

Centrality of the Son: A Study of Colossians
Christ's Work
1:1:12

Background

- Written by Paul
- AD 60-62
- Purpose: Reject false teaching

Christ's Work: Introduction

1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from
God our Father.

Colossians 1:1-2

Timothy was with Paul here as he often was (cf. 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1). Timothy had a Gentile father (Acts 16:1) but his mother and grandmother were godly Jewesses (2 Tim. 1:5) from whom he had learned the Old Testament Scriptures from childhood (2 Tim. 3:15). Paul picked up Timothy on his second missionary journey at Lystra where the "brothers ... spoke well of him" (Acts 16:2). Paul spent much time discipling Timothy and wrote two of his last letters to him.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary

The location of Colossae provided the resources to make the city great. The Lycus River ran through the valley. The river was a branch of the Maeander River and became known as the Little Maeander. The area suffered frequent earthquakes, one of which did severe damage to Laodicea and Hierapolis, neighboring cities, in the year A.D. 60. No doubt Colossae suffered as well. The beautiful valley had lush pastures for grazing sheep. The abundance of wool supported a flourishing garment industry. One of the branches of the Lycus River left chalk deposits that were useful for dyeing cloth. The valley prospered from both ranching and industry.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

Thanksgiving for Christ's Work

1:3-8

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:3-8

Understanding Christ's Work

1:9-12

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Colossians 1:9-12

Christ work for us
must be put into practice
in our daily lives.

- Q1. What are some false teachings that people put confidence in today?
- Q2. What is one area where you need to put into practice what Christ has done for you?