

# December 15/Day 349

## Colossians 1

- Colossians is another letter.

### Verse 1

- Who authored this letter? What are we told about him?
- When we left off at the end of Acts, Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Colossians is considered a prison epistle, because that's where he was when he wrote it.
- Who was there with him?

### Verse 2

- To whom did he write this letter?
- Where was this church (body of believers) located?

### Verses 3-8

- What did these believers have for Jesus? For the saints (other believers)?
- How did they come to believe? What came to them?
- What have they been doing constantly since they heard the gospel? Fruit and works are two different things. Remember Galatians 5.
- Which of Paul's fellow bond-servants taught the Colossians on his behalf?

### Verses 9-12

- What did Paul pray for them?
- Why? (Answered after "so that")

### Verses 13-14

- Who rescued believers?
- In whom do we have redemption (bought back from slavery to sin)?
- In whom do we find forgiveness of sins?

### Verses 15-20

- Who is this passage about?
- What does verse 16 say He did?
- Who holds all things together?
- Who was the firstborn (first one borne from the dead, resurrected) from the dead?
- What is His place/position in everything?

- What did He do to make peace/reconcile all things to Himself?

Verses 21-23

- What is an unbeliever's mindset toward God?
- What does the "if indeed" describe? We will see this more in Hebrews.

Verses 24-29

- What is the church according to verse 24?
- What is the mystery of the Gentiles?

## Colossians 2

Verses 1-5

- What was Paul's struggle?
- The "true knowledge" Paul is speaking of is epignosis in the Greek. Gnosis is a general knowledge, but epignosis is a knowledge obtained by personal experience, by having been with someone, or having been involved in something rather than hearing about it. "Agnostic" comes from this root, meaning someone who does not know what they believe.
- Who embodies true knowledge of the mystery?
- From whom are wisdom and knowledge obtained?
- Why was he telling them all this? (Answered after "so that")

Verses 6-7

- Those who had believed had received Christ by faith. So how were they to walk (live their lives)?

Verses 8-15

- How would verse 8 give us a glimpse into the culture of the times and location?
- How could some be taken captive? "Through" what? "According to" what? Contrasted with ("rather than") what?
- How are we made complete?
- How is it possible to be circumcised without hands?
- What pictures having been buried with Him?
- What was canceled out? What was it toward us? How did He do this? What does this mean for us?
- What did He do to the spiritual forces?

Verses 16-19

- What is no one to judge about us? Because they are what?
- Why are they not to judge this? (Answered by the “therefore”. Look back to the last passage.)
- How would one defraud us of our prize?
- Self-abasement is the humiliation of oneself.
- When someone follows their own visions/imaginings, to what are they not holding fast?
- What is this person’s mind like?

Verses 20-23

- Paul just drew a picture of our certificate of debt being nailed to the cross and canceled out because we have died with Christ and raised afresh. If this has happened, do we need decrees, do’s and don’ts?
- Where do these teachings come from?
- How do these teachings appear? But what are they instead?
- Do the do’s and don’ts help the believer be more righteous? Keep them saved?

## Colossians 3

Verses 1-3

- If we have been raised with Christ, what are we to keep seeking rather than keeping the man-made rules?

Verses 5-11

- Since we have been buried with Christ, to what is our earthly body dead?
- What are we to lay aside? Is this possible since we have God’s Spirit within us?
- The taking off of the old self and putting on the new self is again the beautiful covenant picture of the exchanging of the robes.
- Why is there no distinction between race or standing in Christ?

Verses 12-17

- If Scripture tells us there are characteristics of the heart we can “put on”, then do we have a choice in the matter?
- Why should we forgive?
- What characteristic bonds us in unity? Scriptural love is not an affection. Did you know it is possible to love someone you don’t like? Did you know it’s possible to love an enemy? You don’t have to feel affection for them and you don’t have to trust them and you don’t have to hang out with them to love them. How do you put this into practice?
- How do we admonish each other?
- How are we to do anything we do?

## Verses 18-21

- I know we all hate verse 18, but I believe this is because many do not understand its implication. Many read this as a wife becoming a slave to her husband, but this is not true. God placed man in a position of care over his family. When he assumes this responsibility, he is accountable to God, and if he loves his wife and treats her the way God intends, it is easy for the wife to be subject to her husband; which just means to allow him to lead. They work together as a team, but she allows him to lead as if they were dancing. It's that simple. He doesn't make a slave of her.
- Why would he be embittered against her? Would it be because she didn't show him respect as the leader?
- Why would a child lose heart? What does exasperate mean?

## Verses 22-25

- Paul was living under Roman rule and slavery was a huge part of the culture. Paul was not advocating slavery, but he was trying to teach believers how to show their faith in whatever circumstance they were in, for after all, if God is sovereign, we are lovingly placed in our circumstance by Him. Since Paul is teaching them how to live out their faith, why would it be a good testimony for slaves to obey their masters in all things, by not merely looking busy, but by working with sincerity? Could we apply this to employee/employer relationships these days?
- When we do this, who are we really working for?

## Colossians 4

### Verse 1

- Just as there were instructions for slaves, there are instructions for masters. How were they to treat those in service to them?

### Verses 2-4

- What specific prayer request did Paul have for them?

### Verses 5-6

- How are we to act toward those who are not believers?
- What should our words sound like?

### Verses 7-9

- How would they be able to receive information about Paul?
- Remember, he was imprisoned in Rome. Onesimus had become a believer after he ran away from Philemon.

Verses 10-17

- From whom all did Paul send greetings?
- Who had church in her home?
- Where did Paul also want this letter read?
- What was his exhortation to Archippus?
- Is there any application for us?

Verse 18

- What does Paul say about this letter in this verse?
- What does he ask them to remember?

## Philemon

Verses 1-3

- Who authored this personal letter? (Written to a person instead of a church)
- To whom is it addressed? What are we told about him?
- What other two people are named?
- These believers live in Colossae.

Verses 4-7

- What does Paul tell us about Philemon here?

Verses 8-16

- What does Paul say about Onesimus?
- Paul had a great deal to say about masters and slaves in Colossians. Onesimus was sent with Tychicus to deliver the letters.
- Why did Paul send him back when he wanted to keep him?
- What was Onesimus now besides a slave?

Verses 17-20

- What did Paul say in regard to what Onesimus owed?

Verses 21-25

- How does Paul conclude his letter to Philemon?

Congratulations on completing two full books today. See you tomorrow.