

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## COLOSSIANS



Reading: Colossians 3:8-17

### Introduction

- It is amazing what good came out of Paul's enforced '*lockdown*' in Rome.
- Four of his NT books were written in this period to guide the church.

### 1 The City Of Colosse

- In the Roman province of Asia Minor (W. Turkey).
- Colosse was in close proximity to the cities of Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- Colosse was the poor sister of the three.

### 2 The Church At Colosse

- Planted and pastored by Epaphras (1:7 & 4:12)
- It was a '*descent*' church. (See 2:5).

### 3 The Communication To Colosse

- The letter was to address a '*heresy*' that was trying to worm its way into the Colossian church.
- Epaphras had travelled to Rome personally to consult Paul about it.
- NB. Many of the verses are an echo of what Paul had sent previous to the Ephesians.

#### 4 The Gnostics And Gnosticism

- The '*heresy*' came to be known as '*Gnosticism*'.
- From the Greek word '*gnosis*' meaning '*to know*'.
- That the God of the OT was different from the God of the NT
- That matter was evil and only what was spirit was good.
- That Jesus was not physical but a spirit being.
- This denied the essential '*Incarnation*' of Jesus.
- That Jesus was created, therefore not eternal and not God.
- Because the body was made of evil matter it didn't matter what one did with it.

#### 5 A Proper Christology

- NB. [2John vs. 9]. We need to know what is right about Christ if we are to be able to identify when something said about Christ is wrong.
- A True Doctrine of Jesus.
- [1:15] He is the '*image of the invisible God*!' An exact likeness.
- [1:15] '*The Firstborn over all creation*.' The most pre-eminent one in all the universe.
- [1:18] '*Firstborn from the dead*.' The one who rose never to die again.
- [1:18] '*The Head of the Body*.' The undisputed head of the church.
- [2:9] '*All the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him*.'

#### 6 Off With The Old And On With The New

- Note Paul's use of the terms '*put off*' (x2) and '*put on*' (x3) in chapter 3.
- There are dirty clothes to put off and new clothes to put on.
- Notice carefully and prayerfully what we are to '*put off*' in [3:8-9].
- Notice carefully and prayerfully what we are to '*put on*' in [3:10-14].

#### Closing:

- In [3:18-4:1] we have '*the ideal home exhibition*'.
- In [4:7-14] Paul gives us a '*team photograph*' of his helpers.

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### Teaching Biblically • Thinking Biblically • Living Biblically

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