

# A LOOK AT THE BOOK COLOSSIANS

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## AUTHOR AND DATE

Evidence for Pauline authorship is strong as in the case of the other prison epistles.  
There is not as much external evidence.  
However, internal evidence and parallels with the other prison epistles provide strong support.

The date is about A.D. 60.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Little is known about the origin of the church at Colosse.  
It was not founded by Paul.  
He had never been there personally.  
Yet he was familiar with the church there.

It may have been a daughter church of Ephesus with which he had worked extensively.  
He knew some of the brethren from the church and may have led them to the Lord in Ephesus.  
They may have returned to start a church there.

However the church began, Paul felt a special relationship to the brethren there.

He was alarmed when he received reports that the Judaizers had made strong inroads into the church.

The letter was his response to that report.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

The Judaizers were promoting the doctrine of sanctification by the law, similar to the problem in Galatia.

Paul attempts to respond to that doctrine and correct those who were influenced by it.

In Galatians Paul answered that it was impossible to be saved by faith and then sanctified by the law.

The law brings condemnation and recognition of sin, not the power to overcome it.

In Colossians, Paul approaches the issue from the other side.

He emphasizes the positive doctrine of the provision in Christ.

God has provided all we need for successful Christian living in Christ.  
We are complete in Him.

The spiritual life is life in Christ, not legalism.

***What does Colossians teach us about the Person of Jesus Christ?***

***What does Colossians teach us about the work of Jesus Christ?***

***What implications does Paul draw from these doctrinal truths?***

***What difference should this study make in our life this week?***

## COLOSSIANS

**COMPLETE IN CHRIST!**

Ralph Porter

INTRODUCTION 1:1-23	PAUL'S MINISTRY: PROCLAIM THE COMPLETE PROVISION IN CHRIST 1:24-4:6		CONCLUSION 4:7-18
Greeting and Prayer	Revelation of the Provision 1:24-2:15	Implications of the Provision 2:16-4:6	Personal Notes
<p><b>His Greeting</b> 1:1-2</p> <p><b>His Prayer</b> 1:3-23</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His thanksgiving 1:3-8</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For a mature church 3-5</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">For a fruitful church 6-8</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">His petition 1:9-23</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That we might know God's will 9</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">That we might walk worthily 10-23</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">Bearing fruit 10a</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">Growing in knowledge of Him 10b</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">Being strengthened 11</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Giving thanks to the Father 12-23</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">He qualified us 12</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">He rescued us 13a</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">He brought us into the kingdom 13b-20</p> <p style="padding-left: 60px;">He reconciled us 21-23</p>	<p><b>Revelation of the mystery concerning Gentiles</b> 1:24-27</p> <p><b>Proclamation of Christ to all</b> 1:28-29</p> <p><b>Struggle that we not be misled</b> 2:1-5</p> <p><b>Conclusion that we should walk in Christ</b> 2:6-7</p> <p><b>Warning that we not be taken captive</b> 2:8</p> <p><b>Complete provision in Christ</b> 2:9-15</p>	<p><b>Don't be judged by ritual</b> 2:16-19</p> <p><b>Don't submit to human rules</b> 2:20-23</p> <p><b>Seek heavenly things</b> 3:1-4</p> <p><b>Put to death the things of the old life</b> 3:5-11</p> <p><b>Clothe yourselves as God's people</b> 3:12-15</p> <p><b>Let the Word of Christ control you</b> 3:16-4:6</p>	<p><b>Report on his condition</b> 4:7-9</p> <p><b>Personal greetings</b> 4:10-15</p> <p><b>Exchange of letters</b> 4:16</p> <p><b>Exhortation to Archippus</b> 4:17</p> <p><b>Final greeting</b> 4:18</p>