

## **Copyright © 2010 Jim Reese Ministries.**

This file is the sole property of Jim Reese Ministries.

It may be copied only in its entirety and all copies of this file must contain this copyright notice.

This file may not be edited, revised, or changed in any manner. The file and its contents may not be offered for resale or incorporated in any commercial publications, recordings, broadcasts, performances, displays or other products offered for sale without the written permission of Jim Reese Ministries.

This file is made available for your personal Bible study and growth in the Christian life.

[www.jimreese ministries.com](http://www.jimreese ministries.com)

***WALK THROUGH THE  
NEW TESTAMENT***  
***WITH PASTOR JIM REESE***

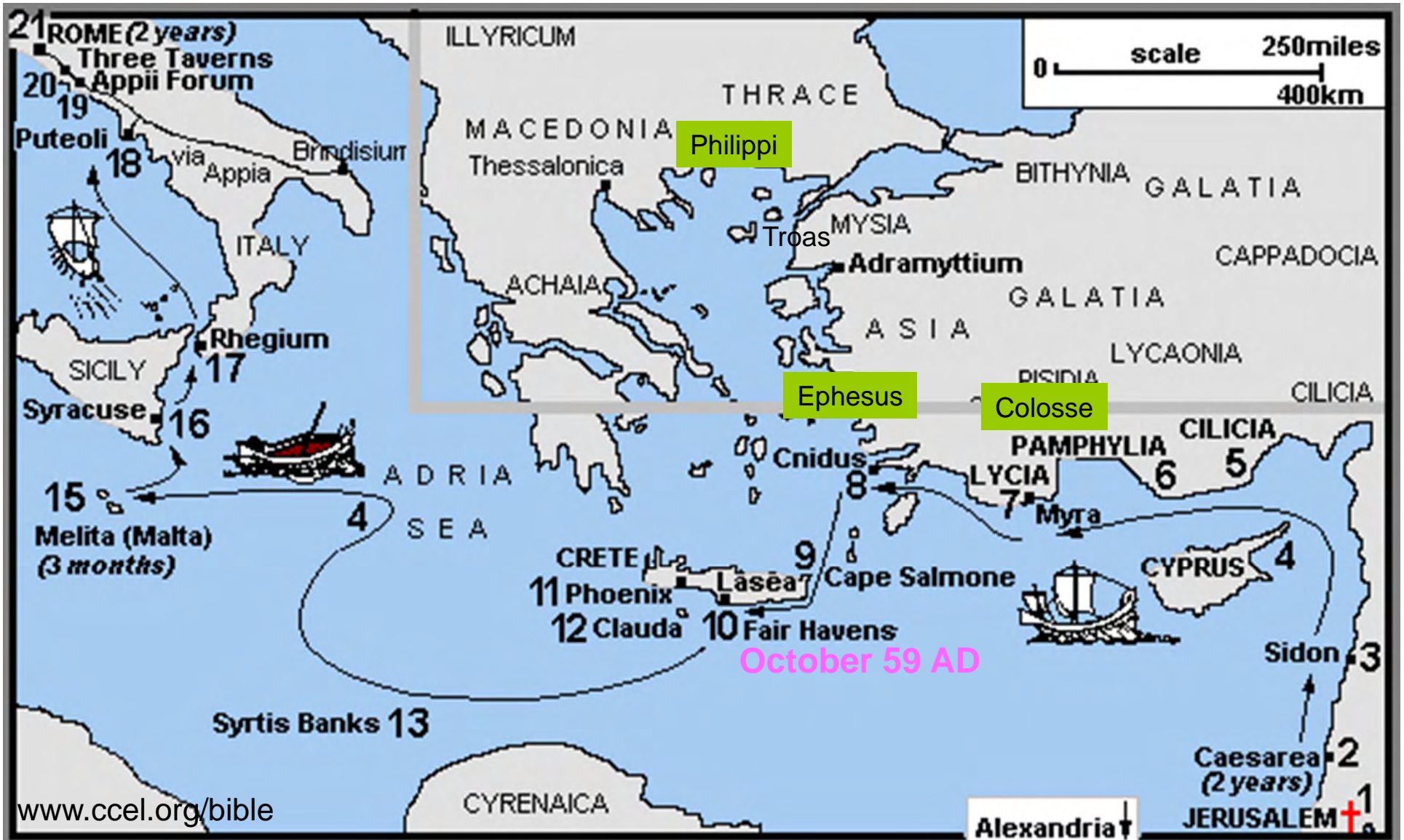
**Lesson 7**

**The Prison Epistles  
(Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)  
and I and II Thessalonians**

# WALK THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

## TEN LESSONS:

1. Overview and Relationship of the Old and New Testaments
2. The Life of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
3. The Life of Christ – The 4 Gospels: Part 2
4. The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles
5. The Epistle to the Romans
6. The Epistles to the Corinthians and the Galatians
7. The Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon) and I and II Thessalonians
8. The Pastoral Epistles (I and II Timothy and Titus) and Hebrews
9. The General Epistles: James to Jude
10. The Revelation

