

The First-Century Church
"The Church in Colosse -- Beset by Heresies"

Introduction:

1. The New Testament contains a tremendous amount of information [positive and negative] that was written "about" as well as "to" various congregations in the first century.
2. By examining this information we can learn the Lord's will for His church today (Colossians 4:16).
3. This lesson is a study of the church in Colosse that was unfortunately "beset by heresies."

Discussion:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. We do not read "about" the establishment of this congregation in Acts.
- B. However, Paul wrote a letter [Colossians] "to" this church (1:1-2).
 1. When he wrote this letter Paul had not been to Colosse (2:1).
 2. He wrote it after Epaphras informed him about the church there (1:3-8).

II. PAUL ISSUED SOME STRONG WARNINGS TO THE CHRISTIANS IN COLOSSE

- A. These warnings are given in:
 1. 2:4
 2. 2:8
 3. 2:16
 4. 2:18
 5. 2:20-23.
- B. Paul's purpose for issuing these warnings is given in 1:28.
- C. The early church had to contend with philosophers who did not teach the truth about the Lord (1 John 2:22; 4:1-3).
- D. Paul's warnings indicate that such philosophers were in Colosse.
- E. To help the church overcome the influence of these philosophers, . . .

III. PAUL EMPHASIZED SEVERAL IMPORTANT MATTERS

- A. Paul emphasized "the preeminence of Christ."
 1. 1:15-19
 2. 2:9-10
 3. 3:11b
- B. Paul emphasized "what Christ has done."
 1. 1:14
 2. 1:20-22
 3. 2:11-15
- C. Paul emphasized "the responsibilities of Christ's followers."
 1. 1:9-12
 2. 2:6-7
 3. 3:1-4
 4. 3:5-11
 5. 3:12-14
 6. 3:15-17
 7. 3:18-21
 8. 3:22-4:1
 9. 4:2
 10. 4:5-6