

INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE TO THE COLOSSIANS

THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE WAS ESTABLISHED WHEN THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS ON HIS THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY WHEN HE SPENT APPROXIMATELY THREE (3) YEARS IN EPHESUS IN ASIA MINOR.

THE APOSTLE PAUL NEVER VISITED THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE BUT ESTABLISHED THE CHURCH OF GOD IN ASIA AT **EPHESUS** FROM WHICH THE GOSPEL SPREAD INTO THE CITIES OF COLOSSE AND LAODICEA AND HIERAPOLIS WHICH WERE CITIES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO EACH OTHER.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE AND THE LETTER TO PHILEMON AT THE SAME TIME IN A.D. 62-63.

THE EPISTLE TO COLOSSE AND THE LETTER TO PHILEMON RELATE TO EACH OTHER.

THE APOSTLE PAUL SENT THE EPISTLE AND THE LETTER FROM PRISON IN ROME WITH BOTH TYCHICUS AND ONESIMUS TOGETHER:

- TYCHICUS CARRIED THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE WHICH WAS TO BE ALSO READ IN THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA.

TYCHICUS ALSO CARRIED THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT EPHESUS.

Eph 6:19-22 (KJV) 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Eph 6:20 (KJV) 20 FOR WHICH I AM AN AMBASSADOR IN BONDS: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Eph 6:21 (KJV) 21 But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, TYCHICUS, A BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL MINISTER IN THE LORD, SHALL MAKE KNOWN TO YOU ALL THINGS:

Eph 6:22 (KJV) 22 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

Col 4:7-8 (KJV) 7 ALL MY STATE SHALL TYCHICUS DECLARE UNTO YOU, WHO IS A BELOVED BROTHER, AND A FAITHFUL MINISTER AND FELLOWSERVANT IN THE LORD:

Col 4:8 (KJV) 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

▪ ONESIMUS CARRIED THE LETTER TO PHILEMON

Col 4:9 (KJV) 9 WITH ONESIMUS, A FAITHFUL AND BELOVED BROTHER, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.

❖ EPAPHRAS

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN COLOSSE WAS NOT ESTABLISHED BY PAUL HIMSELF, BUT BY EPAPHRAS A FAITHFUL MINISTER OF CHRIST.

Col 1:7 (KJV) 7 As ye also learned of EPAPHRAS our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Col 4:12-13 (KJV) 12 EPAPHRAS, WHO IS ONE OF YOU, A SERVANT OF CHRIST, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Col 4:13 (KJV) 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

Philemon 1:23 (KJV) 23 There salute thee EPAPHRAS, MY FELLOWPRISONER in Christ Jesus;

❖ ARCHIPPUS

ARCHIPPUS ALSO EXERCISED A FAITHFUL MINISTRY THERE IN THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE.

Col 4:17 (KJV) 17 And say to ARCHIPPUS, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Philemon 1:2 (KJV) 2 And to our beloved Apphia, and ARCHIPPUS OUR FELLOWSOLDIER, and to the church in thy house:

❖ PHILEMON

PHILEMON WAS ALSO A SLAVE MASTER AND AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE.

THE LETTER TO PHILEMON WAS WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL TO PHILEMON WHO BELONGED TO THE CHURCH AT COLOSSE ON BEHALF OF HIS RUNAWAY SLAVE ONESIMUS.

Philemon 1:1-25

❖ ONESIMUS

ONESIMUS WAS A RUNAWAY SLAVE FROM COLOSSE WHO BELONGED TO PHILEMON AND BECAME A DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST WHILE IN PRISON WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL.

❖ WHEN DID THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE THIS EPISTLE?

THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE THIS EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE WHILE HE WAS IN PRISON IN ROME IN A.D. 62-63 DURING HIS TWO (2) YEARS UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HIS OWN HIRED HOUSE.

**Acts 28:30-31 (KJV) 30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,
Acts 28:31 (KJV) 31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.**

DURING THE WRITING OF THIS EPISTLE TIMOTHY WAS IN PRISON WITH THE APOSTLE PAUL.

