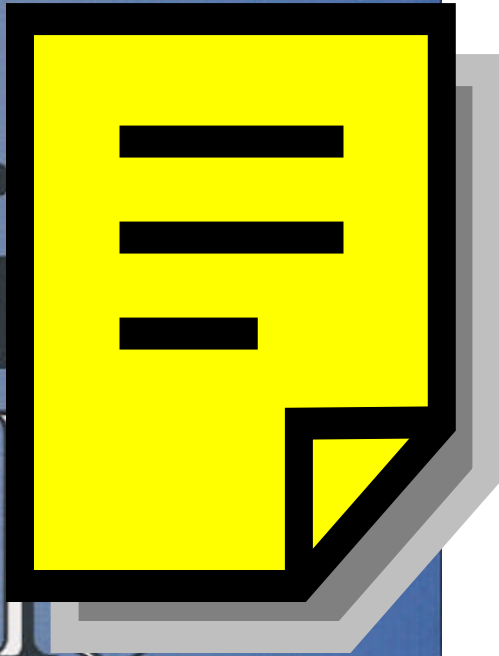


The Outline Bible

THE MOST
COMPREHENSIVE
OUTLINE OF
THE BIBLE
AVAILABLE —
Covers Every Chapter and Verse

HAROLD L.
WILLMINGTON



Colossians

SECTION OUTLINE ONE (COLOSSIANS 1)

Paul opens his letter to the Colossian church with thanksgiving and prayer and a discussion about Christ.

I. PAUL AND THE CHURCH AT COLOSSE (1:1-14, 24-29)

A. The apostle's praise of this church (1:1-8)

1. *How they received the gospel* (1:1-6): Paul commends them in regard to three things.
 - a. Their faith toward the Lord (1:1-4a)
 - b. Their love toward each other (1:4b)
 - c. Their hope toward the future (1:5-6): They are looking forward to the joys of heaven.
2. *From whom they received the gospel* (1:7-8): Epaphras shared Christ with them and is now ministering with Paul.

B. The apostle's prayer for this church (1:9-14)

1. *That they will grow in the knowledge of God* (1:9)
2. *That they will please God* (1:10a)
3. *That they will bear fruit for God* (1:10b)
4. *That they will be strengthened by God* (1:11)
5. *That they will be thankful to God* (1:12-14)
 - a. For what the Father did (1:12-13)
 - b. For what the Son did (1:14)

C. The apostle's proclamation to the church (1:24-29): He has been chosen to reveal God's secret plan to them.

1. *The particulars* (1:24-27): The secret is this: "Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory."
2. *The purpose* (1:28-29): "We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ."

II. CHRIST AND THE CHURCH AT COLOSSE (1:15-23)

A. Who Christ is (1:15): He is the visible image of the invisible God.

B. What Christ has done (1:16-23)

1. *In regard to creation* (1:16-17, 20)
 - a. He created all things (1:16).

- c. He will reconcile all things (1:20).
- 2. *In regard to the church* (1:18-19, 21-23): He has been appointed head of the church.

SECTION OUTLINE TWO (COLOSSIANS 2)

Paul refers to two churches, one in Colosse and one in Laodicea.

- I. PAUL'S WISHES FOR THESE TWO CHURCHES (2:1-7)
 - A. **That both be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love** (2:1-2a)
 - B. **That both understand God's secret plan** (2:2b-3)
 - C. **That both guard against theological deception** (2:4-5)
 - D. **That both continue growing in Christ** (2:6-7a)
 - E. **That both rejoice and be thankful** (2:7b)
- II. PAUL'S WARNINGS TO THESE TWO CHURCHES (2:8-23): The apostle warns against four dangerous and destructive philosophies.
 - A. **Gnosticism** (2:8-10)
 - 1. *The fiction* (2:8): The Gnostics diminish Christ to an angel.
 - 2. *The facts* (2:9-10): Paul says Christ was God incarnate in bodily form.
 - B. **Legalism** (2:11-17)
 - 1. *Paul describes the love of Christ* (2:11-15).
 - a. We have been crucified and raised to new life with him (2:11-12).
 - b. He has forgiven our sins (2:13).
 - c. He has blotted out the charges against us (2:14-15).
 - 2. *Paul describes the liberty in Christ* (2:16-17): Because of this, believers should not criticize each other.
 - a. In matters of diet (2:16a): No one should condemn another believer for what he or she eats or drinks.
 - b. In matters of days (2:16b-17): No one should condemn another believer for not celebrating certain holy days, for these old rules were only shadows.
 - C. **Mysticism** (2:18-19)
 - 1. *The fiction* (2:18): Mysticism teaches that God can be known through two methods:
 - a. Through the worship of angels (2:18a)
 - b. Through the seeing of visions (2:18b)
 - 2. *The facts* (2:19): One can only know God through Christ, who is the head of the body, the church.
 - D. **Asceticism** (2:20-23)
 - 1. *The fiction* (2:21-22): Asceticism teaches that one can purify the spirit by punishing the body.

