

An Introduction to Colossians

Letters of Paul
Sojourners Fellowship



An Introduction to Colossians

A hand is shown writing on a scroll with a quill pen. In the background, there is a lit candle and an inkwell. The scene is dimly lit, creating a historical and scholarly atmosphere.

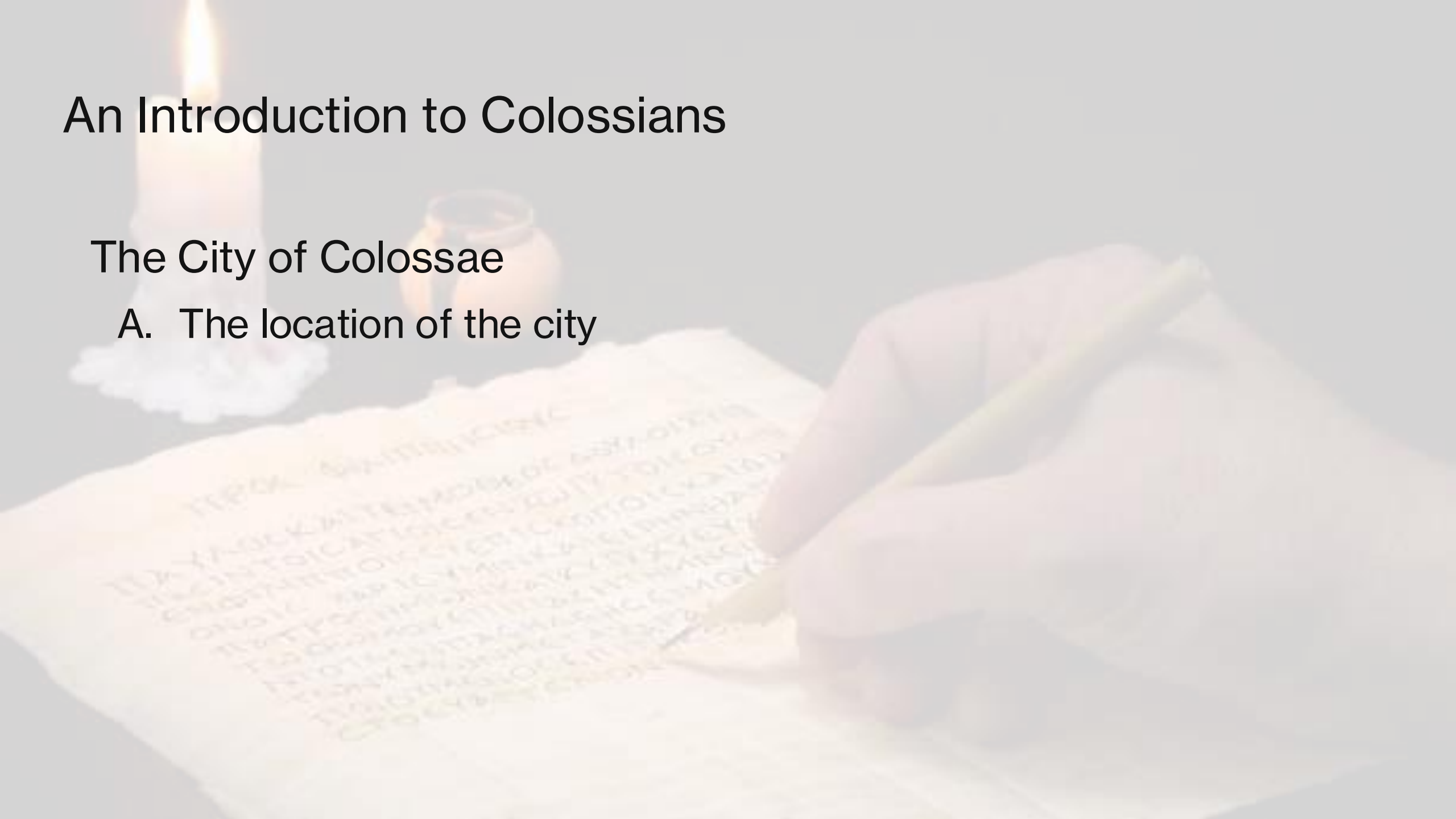
Paul's Circumstances

- A. Writing from Prison in Rome
- B. Date: Approximately A.D. 60-62

An Introduction to Colossians

The City of Colossae

A. The location of the city





Bucharest
ROMANIA

Constanta

BULGARIA

Varna

Burgas

GREECE

Edirne

Kirklareli

Tekirdag

Istanbul

Yalova

Izmit

Bandirma

Çanakkale

Edremit

Balıkesir

Bergama

Soma

Manisa

Izmir

Aydın

Denizli

Burdur

İsPARTA

Didim (Didyma)

