



The Lighthouse BULLETIN

A Weekly Publication of the
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*"The entrance of Thy Words giveth light;
it giveth understanding to the simple"
(Ps 119:130).*

2016:
The Year of Proving

1 Thes 5:21
**"Prove all things;
hold fast that which is good."**

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ADDITIONAL BIBLICAL GUIDELINES IN SELECTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE WHO WILL SERVE IN OUR GOVERNMENT

"Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you" (Deut 1:13).

A Word from the PASTOR



Since the time of Moses, the challenge in governance has been that of being able to choose right people to do the job. And in choosing the right people, the Lord through Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, gave clear criteria to Moses.

Ex 18:19-21, "Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to Godward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: and thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do.

"Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens."

In Deut 1:12-15, Moses rehearsed this process before the people and reiterated, "How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden, and your strife? Take you wise men, and understanding, and known among your tribes, and I will make them rulers over you. And ye answered me, and said, The thing which thou hast spoken is good for us to do. So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes."

Chapter 13 of Paul's epistle to the Romans lays down additional principles which can serve as

guide for us today to determine what kind of leaders we should elect and place in government:

1) They should be people who recognize that they themselves are subject to "higher powers" as God, His higher law and the country's constituted law. (v 1);

2) They should be people who will make a government that is respected by all and feared by those who do evil (v 3a);

3) They should be people who will make a kind of government which recognizes and commends praise-worthy people, regardless of party, family, region. (v 3b);

4) They should be people who will make the government provide what is good and beneficial to all people. (v 4a);

5) They should be people who will make a kind of government which executes and makes certain its laws and ordinances (v 4b);

6) They should be people who will make the government an institution revered or regarded greatly by our people (v 5);

7) They should be people who exhibit true faithfulness and loyalty to all, whether man, institution or country (v 7).



The Lighthouse District 1 dramatized how commitments of believers should be fulfilled regardless of circumstances in life.

Second Quarter Focus : "Proving the Word of God."

Acts 17:11, "...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)

TITLE : INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE OF
PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

INTRODUCTION

Colosse had been a significant city in the past but had deteriorated in importance by New Testament times. Nearby cities such as Hierapolis and Laodicea (chap 4:13) had become more significant, though all three had churches planted in them, probably about the time of Paul's stay in Ephesus.

Colosse was a city of Phrygia, from which country some were present at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:10), and through which country Paul had gone on both his second and third missionary journeys (Acts 16:6; 18:23).

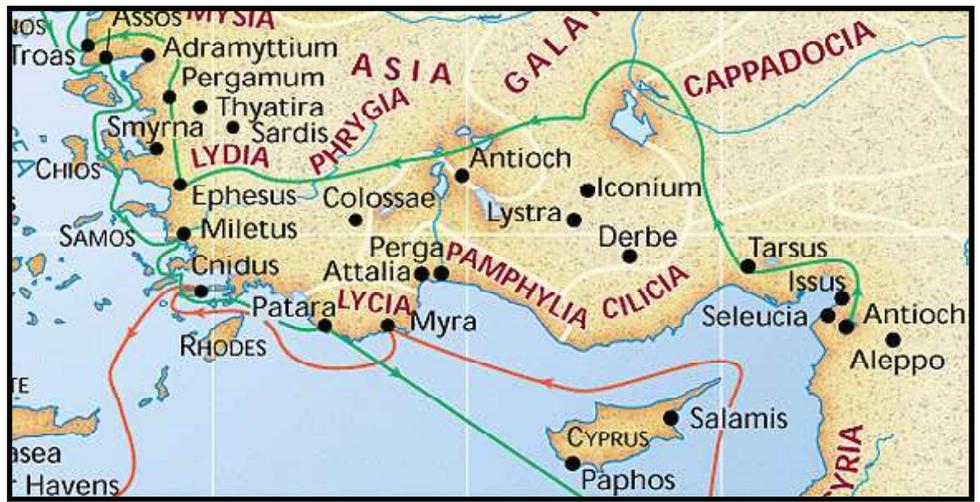
There is no record that Paul himself visited Colosse. It seems probable that Ephaphras, one of Paul's disciples, may have found this church while Paul was staying in Ephesus (Col 1:7; 4:12-13; Acts 19:10). Colosse was near the border of "Asia", about 100 miles east of Ephesus.

Occasion and Date of Writing.

Paul was in prison in Rome (AD 61-63). Col 4:10 indicates that he had written a previous letter concerning Mark. Meantime, Epaphras, one of the Colossians, had come to Rome with the word that a dangerous heresy was making headway in the church. Philemon 1:23 indicates that he also may have been imprisoned. Then Paul wrote the letter, and sent it by Tychicus and Onesimus (4:7-9), who also bore the letter to the Ephesians and the one to Philemon (Eph 6:21).

In many respects, Colossians is similar to Ephesians in content and emphasis, although Ephesians is longer and more fully developed in both its doctrinal and practical aspects. However, Colossians seems to have been written primarily to correct heresy that seemed to be developing in the church and probably spreading to other churches.

The heresy seems to have been an admixture of Greek, Jewish and Oriental religions, a sort of "high thought" cult, parading itself under the name of "philosophy" (2:8), calling for the worship of angels as intermediaries between God



and man (2:18), and insisting on the strict observance of certain Jewish requirements almost to the point of ascetism (2:16, 21).

The greatest Christological passage in the Bible is found in Col 1:16-20, setting forth the Lord Jesus as Creator, Sustainer and Reconciler of all things in heaven and earth. Col 1:16-20, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."

The church in Colosse may have met in the home of Philemon, for he lived at Colosse with one of his slaves, Onesimus (Col 4:9 and Philemon). It seems that when Epaphras made the 1,000-mile trip to Rome to seek Paul's advise, Archippus assumed the pastorate (Col 4:17). Archippus may have been the son of Philemon (Phi 1:2).

Colossians may be contrasted to other epistles of Paul in the following:

- In Romans, we are justified in Christ.

- In 1 Corinthians, we are enriched in Christ.
- in 2 Corinthians, we are comforted in Christ.
- in Galatians, we are free in Christ.
- In Ephesians, we are quickened in Christ.
- in Philippians, we are happy in Christ.
- in Colossians, we are complete in Christ.

Colossians present the New Testament Church as being complete in Christ. This completeness is four-fold:

- 1) Building downward
Col 1:23, "...grounded and settled... not moved away from the hope of the gospel..." This is the deeper life.
- 2) Building upward.
Col 2:7, "...built up in him, and established in the faith..." This is the higher life.
- 3) Building inward.
Col 3:3, "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." This is the inner life.
- 4) Building outward.
Col 4:5, "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." This is outer life.

Colossians in a sense, concludes that which Ephesians introduces.

In Ephesians, Paul dwells upon the body, the church, while in Colossians, he writes of the head of that body.

Because of this, both books are somewhat similar. For example, 78 out of the 99 verses in Colossians are nearly identical to those in Ephesians.



Above are some scenes from the maiden episode of the forthcoming Lighthouse Cafe TV Talk Show hosted by Pastor Reuben, Rhessa and Gabby Yebera, Rhona Rivera and Dazelyn Ku. The Lord willing, the show will be seen at Channel 88 of Signal TV on Friday, 10-11pm and Saturday, 10-11am.

"Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Eph. 3:21)