- a. The spirit cannot be purified by punishing the body (2:23).
- b. The believer's body and spirit have been crucified with Christ (2:20).

SECTION OUTLINE THREE (COLOSSIANS 3-4:1)

Paul writes about the principles of holy living and addresses six types of individuals in regard to this matter.

- I. HOLY LIVING: THE PRINCIPLES (3:1-17)
 - A. **In regard to the believer's affection** (3:1-4)
 - 1. *The place of our affection* (3:1-3): We must transfer our affection from earth to heaven.
 - 2. *The person of our affection* (1:4): We must direct our affection toward Jesus.
 - B. **In regard to the believer's spiritual apparel** (3:5-17)
 - 1. *What to put off* (3:5-9): God's anger comes on those who practice:
 - a. Immorality and idolatry (3:5)
 - b. Anger, malice, slander, and filthy language (3:8)
 - c. Lying (3:9)
 - 2. *What to put on* (3:10-17)
 - a. A new nature (3:10-11)
 - b. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (3:12)
 - c. Forgiveness and love (3:13-14)
 - d. God's peace and thankfulness (3:15)
 - e. The words of Christ (3:16-17)
- II. HOLY LIVING: THE PEOPLE (3:18-25; 4:1): Paul addresses six types of individuals.
 - A. **Wives** (3:18): Submit to your husbands.
 - B. **Husbands** (3:19): Love your wives, and never treat them harshly.
 - C. **Children** (3:20): Obey your parents.
 - D. **Fathers** (3:21): Don't aggravate your children.
 - E. **Servants** (3:22-25): Serve your master as you would serve the Lord.
 - F. **Masters** (4:1): Treat your servants as you would have your heavenly Master treat you.

Paul closes his letter with a challenge to the Colossians, greetings sent from eight fellow believers, and Paul's own special greetings and encouragements.

I. PAUL'S CHALLENGE (4:2-6)

A. The Colossians are to be prayerful (4:2a, 3-4, 18).

1. *For themselves* (4:2a)

2. *For the apostle himself* (4:3-4, 18)

B. The Colossians are to be watchful (4:2b).

C. The Colossians are to be thankful (4:2c).

D. The Colossians are to be fruitful (4:5-6).

II. PAUL'S COWORKERS (4:7-14): Eight fellow believers send their greetings to the Colossians.

A. Tychicus (4:7-8)

B. Onesimus (4:9)

C. Aristarchus and Mark (4:10)

D. Justus (4:11)

E. Epaphras (4:12-13)

F. Luke and Demas (4:14)

III. PAUL'S GREETINGS (4:15): Paul sends greetings to the Christian brothers and sisters.

IV. PAUL'S COMMANDS (4:16-17)

A. To the church at Colosse (4:16)

1. *They are to read this letter* (4:16a).

2. *They are to give this letter to the Laodicean church to read* (4:16b).

3. *They are to read the letter Paul wrote to the Laodicean church* (4:16c).

B. To Archippus, a church member at Colosse (4:17): "Be sure to carry out the work the Lord gave you."

V. PAUL'S BLESSING (4:18): Paul urges the Colossians to "remember my chains" and says, "May the grace of God be with you."

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