

# REFUSING THE INEVITABILITY OF THE WAY THINGS ARE

NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST | AN INSPIRING LOOK AT COLOSSIANS

## **The Thief and the Life-Giver**

John 10:10 Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”

## **The River**

## **Two Lives, Two Loves**

## **Colossians overview:**

**Dated:** 60-62 A.D.

**It was written to the church at Colossae** (kuh-LAW-see / kuh-LAW-sigh / kuh-LAW-say).

### **Colossians was written by Paul.**

Colossians 1:1-2 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup>To God’s holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

Colossians 4:18a I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand.

### **Paul had probably never been to Colossae.**

Colossians 2:1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

### **Colossians may have been written from Rome while Paul was in prison.**

### **Colossians connects to Philemon.**

Possibly written alongside Philemon and both were likely delivered together by Tychicus.

Philemon was a member of the church in Colossae.

Colossians 4:7-9 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. <sup>8</sup>I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. <sup>9</sup>He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

### **Colossae was probably founded by Epaphras when Paul was in Ephesus.**

Ephesians 1:7-8 You learned [the gospel] from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup>and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:12-13 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. <sup>13</sup>I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis.

Acts 19:8-10 Paul entered the synagogue [in Ephesus] and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God. <sup>9</sup> But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. <sup>10</sup> This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

### **The Colossians were in a bad spot.**

Colossians 1:13a For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness

Colossians 1:21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Colossians 2:11b Your whole self [was] ruled by the flesh...

Colossians 2:13a When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh

Colossians 3:5-7 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.

### **The Colossian Christians found new life.**

Colossians 1:4-5a because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven.

Colossians 1:12-14 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

Colossians 2:13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ.

Colossians 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience...

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

### **What was at the heart of the transition?**

Colossians 1:6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

## **Colossians application:**

### **What about us?**

#### **Our three goals:**

- Accept God's invitation into his kingdom.
- Pray together with us.
  - Colossians talks about prayer a lot!
  - "Prayer: Rebelling against the Status Quo" by David Wells.
- Develop a written or video testimony story.