body of Christ.
      - d. To bring us to the unity of faith.
      - e. To bring us to the knowledge of Christ.
      - f. So we will not be tossed about by every wind of doctrine (to ground us).
      - g. That we might speak the truth in love to grow in Christ.
      - h. For the unity of the body of Christ.
  - iv. The new life of a Christian (vss. 17-32)
    1. Do not walk as the Gentiles walk (vss. 17-19).
      - a. In the vanity of their mind.

- b. Having their understanding darkened.
  - c. Being alienated from the life of God.
  - d. They are led by their ignorance.
  - e. They have blinded their hearts.
  - f. Given themselves to lasciviousness, uncleanness, and greed.
2. The changed life of a Christian (vss. 20-32).
- a. Because we are in Christ, we put off our former lives.
  - b. We are renewed in our mind (cf. Rom. 12:1,2).
  - c. Put on the new man.
    - i. Put away lying (vs. 25).
    - ii. Speak truth (vs. 25).
    - iii. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath (vs. 26)  
(Divine commentary – Matthew 5:21-26).
    - iv. Do not make room for the Devil (vs. 27).
    - v. Do not steal, but earn your money from honest labor  
(vs. 28).
    - vi. Use your tongue for edifying, which will benefit the  
listener (vs 29).
    - vii. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (vs. 30).
    - viii. Put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil  
speaking (vs. 31).
    - ix. Be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving, remembering  
that we have been forgiven by God (vs. 32).
- v. Chapter 5
1. Follow God and walk in love (vss. 1,2).
  2. Things that cannot be in the life of a Christian (vss. 3-5).
    - a. Fornication
    - b. Uncleanness (“impurity”)
    - c. Filthiness (“obscenity”)
    - d. Foolish talking (“one who makes coarse jokes”)
    - e. Jesting (“vulgar jokes”)
    - f. Whoremonger (“fornicator”)
    - g. Unclean person (“impure”)
    - h. Covetous man (“greedy of gain”), who is an idolater.
  3. The penalty for the ungodly life (vss. 5,6).
    - a. Will not inherit the kingdom of God.
    - b. Will bring the wrath of God upon us.
  4. The Christian’s response to ungodliness (vss. 7-12).
    - a. Do not become partakers with them.
    - b. Walk as children of light.
    - c. Prove what is acceptable to God.
    - d. Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.
    - e. Reprove the works of darkness.
    - f. Those things which the ungodly do, even in private, are a shame  
to even mention.
  5. The Christian’s walk (vss. 13-20).
    - a. Be alert (“awake thou that sleepest”).
    - b. Walk circumspectly (“exactly”), as wise men.

- c. Redeem the time.
  - d. Understand what the will of God is.
  - e. Do not be drunk with wine.
  - f. Be filled with the Spirit.
  - g. Sing praises to God.
  - h. Give thanks to God through Jesus.
6. Christ and his church (vss. 21-33).
- a. The analogy of the home.
    - i. Submit one to another (vs. 21).
    - ii. Wives are to submit to their own husbands (vs. 22).
    - iii. The husband is the head of the wife (vs. 23).
    - iv. Wives are to be subject to their own husbands in everything (vs. 24).
    - v. Husbands are to love their wives (vs. 25).
    - vi. Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves (vs. 28).
    - vii. Husbands are to nourish and cherish their wives (vs. 29).
    - viii. The husband and the wife are to be one (vs. 31).
    - ix. Husbands are to love their wives as they love themselves (vs. 33).
    - x. Wives are to reverence their husbands (vs. 33; cf. 1 Peter 3:1-7).
  - b. The church.
    - i. Christ is the head of the church (vs. 23).
    - ii. Christ is the savior of the body (vs. 23).
    - iii. The church is subject to Christ (vs. 24).
    - iv. Christ loves the church (vs. 25).
    - v. Christ died for the church (vs. 25).
    - vi. Christ will present the church to himself without spot or wrinkle (vss. 26,27).
    - vii. Christ nourishes and cherishes the church (vs. 29).
- vi. Chapter 6
- 1. Childrearing (vss. 1-4)
    - a. Children are to obey their parents as their parents direct them in the way of God (vs. 1)
    - b. Children are to honor their parents that it may go well with them and their days will be long on the earth (vss. 2,3).
    - c. Fathers are to bring up their children in the nurture (“education”) and admonition (“mild rebuke”) of the Lord (vs. 4).
  - 2. To the servants (vss. 5-8).
    - a. Obey your masters (vs. 5).
    - b. Serve them as you would serve Christ (vs. 6).
    - c. Serve as though you are serving God (vs. 7).
    - d. You shall reap what you sow (vs. 8).
  - 3. Masters are to treat their servants in such a way as to be able to answer favorably to God (vs. 9).

