

COLOSSIANS

Outline

Colossians is the companion epistle to Ephesians. While Ephesians was written to show the Church the glory that belongs to the Body of the Christ, Colossians was written to show the Church the glory of the *Head* of the Church. Because Christ is the Supreme Ruler of the Universe and Head over the Church, believers need not be led astray by deceptive teachings that seek to disconnect them from their Head. Because false doctrine leads to false conduct, Paul shows in Colossians the implications for understanding right doctrine that most naturally lead a person to live a godly life.



An artist's impression of a first century church service

1. THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

(1:1 – 2:5)

- A. GREETINGS (1:1-2)
- B. PRAYER (1:3-14)
 - (i) Reasons for thankfulness (1:3-6)
 - (ii) Epaphras (1:7-8)
 - (iii) Request (1:9-14)

- C. CHRIST IS THE SUPREME HEAD (1:15-23)
 - (i) Christ is the Creator (1:15-17)
 - (ii) Christ is the Head of the Church (1:18-23)

- D. THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL (1:24-29)
 - (i) The cost of Gospel ministry (1:24-25)
 - (ii) The content of the Gospel (1:26-27)
 - (iii) The carriage of the Gospel (1:28-29)

- E. PAUL'S INTENTION (2:1-5)
 - (i) Intercession for the Church (2:1)
 - (ii) Paul's goal for the Church (2:2-3)
 - (iii) Paul's delight (2:4-5)

2. CHRIST HAS SET YOU FREE

(2:6 - 23)

- A. NEW LIFE (2:6 – 15)
 - (i) Grounded in Christ (2:6 – 7)
 - (ii) Christ makes us complete (2:8 – 10)
 - (iii) True circumcision (2:11 – 15)

- B. DON'T BE DECEIVED (2:16 – 23)
 - (i) Christ is not religion (2:16 – 19)
 - (ii) Religion is man-made (2:20 – 23)

3. LIVING IN FREEDOM

(3:1 – 4:6)

A. IMPLICATIONS FOR LIVING IN CHRIST (3:1 – 17)

- (i) Be heavenly minded (3:1 – 17)
- (ii) Live differently (3:5 – 11)
- (iii) Live in love for others (3:12 – 15)
- (iv) Speak differently (3:16 – 17)

B. IMPLICATIONS FOR FAMILIES (3:18 – 21)

- (i) Husbands and wives (3:18 – 19)
- (ii) Parents and children (3:20 – 21)

C. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WORKPLACE (3:22 – 4:1)

- (i) How to work (3:22 – 25)
- (ii) How to treat workers (4:1)

D. PRAYER INSTRUCTIONS (4:2 – 6)

- (i) How to pray (4:2 – 4)
- (ii) Live your prayer (4:5 – 6)

FAREWELLS (4:7 – 18)