

The Book of Colossians

I. THE DEITY AND PREEMINENCE OF THE SAVIOR (COLOSSIANS 1).

- A. The thanksgiving for this divine preeminence.
 - 1. It was the source of Paul's praying (1:1-14).
 - a. He thanks the Father for the witness of the Colossians.
 - b. He prays for the walk of the Colossians.
 - 2. It was the source of Paul's preaching (1:23-29).
- B. The theology of this divine preeminence.
 - 1. Christ's relationship to the Father.

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell" (1:15, 19).

- 2. Christ's relationship to the church.

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence" (1:18).

- 3. Christ's relationship to the universe.
 - a. He was its Creator (1:16).
 - b. He is its sustainer (1:17).
 - c. He shall be its reconciler (1:20-22).

II. THE DANGER AND PERVERSION OF THE SERPENT (ch. 2),

- A. The nature of these perversions.
 - 1. Enticing words (persuasive argument) (2:4).
 - 2. Philosophy (2:8).
 - 3. Vain deceit (empty deception) (2:8).
 - 4. Tradition of men (2:8).
 - 5. Legalism.

"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days" (2:16).

- 6. Self-abasement (2:18, 23).
- 7. Worship of angels (2:18).
- 8. Visions (2:18)
- 9. Man made rules (2:20-23).
- B. The answer to these perversions.
 - 1. Know who Jesus is.

"In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (2:3, 9).

- 2. Know what he has done for you.

"For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh' that their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ" (2:1, 2).

- a. The quickening (2:13).
- b. The blotting (2:14).
- c. The spoiling (2:15).
- d. The nourishing (2:19).
- 3. Know who you are (2:10, 12).
- 4. Know what you are to do for him (2:6, 7).

III. THE DUTY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE SAINTS (ch. 3-4).

- A. In relation to the Son of God (3:1-4).
- B. In relation to the Word of God (3:16).
- C. In relation to the work of God (3:17).
 - 1. What to put off (3:5-9).

"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds" (3:8, 9).

2. What to put on (3:10-12, 14).

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; and above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness" (3:12, 14).

- D. In relation to the peace of God (3:15).

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful" (3:15).

- E. In relation to our talks with God (4:1--4).

1. Paul's command to pray (4:2).
2. Paul's request for prayer (4:3, 4).

- F. In relation to our testimony for God.

1. Before the unsaved (4:5, 6).
2. In the home (3:18-21).
 - a. Concerning wives (3:18).
 - b. Concerning husbands (3:19).
 - c. Concerning children (3:20).
 - d. Concerning fathers (3:21).
3. On the job (3:22-25).
4. In the church (3:13).

- G. In relation to the ministers of God (4:7-18). Paul ends this epistle by sending greetings from eight men and by making a request.

1. The greetings to the Colossians.
 - a. Tychicus (4:7, 8).
 - b. Onesimus (4:9).
 - c. Aristarchus (4:10)
 - d. John Mark (4:10).
 - e. Jesus Justus (4:11)
 - f. Epaphras (4:12, 13).
 - g. Luke (4:14).
 - h. Demas (4:14).
2. The request from the Colossians.

"And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea" (4:16).