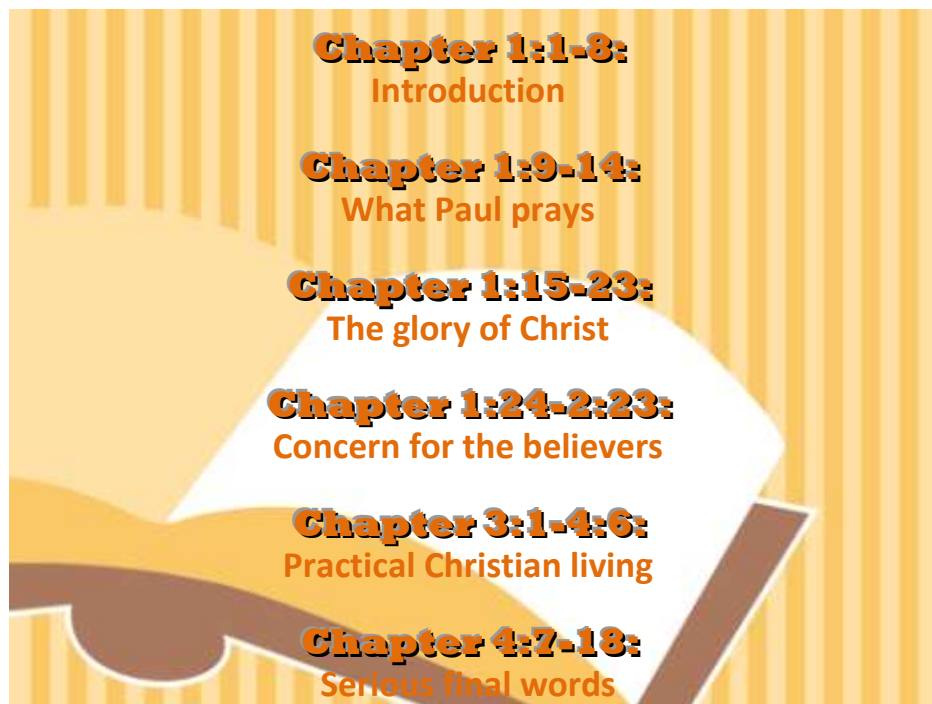


# The Letter to the Colossians

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**"For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Colossians 3:3**



**How it started:** The letter to the Colossians was written by the apostle Paul together with Timothy in approximately 60AD to the Christians in Colossae. Paul himself had never visited the church in Colossae and therefore didn't know most of the believers there personally (chapter 2:1). Epaphras, a faithful co-worker of Paul, had preached the gospel to the people in Colossae and the church there had been established through his service (1:7-8; 4:12-13). It was also he who informed Paul about the latest developments and problems in Colossae.

**What it is all about:** The letter to the Colossians shows us the unique glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is because the Christians in Colossae were in danger of losing sight of this. Paul in his letter shows the contrast to the anti-Christian doctrines.

The Colossians were in danger of accepting strange doctrines – especially from Judaism and Greek philosophy. These doctrines attacked the foundations of the Christians by moving Christ away from the central place in their faith (chapters 1+2).

This is followed by instructions concerning a Christian life that pleases God (chapter 3:1-4, 6). Paul concludes the letter with a greeting written by his own hand.

**How about today?** There is a frightening number of false doctrines around today.

Humanism – the predominant point of view – rests among other things on classical Greek philosophy. In stark contrast to the Bible, humanism views man as being originally good. In reality, however, man is totally bad and in need of redemption through Jesus Christ.

As a Christian you are constantly surrounded by people who think differently from yourself – be it at school, training or work. Your situation is similar to that of the Colossians. Don't allow your view of the Lord Jesus to be obscured!

In the letter to the Colossians you also learn very important things about how a Christian should behave towards other people.