

## **Colossians Overview**

Who: The apostle Paul

What: Letter to Church in Colosse

When: in early A.D 60s

Where: Prison in Rome

Why: to counteract heretical teachings and exhort believers

Theme: Fullness, Supremacy and Freedom in Christ

Key Verses: For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (Col. 2:9,10)

### **Group Study Passage by Week:**

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Scripture:</b>
January 15	Colossians 1:1-14
January 22	1:15-29
January 29	2:1-23
February 5	3:1-17
February 12	3:18-4:1
February 19	4:2-18

### **Background Information:**

This letter was written by Paul from prison to the church in Colosse, which was about 100 miles east of Ephesus. Although he never personally visited this church, it was likely established as a result of his ministry in Ephesus. Paul was visited by a native of Colosse while in prison, a man named Epaphras who is thought to have founded the church there. Epaphras gave the apostle a full report

of a growing situation in his church which prompted Paul's letter. It seemed that the church had fallen under the influence of false teachings, disguised as enlightened philosophy, and claimed to be a higher, more spiritual form of Christianity. Paul writes to counterattack this blending of Greek philosophy, cultic practices, Christianity and Jewish speculations and assures his audience of the full adequacy of Christ Jesus. He assures them that Christ is supreme over all things, including the powers of evil that were seen to threaten human life. As the pre-eminent source in every sphere, and as all-sufficient for the believer's needs, Jesus is presented as the true Lord of the universe. Paul also highlights love, thankfulness and forgiveness as the marks of true spirituality and includes a brief wealth of practical instruction for Christian living.

#### Sources:

Bible Overview Pamphlet, Rose Publishing 2004

This Morning with God, Carol Adeney editor, InterVarsity Press, 1968

Search the Scriptures, Alan M Stibbs, editor, Intervarsity Press, 2004

Serendipity Bible for Groups, Zondervan Publishing House, 1998

The Wesley Study Bible, NRSV, Abingdon Press, 2009