

Bible Reading Notes
Colossians

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Colossians 1

Paul wrote this letter while in his first imprisonment in Rome. According to 2:1, he had never been to the church in Colossae.

1:7 – Epaphras – We believe he was the founding pastor of the church, who is now a prisoner with Paul (Philemon 23).

1:9-14 – Take note of the requests that Paul makes for the Colossian church. This follows his typical pattern of requests for the churches.

1:15-23 – This is one of Paul's great statements on Christ. Christ is exalted as both the creator and the reconciler.

1:15 – firstborn – This refers to Christ being the first in rank. This is true in v. 18 as well.

1:24 – lacking in Christ's afflictions – Not that Christ's suffering for our salvation was inadequate. Paul is referring to the suffering of future believers that are united to Christ.

Colossians 2

2:11-12 – circumcision...baptism – Note the connection made between circumcision and baptism. Believers experience spiritual circumcision in Christ and our baptism is the sign and seal of that union.

2:14 – canceling – The imagery is that of erasing the record of your sin so there is nothing separating you from God.

2:16-23 – Paul warns them against the kind of legalism concerning food and special days that was taught by both Jews and Gentiles. These observances offer no benefit to sanctification (v. 23).

Colossians 3

- 3:1 – **If** – This Greek term has the idea of “Since.” Since you have been raised with Christ...
- 3:7 – **you once walked** – As pagans prior to coming to Christ, the Colossians engaged in the sins that were typical of pagans in their day.
- 3:14 – **love** – We are obeying the law of God when we are living in love to the Lord and others.

Colossians 4

- 4:3 – Paul does not ask for prayer for his release but that during his imprisonment the Lord would open up opportunities for him to share the Word of God.
- 4:16 – **Laodicea** – Laodicea was located very close to Colossae. We do not have any copies of Paul’s letter to Laodicea.

The letter to Philemon was written and delivered at the same time as the letter to the Colossians. Paul writes to the believer Philemon to appeal to him to be gracious with Onesimus, a slave who ran away and came to Christ while in Rome.

