

CORE DISCIPLESHIP

A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS
SPRING, 2025

A QUICK REVIEW
OF WHERE WE
HAVE BEEN...

EPHESIANS

GALATIANS

PHILIPPIANS

EPHESIANS

- **Emphasis:** The unity and purpose of the church in Christ.
- **Key Themes:** Paul highlights the spiritual blessings in Christ, the unity of Jews and Gentiles in the body of Christ, and the church as the body of Christ. He also discusses practical aspects of Christian living, including relationships and spiritual warfare.

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GALATIANS

- **Emphasis:** Justification by faith and freedom in Christ.
- **Key Themes:** Paul defends the gospel of grace against Judaizers who insisted on adherence to the Mosaic Law for salvation. He emphasizes that believers are justified by faith in Christ alone and are free from the law's bondage.

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PHILIPPIANS

- **Emphasis:** Joy and unity in Christ.
- **Key Themes:** Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord despite circumstances. He emphasizes humility, unity, and the example of Christ's selflessness. Paul also expresses gratitude for their support and partnership in the gospel.

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HOW DO THESE BOOKS WRITTEN BY PAUL COMPARE?

- Each of these letters addresses different aspects of Christian doctrine and practice, reflecting the specific needs and challenges of the respective communities to whom Paul was writing.

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SOME FACTS ABOUT COLOSSIANS

Written from Prison: Colossians is one of Paul's "prison epistles," written during his first imprisonment in Rome around 61-62 AD

Paul Never Visited Colossae: Paul wrote to the Colossians despite never having visited their city. The church in Colossae was likely founded by Epaphras, a follower of Paul

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SOME FACTS ABOUT COLOSSIANS

Focus on Christ's Supremacy: A central theme of Colossians is the supremacy of Christ. Paul emphasizes that Christ is the image of the invisible God and the head of the church, stressing His preeminence over all creation

Addressing False Teachings: Paul wrote to counteract false teachings and philosophies that were influencing the Colossian believers. He encouraged them to remain steadfast in their faith in Christ

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COMMUNICATING LOVE

1 Thessalonians 2:8

⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

Every authentic ministry begins here, with the conviction that we have been called to handle the Word of God as its guardians and heralds. (John Stott)

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COMMUNICATING LOVE

So how do we communicate our love?

Isn't that the meaning of Core Discipleship?

What steps can we take in this direction (as a church and as an individual)?

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