

Bible Study Guide for Colossians 1

Day 1 – Colossians 1:1-8

1. Colossians is the third of Paul's prison epistles. While Paul was not personally involved in establishing the church at Colossae, he was intensely interested in it. It would appear that Epaphras was responsible for the church and had gone to Paul while he was in prison for advice on some false teachings that had infiltrated the Church. Some have thought the heresy was a mixture of Judaism and Gnosticism. Gnostics believed they had superior knowledge of life, death and heavenly beings. They added to or perverted the Christian teachings with Greek and Oriental philosophies. Combined with Jewish legality, this had led the believers away from the pre-eminence and the all-sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was with these errors in mind that Paul wrote this epistle, to reassure the Colossians of the accuracy of the message brought to them by Epaphras. Read Colossians, chapter 1.
2. Compare **Colossians 1:1-3** with **Philippians 1:1-4** and **I Thessalonians 1:1, 2**. How do you think you would have felt if you had received a letter addressed in this way?

Consider: If Paul were to address a letter to your church, small group, or to you personally, what description might he use?

3. From **Colossians 1:4, 5**, what characteristics indicate that the Colossians were genuine believers?
4. As the gospel had been preached, what effect had it had on the world and individuals according to **Colossians 1:5b** and **6**?
5. With what words does Paul commend Epaphras to the Colossians in **vs. 7** and **8**?

Day 2 – Colossians 1:9-14

1. In his letters to the Ephesians and Philippians, Paul told them that he was praying for them. Now he tells the Colossians the same thing. What was Paul's prayer for the Colossians in **vs. 9**?