

# Week 12

## Colossians - Kolossaij

The introduction of Colossians identifies the author as Paul and Timothy. Today, Pauline authorship is in dispute, but for me the burden of proof must be high and has not been met. Furthermore, with Timothy named as a fellow author we might expect some difference from his undisputed letters.

Colossae was a small town whose ruins are located in modern day Turkey about 100 miles inland from Ephesus. Paul did not plant the church at Colossae, it appears Epaphras did (1:7). It is likely Paul never even visited Colossae, but must have been known and respected. This is one of the four prison letters of Paul. Epaphras is concerned about false teachings rising up in a church. Gnosticism drew a sharp distinction between material and spiritual, so believes that the Word became flesh (John 1:14) or that Jesus was involved with creation (Col 1:16), or that anything material (Gen 1:1, 4, 10, 12...) or anything from the Old Testament or associated with the Creator God was good.

There are strong similarities between Ephesians (another prison letter) and Colossians. Ephesians has a stronger focus on the church, and Colossians has a higher focus on the Church's Lord. Colossians has a high view of the sovereignty of God, a high Christology, and a high expectation of the life in Christ. A high view of God is not popular in our almost fully secular culture, but this book is essential in my understanding of God and Jesus Christ his Son. I hope you enjoy getting to know your God in this book, as I have.

**Sunday, Jan 9**      **Colossians 1:1-14** – Hello, we don't know each other... but  
**For Reflection:** In Verses 4 and 5 Paul mentions faith, love and hope – clearly a Pauline trinity of virtue. How would you grade the health of your faith, hope, and love?  
**Lagniappe:** 1 Corinthians 13: 13

**Monday, Jan 10**      **Colossians 1:15-29** - A High Christology<sup>1</sup>  
**For Reflection:** What a sweep of the identity and mission of the Son of God. How is your understanding of Christ different than Paul's? What are you struggling and toiling for (cf 1:29)?  
**Lagniappe:** John 1:1-5<sup>2</sup>

**Tuesday, Jan 11**      **Colossians 2** – Life in Christ Part 1

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<sup>1</sup> Though Gnostics would consider it a low Christology, a disqualifying Christology.

<sup>2</sup> See also 1 Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 1:2, Rom 11:36,

**For Reflection:** Where is your faith/belief and your lifestyle most integrated? Where is it least integrated? Vs 9 passes by quick if you're reading fast, what is Paul saying in vs 9? What are the implications?

**Langiappe:** John 10:30

**Wednesday, Jan 12** Colossians 3:1-17 - Life in Christ Part 2<sup>3</sup>

**For Reflection:** Just pick one of these verses, write it out and keep it with with you, and try to reread it on the hour. Notice vs 16 – that what you are committed to right now by spending time in the word!!!

**Lagniappe:** Hebrews 4:12

**Thursday, Jan 13** Colossians 3:18-4:1 – Household Code<sup>4</sup>

**For Reflection:** Much of this passage seems culturally bound and circumstantial teaching but what about these exhortations are timeless?

**Langiappe:** Ephesian 5:21

**Friday, Jan 14** Colossians 4:2-6 – Final Instructions

**For Reflection:** What are you devoted to? if some asked you what you believed and why, could you make a clear presentation of the gospel?

**Langiappe:** 1 Peter 3:15

**Saturday, Jan 15** Colossians 4:7-18 – PS

**For Reflection:** Who is your team? What is you task (4:17)?

**Langiappe:** Genesis 2:18

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<sup>3</sup> In Chapter 3 there are 9 imperatives, though two come as couplets giving us a neat list of 7: 1) Seek the things that are above and Set your minds on things above 2) Put to death the earthly and Get rid of old ways 3) Do not lie 4) Clothe yourselves with 5) let he peace of Christ rule in your hearts 6) Be thankful 7) Let the word of Christ dwell richly

<sup>4</sup> You may not be surprised to hear me say I wanted to skip over this, because for many these words handled carelessly are simply painful, but doing that seemed obvious and ham-handed, so let's find what we can.