Col 4:3 (KJV) 3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also IN BONDS:

Col 4:18 (KJV) 18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. REMEMBER MY BONDS. Grace be with you. Amen.

TIMOTHY WAS EVENTUALLY RELEASED FROM PRISON BY THE TIME THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

Heb 13:23-24 (KJV) 23 KNOW YE THAT OUR BROTHER TIMOTHY IS SET AT LIBERTY; WITH WHOM, IF HE COME SHORTLY, I WILL SEE YOU.

Heb 13:24 (KJV) 24 Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you.

❖ WHAT WERE SOME OF THE ISSUES AT THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA IN WHICH THE APOSTLE PAUL MAY HAVE WRITTEN TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA?

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF AN EPISTLE TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA, HOWEVER IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION WE SEE JESUS CHRIST CORRECTING THE CHURCH OF GOD LAODICEA AS BEING LUKEWARM AND IN A BAD SPIRITUAL STATE.

THE EPISTLE WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT COLOSSE WAS TO BE READ IN THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA.

Col 4:16-18 (KJV) 16 And when this epistle is read among you, CAUSE THAT IT BE READ ALSO IN THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

Col 4:17 (KJV) 17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

THE APOSTLE PAUL WAS IN PRISON WHEN HE WROTE THE EPISTLE TO THE CHURCHES OF GOD IN COLOSSE AND LAODICEA.

Col 4:18 (KJV) 18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. REMEMBER MY BONDS. Grace be with you. Amen.

WE SEE JESUS CHRIST CORRECTION TO THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA WHICH WOULD HAVE HIGHLIGHTED SOME OF THE ISSUES THE APOSTLE PAUL WOULD HAVE ADDRESSED IN HIS EPISTLE BY **THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

THE CHURCH OF GOD AT LAODICEA WOULD HAVE DEGENERATED INTO A SPIRITUALLY WRETCHED AND BLIND STATE WHICH NEEDED TO BE ADDRESSED BEFORE ALL WAS SPIRITUALLY LOST.

Rev 3:14-22 (KJV) 14 And unto the angel of THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Rev 3:15 (KJV) 15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 (KJV) 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, I WILL SPUE THEE OUT OF MY MOUTH.

Rev 3:17 (KJV) 17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; AND KNOWEST NOT THAT THOU ART WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED:

Rev 3:18 (KJV) 18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Rev 3:19 (KJV) 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

Rev 3:20 (KJV) 20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Rev 3:21 (KJV) 21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev 3:22 (KJV) 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S JOURNEYS BEFORE HIS THREE (3) MISSIONARY JOURNEYS.



MACEDONIA
Thessalonica
Berea

THRACE
Philippi
Neapolis

ASIA
Thasos
Samos
Lemnos
Assos
Lesbos
Mitylene
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Smyrna
Philadelphia
Hierapolis
Laodicea
Colossae
Ephesus
Milet
Samos
Patmos
Santorini
Crete

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS
Ancyra

GALATIA

CAPPADOCIA
Caesarea

ACHAIA
Corinth
Cenchreae
Athens
Sparta

CILICIA
Antioch in Pisidia
Iconium
Lystra
Derbe
Tarsus

COMMAGENE

SYRIA
Aleppo
Seleucia Pieria
Antioch

PHOENICIA
Sidon
Tyre
Ptolemais (Acco)
Caesarea Maritima

ABILENE
Damascus

NABATEA

EGYPT

JUDEA
Jerusalem

BLACK SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

MARMARA SEA

JOYDAN RIVER

ORONTES RIVER

EUPHRATES RIVER

DEAD SEA

PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 13 & 14

● City
○ One of the "Seven Churches" - Rev. 2-3
← Paul's Route →

ConformingToJesus.com

Paul & Barnabas receive great Jewish opposition to the Gospel

Paul & Barnabas flee to avoid being killed

Paul & Barnabas mistaken for gods Paul stoned

The Church at Antioch sends Paul & Barnabas on a missionary journey

Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

Jerusalem Conference c. 49-50 AD

THE APOSTLE PAUL SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY



THE APOSTLE PAUL THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY