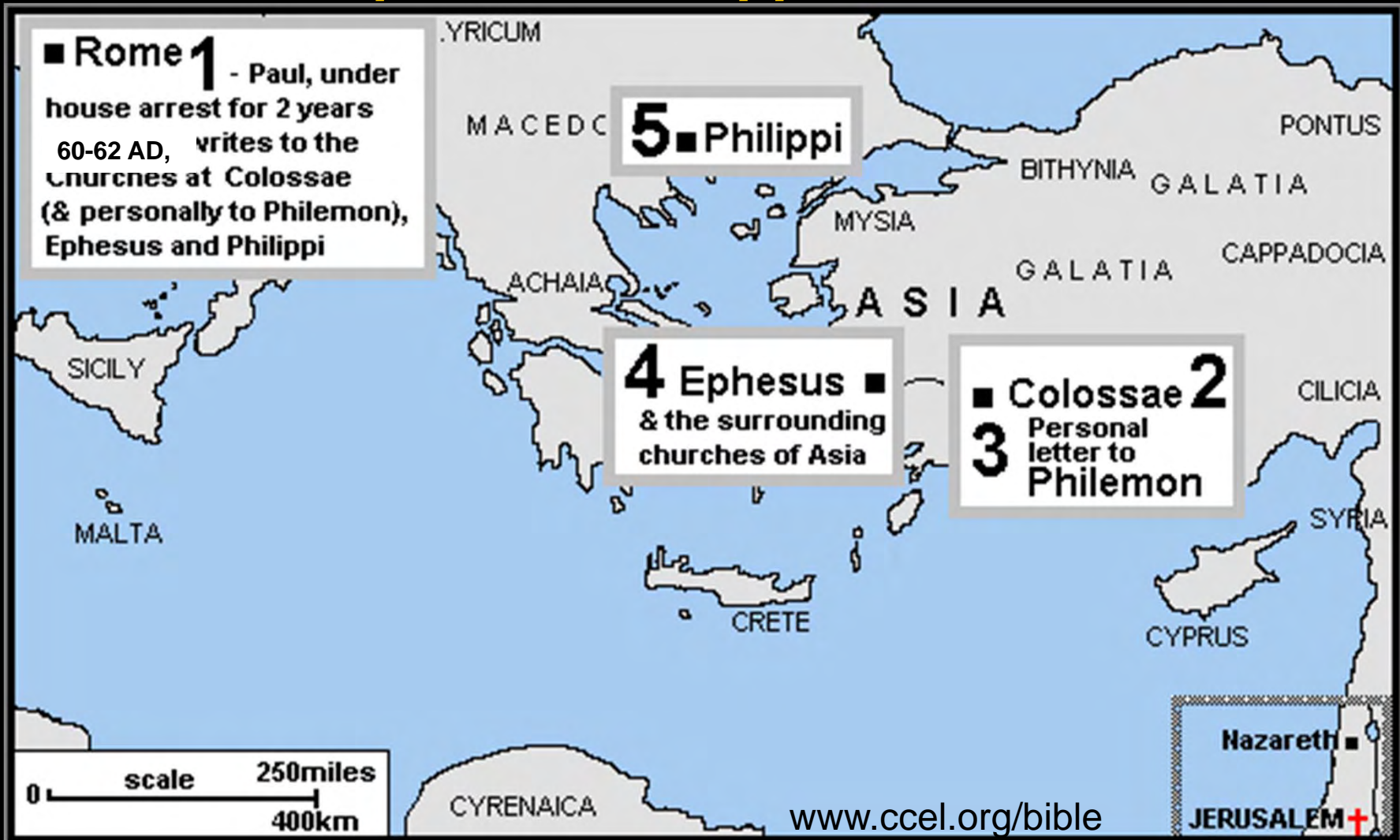


**Paul journeyed as a prisoner from Caesarea to Rome c AD59-60  
Acts 27:1 – 28:16**

# Paul's Prison Epistles

were written during his first imprisonment in Rome  
under house arrest, 60 – 62 AD.

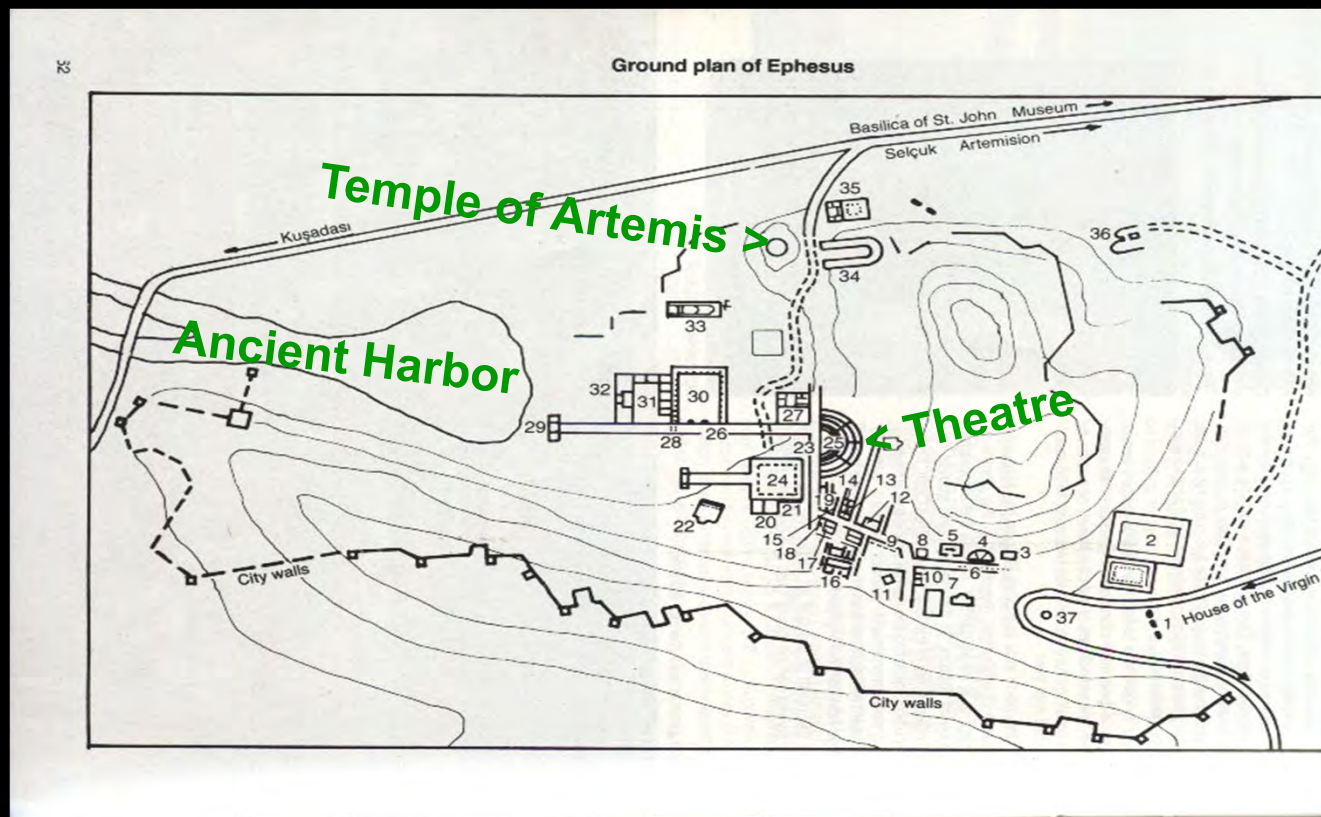
He wrote to Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse & Philemon





