



Colossians – A letter for today

Authorship and Date: The Apostle Paul during his first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:17-31; Col. 4:3, 18) between 60-62 A.D. (1:1, 4:18).

Audience: Paul wrote to the saints at the church in Colosse (1:2).



Colosse was a city of Phrygia, a district in Asia Minor, and was approximately 120 miles east of the capital city of Ephesus and 12 miles southeast of Laodicea.

Colosse was once a great city and a financial powerhouse, but at the time of this epistle, it was in decline and was destroyed by an earthquake in 66 A.D.

The city of Colosse is mentioned once by name in Colossians. **“Laodicea” is mentioned “five times.”**

Attention: The church at Colosse had been attacked with the heretical doctrine of Gnosticism. Gnosticism is derived from the Greek word gnōsis (knowing – knowledge). It was translated as “science” 1 Timothy 6:20:

1 Tim. 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane *and* vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

Affinity: 78 out of the 95 verses in Colossians have a marked remembrance to verses in Ephesians. Like Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon, Colossians was written during Paul’s first imprisonment in Rome.

saints and faithful brethren

All saints are brethren, but not all brethren are _____.

Psa 12:1 Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

praying always for you

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Eph 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, **16** Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

Getting to know the Church at Colosse

I. This was a church of _____.

*"Since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus..."*

According to Revival Outside the Walls (<https://www.rotw.com/get-facts>):

- 45% of people who attend church regularly are **NOT** saved.
- 51% of evangelicals believe many religions can lead to eternal life.
- 57% of regular churchgoers say they have never had a religious experience that changed their life.
- 69% of churchgoers believe that everyone will go to Heaven.

"Jesus Christ" emphasizes to the _____ of Jesus.

"Christ Jesus" emphasizes to the _____ of Jesus.

In the biblical sense, a **believer** is someone who genuinely believes that God became man in the person of Christ Jesus, died on the cross for their sins, was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the scriptures (see 1 Cor. 15:1-6).

II. This was a church of _____.

*"...and of the **love** which ye have to all the saints,"*

John 13:35 By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

1 John 3:15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

"The primary problem in our country is not that we don't have enough money, not that we can't work through the sociological problems, and not that there are not enough government programs. The problem with our country is not even that we don't have enough churches filled with Christians. The problem is we don't have enough disciples. Where are the true followers?"

-Dr. Tony Evans, Kingdom Disciples

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the **disciples** were called **Christians** first in Antioch.

_____ is the strongest evidence of salvation.