

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 1)

TEXT: Col. 1:1-8

INTRO: “Many Bible scholars have concluded that Colossians is the most profound letter Paul ever wrote. This must not keep us from reading and studying this wonderful letter. But we must be cautioned against a superficial approach to these chapters. Unless we depend on the Spirit of God to teach us, we will miss the truths God wants us to learn.”

Warren Wiersbe

“Christianity faced one of its most severe challenges in the complex and confusing intellectual climate of ancient Colosse. Perhaps due to the nature of the times, the location, and the ideological climate, what had begun well faced a major threat to Christianity’s very existence. False teachers were urging the people to move away from their Christian roots and to accept other religious ideas.To counter the subtle philosophy that threatened Colosse centuries ago, Christians today will find it imperative to know Christ personally and intimately, theologically and practically. They must never allow any philosophical system, whether good or bad, to replace that relationship.”

Richard Melick, Jr.

I. The Problem

A. False doctrine.

NOTE: “What we glean from the book of Colossians is a picture of a complex heresy—a deceptive combination of many things: Eastern philosophy, Jewish legalism, pagan astrology, mysticism, asceticism, and warped Christianity. Most scholars believe it was a form of Gnosticism.”

David Jeremiah

B. Human reason over divine revelation.

NOTE: “Paul did not begin by attacking the false teachers and their doctrines. He began by exalting Jesus Christ and showing His preeminence...”

Warren Wiersbe

See 2 Tim. 3:16-17

II. The People

A. (vs. 1a) The author was Paul the apostle.

B. (vs. 1b) The associate was Timothy the brother.

C. (vs. 2-8) The addressees were the saints in Colossae.

1. (vs. 2a) The designation of the Church.

2. (vs. 2b) The doxology of the Church.

3. (vs. 3-8) The description of the Church.

D. (vs. 7) The assistant was Epaphras the servant.

NOTE: See Col. 4:12-13; Philemon 23.

III. The Preeminence

A. The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of all things!

NOTE: “Mysticism, legalism, Eastern religions, asceticism, and man-made philosophies are secretly creeping into churches. They are not denying Christ, but they are dethroning Him and robbing Him of His rightful place of preeminence.”

Warren Wiersbe

B. Count the times Paul refers to Jesus Christ in just the first eight verses!