# INTRODUCTION TO EPHESIANS

- The city of Ephesus was capital of the Roman province of Asia.



**-Artemis, the Greek goddess of fertility, also known as Diana, was worshiped throughout the world.**

**-Her image was believed to have fallen from heaven.**

**-Her magnificent temple at Ephesus was one of the 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.'**

**-Paul's preaching shrunk sales of her idols.**

**-A riot broke out in the great theatre where for 2 hours the people shouted "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Acts 19:21-41.**







**The Great Theatre in Ephesus**



# INTRO TO EPHESIANS, cont.

- Paul first visited Ephesus briefly at the end of his second missionary journey. Acts 18:18-21
- He brought with him Priscilla and Aquila and left them there while he went to Jerusalem.
- Paul returned to Ephesus on his third missionary journey and ministered there for 3 years. Acts 19
- People from all over the province of Asia came to Ephesus and were discipled by Paul at the school of Tyrannus. Acts 19:9-10
- They then returned to their communities and established local churches throughout Asia, such as the seven churches of Revelation.

# INTRO TO EPHESIANS, cont.

- Paul's pattern of establishing a strong church in a large city and reaching the outlying communities from there, is still a sound missionary strategy.
- When Paul left for Macedonia (Acts 20:1) he appointed Timothy to be pastor of the church in Ephesus (I Tim 1:3).
- The Apostle John later came to Ephesus and ministered to the Asian churches till his death. He is buried in Ephesus.
- Paul wrote to the Ephesians while in prison in Rome, and sent the letter by Tychicus. Eph. 6:21

# OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS

Norman L. Geisler, *Popular Survey of the New Testament*, Baker, p 195-196, revised by JR

## 1. Doctrinal – Our Heavenly Calling chap 1 – 3

### A. The source (God's foreordination)

- The church is a body chap. 1

### B. The result (Man's reconciliation)

- The church is a temple chap. 2

### C. The mystery (Gentiles' invitation)

- The church is a family chap. 3



# OVERVIEW OF EPHESIANS cont.

## 2. Practical – Our Earthly Conduct chap 4 – 6

- |                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| A. Walking in <u>unity</u>    | 4:1 – 16   |
| B. Walking in <u>holiness</u> | 4:17 – 32  |
| C. Walking in <u>love</u>     | 5:1 - 6    |
| D. Walking in <u>light</u>    | 5:7 – 14   |
| E. Walking in <u>wisdom</u>   | 5:15 – 6:9 |
| • With <u>others</u>          | 15 - 21    |
| • With <u>spouse</u>          | 22 – 33    |
| • With <u>family</u>          | 6:1 – 4    |
| • With <u>work force</u>      | 6:5 - 9    |
| F. Standing in <u>warfare</u> | 6:10 – 20  |
| G. Conclusion                 | 6:21 - 24  |

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

- Philippi was founded (356 BC) by Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great.
- Gold mines nearby made the city prosperous.
- Philippi was a military outpost for Rome.
- Paul went to Philippi because of a vision he had in Troas of a man begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9).
- The first convert in Europe was Lydia (Acts 16:14).
- Paul ministered there 3 months till he and Silas were beaten and jailed (Acts 16:23).
- An earthquake released them and the jailor was saved and baptized that night (Acts 16:25 – 34).