Bodrum

Mugla

Marmaris

Fethiye

Kas

Finike

Kumluca

GREECE

Black Sea

RUSSIA

GEORGIA

Tbilisi

ARMENIA

Yerevan

Agri Dagı (Mt. Ararat 5166 m)

IRAN

Colossae

Ankara

Zonguldak

Bartın

Kastamonu

Sinop

Karabük

Çankiri

Çorum

Yozgat

Kirikkale

Kirsehir

Nevsehir

Aksaray

Konya

Nigde

Karaman

Tarsus

Mersin

Yumurtalik

Iskenderun

Antakya (Antioch)

Latakia

Hamah

Homs

Tripoli

Beirut

LEBANON

Samsun

Ordu

Giresun

Trabzon

Rize

Artvin

Ardahan

Akyaka

Kars

Bayburt

Gümüşhane

Erzurum

Erzincan

Divrigi

Tunceli

Bingöl

Mus

Tatvan

Van

Bitlis

Siirt

Sirnak

Hakkâri

Silopi

Nusaybin

Mardin

Batman

Diyarbakir

Adryaman

Malatya

Elazig

Kahramanmaraş

Osmaniye

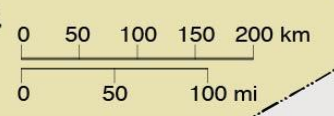
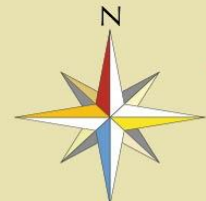
Gaziantep

Sanliurfa

Siverek

TURKEY

- ⊛ National capital
- ⊙ Province capital
- Town
- ✈ Airport
- International boundary
- Express way
- Main road
- Railroad



Mediterranean Sea

SYRIA

IRAQ







An Introduction to Colossians

The City of Colossae

- A. The location of the city
- B. The city's history and significance

Asia Minor (southwest Turkey) in the time of Paul



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Pisidian
Antioch

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Meander R.
Laodicea

Colossae

Royal Road

Miletus

Cibra-Göhlisar

Termessos

Attalia

An Introduction to Colossians

The City of Colossae

- A. The location of the city
- B. The city's history and significance

The Church at Colossae

- A. Paul likely never visited Colossae (2:1)
- B. The church was established by Epaphras (1:7)
- C. Connections with Philemon and Onesimus (4:7-9)

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The Colossian Heresy

A. Pagan Mysticism

1. Denied Jesus is the Creator; *response - 1:16*
2. Denied Jesus is fully God; *response - 1:17-19, 2:9*
3. Denied Jesus is fully man and had a physical body; *response - 2:9*
4. Denied Jesus is sufficient for salvation; *response - 1:21-22; 2:13-14*

An Introduction to Colossians

The Colossian Heresy

A. Pagan Mysticism

B. Judaistic Legalism

1. Circumcision; *response* - 2:11-12; 3:10-11
2. Other OT practices; *response* - 2:16-17

An Introduction to Colossians

The Colossian Heresy

- A. Pagan Mysticism
- B. Judaistic Legalism
- C. Contradictory Observances
 1. Asceticism; *response - 2:18a, 20-23*
 2. License; *response - 3:5-6*

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The Colossian Heresy

- A. Pagan Mysticism
- B. Judaistic Legalism
- C. Contradictory Observances
- D. Lies Wrapped in the Guise of Christianity



An Introduction to Colossians

The Theme of Colossians: The sufficiency of Christ

The Basic Structure of Colossians

Chapters 1-2: Sufficiency of Christ

Chapters 3-4: Submission to Christ

An Outline of Colossians

- I. Personal Remarks (1:1-14)
 - A. Greetings (1:1-2)
 - B. Prayer of Thanksgiving (1:3-8)
 - C. Prayer for the Church (1:9-14)
- II. The Supremacy of Christ (1:15-23)
 - A. The Person of Jesus Christ (1:15-18)
 - B. The Work of Jesus Christ (1:19-23)
- 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. The Sufficiency of Christ vs. False Philosophies (2:8-23)

- A. Empty Philosophies vs. the Reality of Christ (2:8-15)
- B. Errors of Legalism, Angel Worship & Asceticism (2:15-23)

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

- A. Maintain the Proper Focus (3:1-4)
- B. Eradicate Sin (3:5-8)
- C. Put on the New Self (3:9-17)
- D. Pursue Strong Family Relationships (3:18-21)
- E. Work as Godly Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)
- F. Be Devoted to Prayer and Witnessing (4:2-6)

VI. Concluding Remarks (4:7-18)

- A. Commendations (4:7-9)
- B. Greetings (4:10-15)
- C. Final Instructions & Benediction (4:16-18)

Implications & Applications

1. Be on your guard when you encounter someone touting “new” approaches to the Christian faith
2. Ask what they believe about who Jesus is
3. Ask what they believe about what Jesus has done
4. Grow in your knowledge of Jesus!
5. Worship Him for who He is and for what He has accomplished for our benefit and His glory