4. The whole armor of God (vss. 10-17).
  - a. Be strong, our fight is against the Devil (vss. 10-12).
  - b. Use the whole armor of God to withstand the devil (vss. 10,13).
  - c. The whole armor of God
    - i. Loins – truth (vs. 14; Jn. 17:17).
    - ii. Breastplate of righteousness (vs. 14; Psa. 119:160,172).
    - iii. Feet – The gospel of peace (vs. 15; Acts 10:36).
    - iv. Shield of faith (vs. 16; Jude 3).
    - v. Helmet of salvation (vs. 17; Rom. 1:16).
    - vi. Sword of the Spirit – which is the word of God.
5. Paul's request for prayer (vss. 18-20).
  - a. Pray with earnestness (vs. 18).
  - b. For Paul to be bold (vs. 19).
  - c. That even in bonds, Paul would speak boldly (vs. 20).
6. Paul had sent Tychicus to them to let them know how he was doing (vss. 21-24).

#### IV. PHILIPPIANS

##### a. Chapter 1

- i. Verse 1 is the only verse in the New Testament that mentions elders and deacons in the same verse.
- ii. Philippi
  1. The chief city of Macedonia (Acts 16:12). Some believe this designation was given to Philippi by itself.
  2. At Philippi, both Lydia and the Jailor were converted (Acts 16).
  3. First European city to hear the gospel.
- iii. The letter is written to thank the Philippians for their support of Paul in his journeys. Through both prayer and money, they assisted Paul.
- iv. Why Paul is thankful for them. (vss. 3-11).
  1. For their fellowship (vs. 5).
  2. That they would continue faithful (vs. 6).
  3. They were partakers with him (vs. 7).
  4. For their love (vs. 9).
  5. For their faithfulness (vss. 10,11).
- v. Why Paul was not ashamed of being a prisoner (vss. 12-19)
  1. The gospel has been spread (vs. 12).
  2. Those around him know he is a Christian (vs. 13).
  3. Others are bolder in preaching because of his bonds (vss. 14-18).
    - a. Some preach because of envy or strife.
    - b. Some preach of good will.
    - c. Some preach of contention hoping to make his bonds worse.
    - d. Some preach because of love.
    - e. They know that Paul is set for the defense of the gospel
    - f. Paul is grateful that the gospel is preached.
4. Paul's attitude (vss. 19-26).
  - a. He knows their prayers will help him (vs. 19).
  - b. To die is gain; to live is Christ (vs. 21)
  - c. He will abide with them and help them (vss. 22-26).

