



Transformed: God at Hand

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness...For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.
Colossians 2:6,7,9,10*

HOW TO BE CERTAIN YOUR LIFE IN CHRIST IMPACTS YOUR LIFE IN LONG BEACH

Colossians 1:1-*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2- To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*



Background and Overview of Paul's Letter to the Colossians:

Colosse was a minor city in the area of Phrygia. It is located in the ten mile long Lycus Valley - 100 miles east of Ephesus. Two other nearby cities were Hieropolis and Laodicea. The area was rich in mineral deposits and experienced frequent earthquakes.

The book of Colossians was written by Paul between 60-62 AD during his 1st Roman imprisonment

Characteristics of the Book:

Colossians is the most Christ-centered book in the Bible.

Colossians stresses the supremacy and pre-eminence of Jesus and the completeness of salvation.

Colossians presents Christ as the lord of creation and head of the body. He is shown as sufficient for every spiritual and practical need of the believer.

Purpose of Colossians

1-To show deity and supremacy of Christ in the face of the "Colossian heresy" (Col 1:18; 2:9).

2-To lead believers into spiritual maturity (Col 1:28, 2:6-7).

3-To inform the church regarding his state of affairs (Col 4:7-8).

Regarding the Colossian Heresy:

There is some disagreement as to the heresy Paul addressed. The time of the writing precludes the Gnosticism the Apostle John later addressed. Some scholars feel that the colossian heresy is probably a blend of Jewish legalism and an earlier, less developed kind of gnosticism.

Key Verses: Col 1:15,16; 2:6-7,9,10:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created; things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. Colossians 1:15,16

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