

Centered in Christ: An Introduction to Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2a

What is Colossians?

- It is one of Paul's letters written to a struggling congregation
 - Written with Timothy (v. 1)
 - Who was from the nearby Derbe-Lystra area (Acts 16:1)
- It was written around AD 60 to 62
- It was written while Paul was in prison
 - Possibly in Rome
- It was written to the church in Colossae

The City of Colossae

- In Paul's day, was considered a "small town"
 - Overshadowed by nearby Laodicea (Col 4:15–16)
- But due to its history as a military outpost and its previous grandeur, it was home to a mixture of people groups
 - Phrygians, Greeks, Romans, Scythians and Jews (see Col. 3:11)
- The Church was probably founded by Epaphras (1:7; 4:12-13)
 - Between AD 53-55
 - About 7 to 10 years before the writing of the Epistle

The Issue at Colossae

- False teachers threatened to undermine what Epaphras had taught
 - Which threatened to undermine the church from its strong Christ-centered foundation
- Thus, Paul's message throughout Colossians is:
 - Christ must be center to the life of the Church Body
 - Christ must be center to the life of the Church members

Christ the Center

- When Christ is not the center of life the church it fails to be the Church
 - The community which:
 - Is called out to be different from the world
 - Which is why Paul calls the Colossians 'saints'
 - Reflects Christ's kingship to the world
 - Which is why Paul calls them 'faithful'
 - Is a new family in Christ
 - Which is why Paul calls them 'brothers'*
- The Church is called to offer the world an alternative

- Which can only be found in Jesus
 - When we keep Him at the center

So What?

- Are we ready to be challenged to keep Christ as the center of who we are and what we do both corporately and individually?

Meditation Verse: Colossians 1:2a