

Crisis In Colossae

Introduction to Colossians

Intro: The Book of Colossians belongs to a group of four letters—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon—commonly designated as the **Prison Epistles**. As you will remember from our study of Philippians, these four Epistles were written by the Apostle Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in (A.D. 60-62). The letter's theme, in light of the rising Gnostic heresy is, *the absolute supremacy and all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ!*

I. The Background of the Epistle

II. The Commencement of the Church at Colossae

III. The Corruption of the Church at Colossae

A. Paul's reason for writing

B. The nature of the Colossian heresy

1. *The Jewish contribution*

2. *The Gentile contribution*

C. The Gnostics' perverted Christology

Idea #1—Jesus Christ didn't have a physical body.

Idea #2—Jesus Christ really did have a body, but He wasn't really God.

D. The Gnostics' perverted ethics

1. *Asceticism, which led to monasticism*

2. *Libertinism, which led to hedonism*

IV. The Correspondence of Colossians

Conclusion: *The Christian life is really the life of the indwelling Christ that God manifests through the life of the believer by the indwelling Spirit of God.*

Memory verse: Col. 3:2 *"Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."*