5. Paul's charge to the Philippians (vss. 27-30).
    - a. Stand together and defend the gospel (vs. 27).
    - b. Do not be afraid of your enemies (vs. 28)
    - c. You have the privilege to suffer for Christ (vss. 29,30).
- b. Chapter 2
- i. To be likeminded (vss. 1-5)
    1. Be likeminded (vs. 2).
    2. Have the same love (vs. 2).
    3. Be of one accord (vs. 2).
    4. Be of one mind (vs. 2).
    5. Esteem others better than yourself (humility) (vs. 3).
    6. Look to the things of others (selflessness) (vs. 4).
    7. Have the mind of Christ (vs. 5).
  - ii. The mind of Christ (vss. 6-8).
    1. Was willing not to be equal with God (vs. 6).
    2. Became a servant in the likeness of man (vs. 7).
    3. He humbled himself (vs. 8).
    4. Became obedient unto death (vs. 8).
  - iii. The exaltation of Christ (vss. 9-11).
    1. He is exalted by God (vs. 9).
    2. His name is above every name (vs. 9).
    3. Every knee should bow to him (vs. 10).
    4. Every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord (vs. 11).
  - iv. The Christian's work (vss. 12-18).
    1. Continue to obey whether Paul was there or not (vs. 12).
    2. Work out your own salvation (vs. 12). We must work to get to Heaven.
    3. It is God's desire that we be saved (vs. 13).
    4. How to do all things and why (vss. 14-18).
      - a. How.
        - i. Without murmuring ("grumbling") (vs. 14).
        - ii. Without disputing ("debate") (vs. 14).
        - iii. Hold forth the word of life (vs. 16).
      - b. Why
        - i. To be blameless ("irreproachable") (vs. 15).
        - ii. To be harmless ("innocent") (vs. 15).
        - iii. Without rebuke (vs. 15).
        - iv. To shine as lights in a world of darkness (vs. 15).
        - v. To show that our labor has not been in vain (vs. 16).
        - vi. To bring joy to all (vs. 17).
  - v. The coming of Timothy and Epaphroditus (vss. 19-30).
    1. Timothy
      - a. He is likeminded with Paul (vs. 20).
      - b. He will care about you (vs. 20).
      - c. He served with Paul in the gospel (vs. 22).
    2. Epaphroditus
      - a. Paul's brother (vs. 25).
      - b. Pauls' companion in labor (vs. 25).
      - c. Pauls' fellow soldier (vs. 25).

- d. He ministered to Paul's needs (vs. 25).
  - e. He was sick because of his working to do the will of God (vss. 26-30). (Note: Although Paul could work miracles and heal people, he did not heal Epaphroditus. Miracles were not for the purpose of just healing someone. They were to confirm the word by the deed that was done - Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3ff).
- c. Chapter 3
- i. Paul continues to remind the brethren to beware of those who would lead them astray (1,2).
    - 1. Dogs – Used contemptuously by the Jews to refer to the Gentiles. Came to mean that which was impure. Paul uses it in reference to those who are impure in both their life and their teaching.
    - 2. Evil workers – Those who work to pull people away from God.
    - 3. Concision – This term means “mutilation” and apparently references those Jews who were physically circumcised, but were not spiritually right with God. These Jews would teach them they must hold to the Old Law, or at least, part of the Old Law.
  - ii. He reminds them they are the spiritual kingdom of God (“circumcision, which worship God in the spirit”), and that our confidence is not in the things of the world (vs. 3; cf. Rom. 2:28,29; 9:7,8).
  - iii. Paul uses himself as an example of one who could have rejoiced in the things he had and the position he held in the world (vss. 3-6).
    - 1. Circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day (To Abraham – Gen. 17:10ff; To Israel – Lev. 12)
    - 2. Of the stock of Israel
    - 3. Of the tribe of Benjamin (With Judah, Benjamin remained with God when Israel split after the death of Solomon).
    - 4. An Hebrew of Hebrews
    - 5. As touching the law, a Pharisee (The most conservative of the Jews).
    - 6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church (He believed himself to be zealously serving God – Acts 23:1).
    - 7. In keeping the law, blameless (Obeyed God's will).
  - iv. All of these things he was willing to give up to win Christ (vss. 7,8).
  - v. He was ready to serve God and go to Heaven (vss. 9-11).
    - 1. His righteousness would be by the faith of God (vs. 9).
    - 2. He looked forward to the resurrection from the dead (vs. 11).
  - vi. Paul understood what a Christian had to do (vss. 12-15).
    - 1. He knew he had not arrived, his journey was not over (“were already perfect/complete”) (vs. 12).
    - 2. He knew he had not apprehended (vs. 13).
    - 3. He had to put the past behind him (vs. 13). *“The past is history; the future, a mystery; the present is a gift.”*
    - 4. He knew he had to reach to those things before him (vs. 13).
    - 5. He had to press toward the reward (vs. 14).
  - vii. Rules to live by (vss. 15-17).
    - 1. Keep your mind on Heaven (vs. 15)
    - 2. Walk by the same rule; mind the same thing (vs. 16).
    - 3. Follow those who walk faithfully (vs. 17).
  - viii. Avoid those whose end is destruction (vss. 18,19).

