

Colossians – Chapter One

61-63 a.d. – From Rome at the time of Paul's imprisonment

Words: Syncretism – the combination or reconciliation of differing beliefs in religion, philosophy, etc., or an attempt to effect such compromise. (syn – with, together with, at the same time, by means of) : Knowledge, Wisdom, Understanding, Mystery, Fulness , Reconciliation

Pre-eminence – eminent above others, excelling others; first born – first in position; redemption (to deliver by payment of a ransom); forgiveness (to pardon or grant remission of a penalty); thrones, dominions, principalities or powers (in the context of Colossians, these are the degrees of the hierarchy of the angels according to these false teachers).

v. 1 – 8– Paul's regular greeting, but here he was introducing himself to the Colossians who had never seen him. He let them know he was an apostle by the will of God. We also learn that Timothy, his spiritual son was with him in Rome. Thank God for their faith and love, acknowledging the hope they have in heaven. Hope here is assured. v.5. Paul reminds them that they received that hope believing the "word of the truth of the gospel". Paul already sets up the preeminence of the word of over any other teachings. They received it from Epaphras who informed Paul about them.

v. 9 -14 – Paul prays that they will be filled with KNOWLEDGE of his will in all WISDOM and spiritual UNDERSTANDING. So they will be able to walk worthy, pleasing the Lord, and be fruitful in doing good works, and increasing in KNOWLEDGE of God. Strengthened with all MIGHT of God's glorious power, producing patience (endurance), longsuffering (self-restraint, even temperedness), and joyfulness (the joy of the Lord that strengthens), thanking God who has made us able to partakers of the inheritance of the saints, delivered us from the power of darkness into the kingdom of HIS DEAR SON, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins.

v.15 -22 – Jesus Christ is the image of God (he is God), firstborn (position in preeminence or rank), created ALL THINGS, even the angels, and all things were created for him. V. 19 – FOR IT PLEASED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM SHOULD ALL FULNESS DWELL. Peace and reconciliation was made through his blood, and we who were alienated from God and enemies of him because of the wickedness in our minds, are now reconciled to him. IN THE BODY OF HIS FLESH THROUGH DEATH, to present you holy (consecrated), unblameable (free from defects, without blemish) and unproveable (no charge or accusation here or hereafter) in his sight.