# KEY VERSE OF PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 4:4

*Rejoice in the Lord always.  
I will say it again; Rejoice!*





**Remains of an early Christian Church in Philippi,  
built several hundred years after Paul.**





The Gangitis River near Philippi where Lydia and later the Jailor were baptized.



# OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS

Though in prison, Paul wrote joyfully  
“Joy” and “Rejoice”: 14 times in Philippians

1. Joy in Suffering for Christ 1:1-30
  - Paul’s thanksgiving and prayer. 1 – 9
  - Paul’s chains advance the Gospel. 12 - 30
2. Joy in Serving Christ 2:1 – 30
  - Christ was humble in service. 1 – 11
  - We are to be obedient in service. 12 – 18
  - Timothy and Epaphroditus served. 19 - 30
3. Joy in Believing in Christ 3:1-4:1
  - Rejoice in true values.
4. Joy in Living and Giving for Christ 4:2 - 23
  - Exhortations for joyful living. 2 – 9
  - Gratitude for their generous giving. 10 - 23



# INTRODUCTION TO COLOSSIANS



Tel Colosse

- The city of Colosse was located in the beautiful Lycus Valley, under Mount Cadmus, near Laodicea and Hierapolis.

- Churches in all three cities were founded by Epaphras, (Col. 1:7, 4:12-13), who probably had been converted and trained by Paul during his three years ministry in Ephesus (about 100 miles west).
- Philemon was an active member of the Colossian church.
- Paul had never visited Colosse, but he had a great burden to pray for them (Col. 1:9).

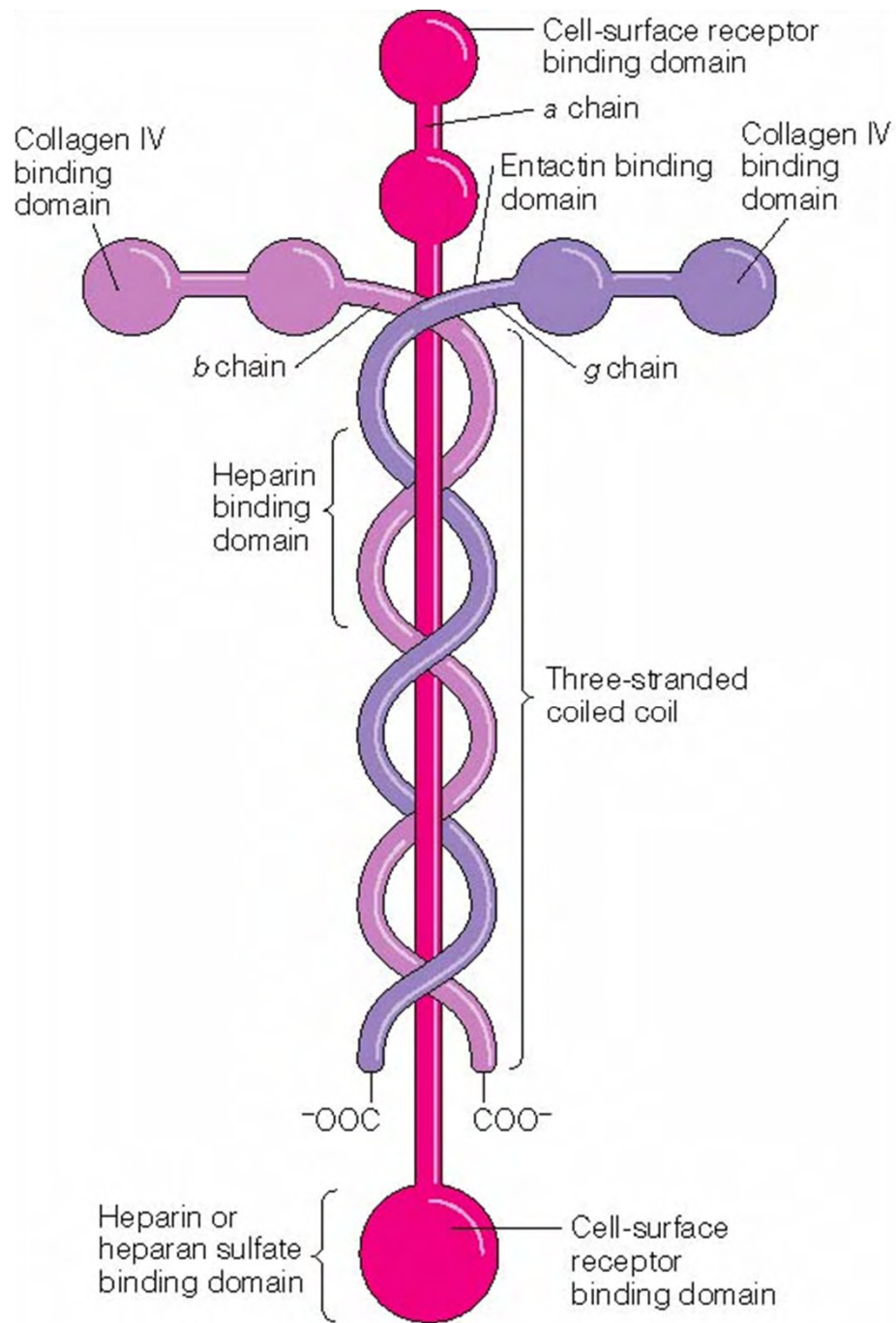
## INTRODUCTION TO COLOSSIANS cont.

