

Colossians

- **Author and Date**
 - Paul identifies himself at the beginning and at the close of the letter.
 - During the Roman captivity (circa AD 62). Impetus of the letter is a result of the news brought to him by Epaphras, who founded the church in Colossae.
- **Destination**
 - Major city on trade route which extended between Ephesus and Tarsus. The city is located approximately 100 miles east of Ephesus in western/central Asia minor (modern day Turkey), in the region of Phrygia (see Acts 2:10).
 - Probably founded during Paul's second missionary voyage during his extended stay in Ephesus (see Acts 19:10).
- **Purpose**
 - Refutation of some Gnostic/Jewish currents of thought that were infiltrating the church.
- **Themes and Characteristics**
 - Supremacy of Christ over all the elemental powers of the universe (Creator and Redeemer).
 - Christological tension since the beginning. Who is Jesus?
- **Structure**
 - **Introduction 1:1-14**
 - **Doctrine 1:15-23**
 - **Warning 1:24-3:4**
 - **Moral Teaching 3:5-4:6**
 - **Conclusion 4:7-18**