

M O R I A H
INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES



NT430 The Book of Colossians

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MORIAH . . .

**. . . the mount of testing, the victory of faith,
where Jehovah-jireh supplies every need.**

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COURSE SUMMARY

DESCRIPTION

This is a study of the epistle of Paul to the Colossians for laymen, ministers and teachers in the Body of Christ. The course will be divided into four natural divisions:

1. The Supremacy of Christ (1:15 - 23)
2. The Ministry of Paul (1:24 - 2:7)
3. Warning against Error (2:8 - 15)
4. Appeal for Christian Living (3:1 - 4:6)

The English text of both the NASV and the NIV will be studied with heavy emphasis from the Greek text. Special application will be given for the practical Christian walk as well as the vital theological themes of Colossians for the minister to be used in preaching and teaching.

OBJECTIVES

1. Increase our understanding of the historical setting of the church at Colosse thus gaining insights into its true meaning for today
2. Clarify and simplify the theological issues found in the text in light of the total teaching of the New Testament
3. To seek the realization of the practical (Colossians 3 - 4) in the personal lives of each student
4. To provide material for dynamic preaching and teaching ministry in the local church

SUGGESTED TOOLS OF STUDY

1. The Holy Bible
 - King James Version
 - New American Standard (text in course outline)
 - New International Version
2. Textbook
 - Barclay, William, The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and the Thessalonians, Philadelphia, The Westminster Press, 1959, or other comparable work

REQUIREMENTS

1. Read Colossians prayerfully before the course begins
2. Attend each class. If you are not able to attend each class in person, make arrangements to purchase the audio tapes.
3. Master the Course Outline and use it as you read Scripture. Fix the outline and purpose of the Book of Colossians firmly in your mind and heart.
4. Read and study as many of the books on the bibliography as you can.
5. You will receive an examination on the last day of class which will be due within two weeks.

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

I. Introduction (1:1-14)

- A. Salutation (1:1,2)
- B. Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:3-8)
- C. Prayer of Petition (1:9-14)

II. The Supremacy of Christ (1:15-23)

- A. The Scope of Christ's Supremacy (1:15-18)
- B. The Basis of Christ's Supremacy (1:19-23)
 - 1. The fullness of God in Christ (1:19)
 - 2. The reconciling work of Christ (1:20-23)

III. The Ministry of Paul (1:24-2:7)

- A. A Ministry of Suffering (1:24)
- B. A Ministry of Preaching (1:25-29)
- C. A Ministry of Intercession (2:1-5)
- D. A Ministry of Exhortation (2:6, 7)

IV. Warning Against Error (2:8-23)

- A. The Error of False Philosophy (2:8-15)
 - 1. The warning stated (2:8)
 - 2. The warning justified (2:9-15)
 - a. The full deity of Christ (2:9a)
 - b. The real humanity of Christ (2:9b)
 - c. The complete adequacy of Christ (2:10-15)
- B. The Error of Legalism (2:16, 17)
- C. The Error of Angel Worship (2:18, 19)
- D. The Error of Asceticism (2:20-23)
 - 1. The Christian's death to the world (2:20-22a)
 - 2. The human origin of ascetic restrictions (2:22b)
 - 3. The ineffectiveness of ascetic restrictions (2:23)

V. Appeal for Christian Living (3:1-4:6)

- A. The Root Principle of the Christian Life (3:1-4)
 - 1. Seeking the things above (3:1)
 - 2. Setting the mind on things above (3:2)
 - 3. The motivation for these actions (3:3, 4)
- B. Guidelines for the Christian Life (3:5 - 4:6)
 - 1. Sins of the old life to be abandoned (3:5-11)
 - a. Sins to be put to death (3:5-7)
 - b. Sins to be put away (3:8)
 - c. A sin to be discontinued (3:9a)
 - d. The reason: the new self (3:9b-11)
 - 2. Virtues of the new life to be cultivated (3:12-17)
 - a. Expressions of love (3:12-14)
 - b. The rule of peace (3:15)
 - c. The indwelling of Christ's word (3:16)
 - d. The name of Christ (3:17)
 - 3. Family relationships to be strengthened (3:18 - 4:1)
 - a. The wife's duty to the husband (3:18)
 - b. The husband's duty to the wife (3:19)
 - c. The duty of children to parents (3:20)
 - d. The duty of parents to children (3:21)
 - e. The duty of slaves to master (3:22-25)
 - f. The duty of masters to slaves (4:1)
 - 4. Religious duties to be faithfully performed (4:2-6)
 - a. The duty of prayer (4:2-4)
 - b. The duty of witnessing (4:5, 6)

VI. Conclusions (4:7-18)

- A. Commendations (4:7-9)
- B. Greetings (4:10-15)
- C. Instructions (4:16, 17)
- D. Benediction (4:18)

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Course Introduction

I. Destination

II. Authorship

III. Places of Origin

IV. Occasion - Colossian Heresy

A. Leading Features:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

B. Syncretistic Movement

1. Jewish Element
2. Pagan Element
3. Christian Element

V. Purpose

VI. Theme

VII. Relation to Ephesians