- The theme of Colossians is the deity and the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ.
- False teachers were telling the Colossian Christians that faith in Christ was not enough.
- They taught a mixture of asceticism, Jewish legalism and some kind of mysticism.
- This false teaching involved angel worship, ritualism and gnosticism -- that spirit is good and matter is evil.
- Paul shows them that they are complete in Christ and need nothing else but Christ.

# KEY VERSES OF COLOSSIANS

Colossians 2:9-10

*“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”*



**Laminin is the molecular glue (a protein) that holds us together, cell to cell. It is in the shape of a cross.**

**Col. 1:15-17 “By Him all things were created . . . And in him all things hold together.”**



# OVERVIEW OF COLOSSIANS

1. Pay attention to your doctrinal beliefs. Chap.1 – 2
  - A. Christ is supreme. 1:1 – 19
  - B. Christ died to reconcile us. 1:20 – 23
  - C. We labor to make Christ known. 1:24 – 2:3
  - D. Don't be deceived by false doctrine 2:4 – 8
  - E. Gnosticism is heresy – deity is in Christ 2:9 – 10
  - F. Legalism is heresy – reality is in Christ 2:11 – 17
  - G. Mysticism is heresy – headship is in Christ 2:18 – 19
  - H. Asceticism is heresy – dead in Christ 2:20 – 23

# OVERVIEW OF COLOSSIANS cont.

## 2. Put your beliefs into practical action. Chap. 3 – 4

- A. My Lord and I. 3:1-4
- B. My self and I. 3:5-11
- C. My fellow believers and I. 3:12 – 16
- D. My activities and I. 3:17
- E. My family and I. 3:18 – 21
- F. My job and I. 3:22 – 4:1
- G. My prayer life and I. 4:2 – 4
- H. My public life and I. 4:5 – 6
- I. Final greetings 4:7 - 18

## CONTRAST EPHESIANS WITH COLOSSIANS

### Ephesians

-Emphasis on the Body:

- The Church

-About unity

-Christ over the Church

### Colossians

-Emphasis on the Head:

- Christ

-About heresy

-Christ over the Cosmos

## CONTRAST PHILIPPIANS WITH COLOSSIANS

### Philippians

-*Kenoo* (2:7) = empty

-Christian living

### Colossians

-*pleroma* (2:9) = fullness

-Christian knowing

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILEMON

- Purpose of the letter from Paul to Philemon: To convince Philemon to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and to accept him as a brother in the Lord.
- Philemon's name means "affectionate."
- Philemon was a well-to-do citizen of Colosee.
- Paul had led him to the Lord. v. 19
- Philemon's wife was Apphia. (Martyred with Philemon)
- The Colossian church met in their house. v. 1
- Archippus was the pastor. (Possibly son of Philemon)



# INTRODUCTION TO PHILEMON

## Continued

- Onesimus's name means "profitable."
- He ran away from his master, Philemon, and traveled hundreds of miles to Rome, hoping to disappear in that large city.
- Somehow he met Paul, responded to the Gospel, and became like a son to Paul who was in chains.
- Paul had been planning to send a letter to the church in Colosse by the hand of Tychicus, so he also sent this personal letter of appeal to Philemon, and the slave Onesimus traveled back with Tychicus to his master Philemon in Colosse.

