

1. How to get background information for a scripture:

a. Bible History online

<http://www.bible-history.com/bka/>

<http://www.megosearch.com/>

enter Colossae in search:

find out Colossae is a city in the region of Phrygia

located on a river and on a major trade route

learn that Paul was never there

tells me the letter of Philemon is related to Colossians

find out that Paul wrote the letter while in prison

church there probably founded by Epaphras

go to Naves Topical Bible:

reference to Tychius---find out he delivered letter

find the names of three believers in Colossae:

1. Philemon

2. Apphia

3. Archippus

Let's write what we have learned so far:

1. Paul wrote Colossians from prison, but never visited

there

2. Colossae was a major city on two major trade routes

3. Colossae church started by Epaphras

4. The names of some believers in Colossae--Philemon,
Apphia, and Archippus

b. Next Bible (netbible.org)

Enter Colossians 1:1---note to the right is background info

Click on background:

more on the City itself

detailed information on its authorship

the church at Colossae

We learn that the church was started by Epaphras who was in Ephesus during Paul's three year ministry there, heard the gospel, was converted, and returned home to spread the gospel there. We learn the letter was written late in the life of Paul, around 62 A.D. while he was in Rome in prison.

Under the nature of the false teaching, we find there was heresy in Colossae Paul was fighting:

1. It added to the work of Christ (this is a very common battleground in the New Testament)
2. It was based on human philosophy based on the Greek idea that matter was evil and the spirit good. Basically, pitted man's thinking against God's revealed truth.
3. It sought to mix ideas of other religions with the Christian faith.
4. Seemed to include the worship of angels.

c. Christiananswers.net

Enter Colossae in the search line
WebBible encyclopedia

d. esvstudybible.org

Go to the article about Introduction to Colossians
See also key themes

Now we know that the themes of the book of Colossians are all centered on the work of Jesus Christ:

He is Lord
His work secures redemption
Being in Christ is new life
Being in Christ means believers share in all His authority
Being in Christ means new living patterns

TOPICAL STUDIES

Doing a topical study can be difficult because you are trying to pull the teaching about any one subject from the entire Bible.

Go to Blue Letter Bible

Type in Law ---459 verses, see all the dictionary entries
Go to study tools, encyclopedias, ISBE, four entries for Law, try Law
in the Old Testament

Type in Grace---159 verses, try dictionary entries, Click on grace
See ISBE entry, go down to thematic subject guide