- ix. We look for the coming of Christ (vss. 20,21).
  - 1. He will change our bodies into a glorious body.
  - 2. He will subdue all things to himself.
  - 3. Compare 1 Cor. 15
- d. Chapter 4
  - i. Stand fast in the Lord (vs. 1).
  - ii. He teaches them to help Euodias and Syntyche to be of the same mind (vss. 2,3).
  - iii. Rejoice in the Lord (vs. 4).
  - iv. Let others see you as a Christian. The time is short (vs. 5; moderation – “gentle, mild”). The Christian is exhorted to be the kind of person others will want to follow. Our lives upon Earth are short, and may be shortened by the coming of Christ.
  - v. Do not worry. Put your requests into the hands of God and you will find peace (vss. 6,7).
  - vi. Think on these things (vs. 8).
    - 1. True
    - 2. Honest
    - 3. Just
    - 4. Pure
    - 5. Lovely
    - 6. Good report
    - 7. Think on those things which are excellent (“virtue”) and those which are commendable (“praise”).
  - vii. Hold to those things which they had seen and heard in Paul (vs. 9).
  - viii. Paul is thankful to the brethren for their help (vss. 10, 14-18).
  - ix. Paul had learned to be content (vs. 11; cf. 1 Tim. 6:8).
  - x. He could handle whatever came his way because he could do all things through Christ (vss. 12,13).
  - xi. Because of the generosity of the Philippians, they would be greatly blessed by God (vs. 19).
  - xii. Paul salutes the brethren (vss. 20-23).

## V. COLOSSIANS

### a. Chapter 1

- i. Written by Paul to the church at Colosse, a city of the province of Asia (vs. 1).
- ii. Also one of the prison epistles, written about 62 a.d.
- iii. The church at Colosse is commended for its faithfulness (vs. 2).
- iv. The church at Colosse.
  - 1. Paul was encouraged by them because of their faithfulness (vss. 3,4).
  - 2. They loved the saints (vs. 4).
  - 3. Their hope was in Heaven (vs. 5).
  - 4. They obeyed God (vs. 6).
- v. Paul’s desire for the brethren (vss. 9-11).
  - 1. Be filled with the knowledge of God’s will (vs. 9).
  - 2. Walk worthy of the Lord (vs. 10).
  - 3. Be fruitful to every good work (vs. 10).
  - 4. Be strengthened with all might (vs. 11).

- vi. The transformation of the church at Colosse, and all Christians (vss. 12-14).
    - 1. Partakers of the inheritance (vs. 12).
    - 2. Delivered from darkness into the kingdom (vs. 13).
    - 3. Have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (vs. 14).
  - vii. The preeminent Christ (vss. 15-20).
    - 1. The image of God (vs. 15).
    - 2. Superior one of all creatures (vs. 15).
    - 3. All things were created by him (vs. 16).
    - 4. By him all things consist (vs. 17).
    - 5. He is the head of the church (vs. 18).
    - 6. He is the superior one (“firstborn”) of those raised from the dead (vs. 18).
    - 7. All fullness dwells in him (vs. 19; cf. 2:9).
    - 8. Made possible the reconciliation of all mankind by his death on the cross (vs. 20).
  - viii. Our hope in Christ (vss. 21-23).
    - 1. We have been reconciled to God (vs. 21).
    - 2. We will be presented to God if we remain faithful (vss. 22,23).
  - ix. Paul’s work (vss. 24-29).
    - 1. He is a minister of the word of God (vss. 24,25).
    - 2. He preached the word and warned them (vss. 26,27).
    - 3. He labored diligently (vs. 28).
- b. Chapter 2
- i. Paul’s desire was that the Colossians and the Laodiceans would be united on the word of God (vss. 1-3).
  - ii. They must be united in the word or they would be deceived (vs. 4).
  - iii. Paul’s encouragement to the brethren (vss. 5-7).
    - 1. They were steadfast in the faith.
    - 2. He encouraged them to walk in Christ.
    - 3. They were to be rooted and built up in Christ.
    - 4. They were to be established in the faith.
    - 5. They were to be thankful.
  - iv. Paul warns them to not allow men to deceive them, but to follow Christ (vs. 8).
  - v. In Christ dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily (vs. 9-13).
    - 1. Christians are complete in him (vs. 10).
    - 2. He is the head of all (vs. 10).
    - 3. Christians have put off sin and are baptized into Christ (vss. 11,12).
    - 4. Christians have been made alive in Christ (vs. 13).
    - 5. Christ has forgiven our sins (vs. 13).
  - vi. Christ removed the barrier between mankind (Jews and Gentiles – vs. 14). He nailed the Old Law to the cross.
  - vii. Christ triumphed over all powers (vs. 15).
  - viii. Because the Old Law has been removed, we must not let anyone bind any part of the Old Law upon us (vss. 16-23).
    - 1. Do not let them bind the holy days of the Old Law upon us (vs. 16,17).
    - 2. Do not let those who are puffed up in their own minds beguile you. The term “voluntary humility” is an expression that means “vain or false” humility. These people pretended to be humble and taught the

