



# THE FULLNESS OF DEITY

Colossians 1

# A TOWN OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE

- Colossians is considered one of Paul's "prison epistles", and is closely associated with Ephesians and Philemon. Of 155 verses in Ephesians, 78 are essentially found in Colossians in some form.
- While Ephesians is grand and flowing, Colossians is abrupt and precise. It deals mainly with refuting error, while Ephesians is more of a reflection on truth.

- Colossae was once an important city, located in a “tri-cities” area (Hieropolis and Laodicea), and only a hundred miles from Ephesus. A main route bypassed the city, however, and its importance declined until it was little more than a small town in 60 AD.
- The letter’s primary focus is on a number false doctrines related to Gnosticism, Judaism, and Asceticism. The deity of Jesus and His superiority are main themes.

# COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

- A Christian's reputation often precedes him or her. What would Paul have to write about us? What would he be hearing about our faith, love for the saints, and good works?
- Notice the series of "faith, hope, and love" in Paul's fervent prayer for the Colossians (1 Thess. 1:3, 5:8, 1 Peter 1:3-8, Eph. 4:2-5).
- The gospel is fruitful, whether we are seeking it or it comes to us. Grace is something to be "understood."

# COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

- Paul apparently lived by his own exhortation in 1 Thessalonians 5:17.
- Consider the theme of “fullness” in this passage:
  - “filled with knowledge”
  - “all spiritual wisdom and understanding”
  - “please Him in all respects”
  - “every good work...increasing in knowledge”
  - “strengthened with all power”
  - “attaining of all steadfastness”

# COLOSSIANS 1:13-23

- Jesus Christ's authority is established without question. For any of the Colossians who were beginning to doubt, this passage unequivocally points out that Jesus is the pre-eminent, all-powerful, authoritative Creator.
- Jesus was no mere accident, and neither was He a sub- or secondary-god. He is the source of salvation, as long as the believer remains steadfast!



# COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

- Paul found joy in his suffering because he knew what was at stake and how it helped others (Philippians 1:12ff, James 1:2ff).
- The Gnostics reveled in the idea that they knew secrets kept from the rest of mankind. It is a play on their own terminology, therefore, for Paul to describe the Gospel as a “mystery” – a secret that is fully revealed and available to all (v. 28). See also Ephesians 3:1ff.