

Colossians Outline

Introduction: Colossians seems to be a letter in which Paul is addressing a contemporary theological dispute- namely whether Christ already sets believers free through faith, or whether Christ merely sets believers free to then pursue ascetic practices that will ultimately free them. Paul's contention is that Christ is head over all and that in Christ the Colossians, and all believers, are indeed freed from the powers of the world.

Like Ephesians Paul here works from the cosmic to the mundane starting with Christ in the context of the universe and ending with household codes. And like Philippians the context of the writing of the letter is that Paul is imprisoned.

Chapter 1: Paul's greetings and the cosmic creation of Christ

Chapter 2: Paul's warnings against false teachers preaching strange teachings and Judaistic practices

Chapter 3: New life in Christ; more household codes

Chapter 4: Final greetings

Stories/texts to know: Christ the firstborn of creation and head of all (1:15-22); Fullness of life in Christ (2); Bearing with one another (3:12-17)