

Gleanings from Colossians

David Dombrowski

I. Background

A. 60-63 AD, imprisoned at Rome for 2 years; letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, Philemon, Colossians.

B. Epaphras

1. One side of a telephone conversation

C. "Colossian Heresy" – "Jewish Gnosticism/mysticism"

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 2:11,16; 3:11 | 1. Circumcision, food taboos, holy days |
| 2:21,23 | 2. Asceticism |
| 2:18 | 3. Angel worship |
| 1:15-20; 2:2-3,9 | 4. Depreciation of Christ |
| 2:18; 2:2-3 | 5. Secret knowledge |
| 2:4,8 | 6. Human wisdom and tradition |

SO...

D. Christ is **SUPREME**

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1:15 | 1. Very image of God |
| 1:16,17 | 2. Creator and Sustainer |
| 1:18 | 3. Head of the church and First in All Things |
| 1:19; 2:9 | 4. Fullness of God |
| 1:20-22 | 5. Sacrificer and Reconciler |
| 2:10 | 6. Head and Ruler over ALL rule and authority (Mt 28:18) |
| 2:8,23; Pv 14:12 | 7. Over all human wisdom and philosophy |
| 2:2-3 | 8. True knowledge of God's mystery is.....Jesus Christ and Him alone! All wisdom and knowledge are in Him. |
| 2:4,8 | 9. Don't be deceived. |

C. Gnosticism

I. Spirit is good; matter/physical world is evil

- a. Human body is evil; God is good
- b. Salvation = escape from evil body through secret knowledge, NOT faith (I Co 8:1-2)
- c. Christ's body only appeared physical; OR – spirit of Christ descended at water baptism and ascended before the cross.
- d. Body is evil so, either: 1) treat harshly - asceticism or 2) who cares about the *physicality of life, so there's no moral consequences – licentiousness.*

II. The Letter

III. Chapter 1

1:10c

Jn 17:3

(Ph 3:10; Je 9:24)

- A. "But I *hate* homework and tests!" What does this mean – "we relate to God according to our understanding of Him?" Examples?

1:15-19

B. What does the invisible look like?

1. Spirit (Jn 4: 24); No one has seen (Jn 1:18); Won't live (Ex 33:20); Image (Gn 1:26); Unapproachable (1Tm 6:16)

2. Jn1:1-5, 14-18; 14:8-9

Mt 28:18

3. Stop and think. What does all this mean - to you?

1:20

Rm 8:19ff

C. What things in heaven? All bow - Ph 2:9-11

1:22c, 23a

D. Holy, blamless, *beyond reproach!* IF...

1:26-28

Rm 8:10-11; Ep 1:13-14

E. The Mystery. Revealed to us. I Co 2:6-10 eye has not seen, but...

Christianity is a revelation, not a discovery