

OUTLINE OF THE COLOSSIAN LETTER

I. PAUL'S PRAYER: THANKS TO GOD; REQUEST FOR THE COLOSSIANS; AND THANKS FOR DELIVERANCE INTO THE KINGDOM AND DESCRIPTION OF ITS KING (COL. 1:1-23)

A. Thanks to God for the Colossians' Hope (1:3-8)

1. Occasion: Heard of their Faith and Love (1:4)
2. Reason: Hope of Heaven (1:5)
3. Source: (1:6,7)
 - a. heard and understood (6)
 - b. learned from Epaphras (7)

B. Request to God for Colossians' Growth and Strength (1:9-11)

1. Request: Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding (1:9)
2. Reasons / Results: (1:10,11)
 - a. walk worthy
 - b. please God
 - c. bear fruit
 - d. increase in knowledge
 - e. be strengthened
 - f. [for:] steadfastness and patience

C. Thanks for Deliverance to Kingdom and Description of King (1:12-23)

1. Our Entry (1:13,14)
 - a. from darkness to Kingdom
 - b. with redemption, forgiveness
2. Christ's Greatness (1:15-18)
 - a. with respect to God: image, firstborn (15)
 - b. with respect to Creation: beneficiary, maintainer (16-18)
 - c. with respect to Church: beginning, head, firstborn... (18)
3. Christ's Work (1:19-23)
 - a. importance: all the fulness dwells (19)
 - b. what: reconcile all things to God (20)
 - c. how: through the cross (20)
 - d. the change: before and after (21,22)
 - e. conditions: continue steadfast in the faith (23)

II. PAUL'S WORK IN THE GOSPEL FOR COLOSSIANS (1:24-2:3)

A. Description of the Duty Given to Paul by God (1:24-29)

1. Suffering for the Body (1:24)
2. Service in the Word (1:25-27)
 - a. made a servant by God (25)
 - b. duties: make the mystery manifest (26)
 - c. the Mystery: Christ in you, the hope of Glory (27)
3. Paul's Goal: Present every man Perfect (1:28,29)

B. Expression of Concern for, and Closeness to, the Readers (2:1-4)

1. A Great Struggle for them (3:1)
2. Purpose: (2:2,3)
 - a. hearts encouraged
 - b. hearts knits together in love
 - c. (attain) full assurance of understanding
 - d. (resulting in) true knowledge of Mystery: Christ

III. ERRORS OF MEN COMPARED WITH THE TRUTH OF CHRIST (2:4-3:4)

A. Warnings Against Persuasive Argument (2:4-7)

1. Paul, with them in Spirit, sees their stability (2:4,5)
2. Paul encourage them to hold to the faith, as they were instructed (2:6,7)

B. Warnings Against Human Reasoning [Philosophy, Deception, Traditions of Men, Rudiments of the World - v. 8] (2:8-15)

1. Christ: All of Deity (2:9)
2. Christ: Makes us Complete (2:10)
3. Christ: Separates us from Sin (2:11-15)
 - a. circumcision (11)
 - b. buried and raised (12)
 - c. death to life (13)
 - d. debt paid (14)
4. Christ: Conquered all Evil Powers (15)

C. Warnings Against Being Judged with respect to Old Law (2:16,17)

1. No one else our Judge (15,16)
2. Christ: the Substance of the Shadow (vs 17)

D. Warnings Against False Religious Practices (2:18-3:4)

1. Contrast to Holding to the Head (2:18,19)
2. Have Died with Christ to the World (2:20-22)
3. Valuelessness of False Practices (2:23)
4. Mind Set on Christ (3:1-4)

IV. THINGS TO PUT OFF AND PUT ON (3:5-17)

A. Things to Put Off (3:5-9)

1. Personal Immorality (3:5-7)
 - a. members dead to these sins (5,6)
 - b. wrath of God to come on those who practice (6)
 - c. once walked in them (among them) (7)
2. Unloving Behavior Put Aside (3:8,9)

B. Things to Put On (3:10-17)

1. The Image of Christ for All (3:10,11)
 - a. renewed to this image (10)
 - b. former distinctions removed (11)
2. The Character of God's Chosen (3:12,13)
[compassion, kindness; humility, gentleness; patience, bearing with...]
3. The Heart of Christlikeness (3:14-17)
 - a. love: the bond of unity (14)
 - b. peace: arbiter in our hearts (15)
 - c. word of Christ within us -- teaching and admonishing (16)
 - d. all that we do "In the name of the Lord Jesus" (17)

V. BEHAVIOR IN EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS (3:18-4:6)

A. Family Relationships (3:18-21)

1. Husbands and Wives (3:18,19)
2. Parents and Children (3:20,21)

B. Servants and Masters (3:22-4:1)

1. All work done for the Lord (3:22-25)
2. Masters rule, knowing they have a Master in Heaven (4:1)

C. Exhortations to Prayer and Wise Living (4:2-6)

1. Prayer (4:2-4)
 - a. vigilant in Thanksgiving (2)
 - b. for Paul's Work: opportunities, clear message (3,4)
2. Wise Conduct toward Those Without (4:5,6)
 - a. redeeming the time (5)
 - b. careful speech (6)

VI. PERSONAL GREETINGS TO AND FROM FRIENDS (4:7-18)

A. Introduction of Letter Carriers (4:7-9)

B. Salutations from Rome (4:10-14)

C. Salutations to Colossae (4:15-18)

A Brief Life of Paul

<u>Year</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Letters</u>
36	Conversion	Acts 9	
40	First Jerusalem Visit (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 9:26-30	
41-43	In Tarsus	Acts 9:30	
44-45	In Antioch with Barnabas	Acts 11:25,26	
45	Second Jerusalem Visit (w/ Gifts)	Acts 11:27	
46-47	First Journey (w/ Barnabas)	Acts 13,14	
48-49	In Antioch	Acts 14:26-28	
50	Third Jerusalem Visit (Conference)	Acts 15	
50-53	Second Journey (w/ Silas and Timothy)	Acts 15-18	I,III Thess.
53	Fourth Jerusalem Visit ("the church") (To Antioch)	Acts 18:22	
54-58	Third Journey	Acts 18:23-21:14	I,III Cor. Galatians Romans
58	Fifth Jerusalem Visit (Imprisoned)	Acts 21:15-23:30	
58-60	Imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 23-26	
60-61	Taken to Rome	Acts 27,28	
61-63	Early Imprisonment in Rome	Acts 28:16	Colossians Ephesians Philemon Philippians I Tim., Titus
63-67	?? Release, Journey to Spain, etc. ??		
67-68	Later Imprisonment in Rome, Death		II Timothy