Colossians that they would be humble servants if they would follow these false teachers (vs. 18).

3. Do not follow those who do not exalt Christ (vs. 19).
4. Do not subject yourself to man's made up religious ordinances (vss. 20-22). These ordinances will only lead to destruction.
5. Following false teachers is vain worship ("will worship"), false humility, and false neglecting of the body (vs. 23). Reminds us of those who will deny themselves the things they need, such as to marry, and believe themselves to be humble servants of God.

c. Chapter 3

- i. If ye then be risen with Christ (vss. 1-4).
  1. Seek those things which are above (vs. 1).
  2. Set your affection on things above (vs. 2).
  3. You are dead, and your life is hid in Christ (vs. 3).
- ii. Mortify these things (vs. 5).
  1. Fornication – illicit sexual activity
  2. Uncleaness – impurity
  3. Inordinate affections – bad passions
  4. Evil concupiscence – Longing for things forbidden
  5. Covetousness – avarice
- iii. The wrath of God comes upon those who do these things. The church at Colossae had been in these things before (vss. 6,7).
- iv. Put off these (vss. 8,9).
  1. Anger
  2. Wrath
  3. Malice – badness
  4. Blasphemy – evil speaking
  5. Filthy communication – Vile conversation
  6. Do not lie to one another.
- v. Put on these things (vss. 10 - 14).
  1. The new man (vs. 10).
  2. Bowels of mercies
  3. Kindness
  4. Humbleness of mind
  5. Meekness
  6. Longsuffering
  7. Forbearing one another
  8. Forgiving one another
  9. Love
- vi. Let the peace of God rule your hearts (vs. 15).
- vii. Sing with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God (vs. 16).
- viii. Do all by the authority of Christ (vs. 17).
- ix. The family (vss. 18-21).
  1. Wives are to submit to their own husbands (vs. 18).
  2. Husbands are to love their wives (vs. 19).
  3. Children are to obey their parents (vs. 20).
  4. Fathers are not to discourage their children (vs. 21).
- x. Servants are to serve their masters like they would serve God (vss. 22-25).

- d. Chapter 4
  - i. Masters are to treat their servants well, knowing they have a master in Heaven (vs. 1).
  - ii. Commandments for the church (vss. 2-6).
    - 1. Continue in prayer (vs. 2).
    - 2. Pray that a door might be opened for Paul to preach the gospel (vs. 3).
    - 3. Pray that Paul may speak as he ought (vs. 4).
    - 4. Walk in wisdom towards those that are without (vs. 5).
    - 5. Redeem the time (vs. 5). Use it wisely.
    - 6. Use speech that will help others (vs. 6).
  - iii. Paul will send Tychicus and Onesimus to the Colossians (vss. 7-9).
  - iv. Paul's fellow workers (Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, Epaphras, Luke, Demas) (vss. 10-14).
    - 1. This is the same Mark that Paul did not want to take on the second journey (Acts 15:36-39). Now, they are working together.
    - 2. Demas is the one who will later forsake Paul because Demas loved the world (2 Tim. 4:10).
  - v. Paul's final words to the church at Colossae (vss. 15-18).
    - 1. Greet the brethren at Laodicea (vs. 15).
    - 2. Share this letter with the Laodiceans and read their letter (vs. 16).
    - 3. He encourages Archippus to fulfill his work for God (vs. 17).