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILEMON

## Continued

- Paul helped the church in Colosse to welcome Onesimus back by including this word in Colossians 4:9 *“[Tychicus] is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you.”*
- Key verses:15-16 *“Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good – no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me, but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.”*

# OVERVIEW OF PHILEMON

1. Paul's warm greeting. Verses 1 – 3
2. Paul's hearty commendation. 4 – 7
3. Paul's bold appeal. 8 – 16
  - On the basis of the slave's conversion 8 - 11
  - On the basis of the slave owner's friendship 12 – 17
4. Paul's sincere promise. 18 – 19
5. Paul's confident conclusion. 20 - 25

**Application: Jesus is our Master, in whom believers are all brothers and sisters in Christ.**

# INTRODUCTION TO I THESSALONIANS

- After being asked to leave Philippi, Paul and team traveled west to Thessalonica, capital of Macedonia, about 51 AD. Acts 17:1 - 10
- Paul planted the church in Thessalonica.
- Persecution forced him to leave, so they went on to Berea and began a church there.
- Paul then traveled south to Athens, and then to Corinth where he planted a church and ministered for 18 months.
- During that time Timothy brought Paul a report about the church in Thessalonica, so he sent them this encouraging letter.



# **KEY VERSE: I Thess. 4:14**

**“We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.”**

# OVERVIEW OF I THESSALONIANS

- |                                     |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>1. An <u>Energizing</u> Hope</b> | <b>chapters 1 and 2</b> |
| – Works faithfully                  | 1:1 – 9                 |
| – Waits patiently                   | 1:10                    |
| – Walks worthily                    | 2:1 – 16                |
| – Waits expectantly                 | 2:17 – 20               |
| <b>2. An <u>Enduring</u> Hope</b>   | <b>chapter 3</b>        |
| – Stands firm in trials             |                         |
| <b>3. A <u>Purifying</u> Hope</b>   | <b>4:1 – 12</b>         |
| – Avoids immorality                 | 1 – 8                   |
| – Lives productively                | 9 – 12                  |
| <b>4. A <u>Motivating</u> Hope</b>  | <b>4:13 – 5:28</b>      |
| – Anticipates Christ's return       | 4:13 – 5:11             |
| – Encourages holy living            | 5:12 – 18               |

# INTRODUCTION TO II THESSALONIANS

- After sending his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul received news that false teachers were promoting a doctrinal error, namely, that the Day of the Lord had already happened. 2:1-2
- So Paul wrote this letter to say that the Day of the Lord would not come until the Antichrist, “the man of lawlessness is revealed.” 2:3 – 13.
- Paul also learned that some Christians had gotten lazy, so he urged them to work productively while we wait for Christ’s return. 3:6 - 15

# OVERVIEW OF II THESSALONIANS

MacArthur Study Bible (NASB), Nelson, p. 1821, revised by JR

1. Paul's Comfort for Affliction                      chapter 1
  - By way of greeting                      1:1-2
  - By way of encouragement              1:3-4
  - By way of exhortation                  1:5-12
2. Paul's Correction for Error                      chapter 2
  - Prophetic crisis                          2:1-2
  - Apostolic correction                      2:3-12
  - Pastoral comfort                          2:13-17
3. Paul's Concern for the Church                  chapter 3
  - Regarding prayer                          3:1-5
  - Regarding undisciplined living      3:6-15
  - Benediction                                  3:16-18



# FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS COMPARED

Suggested by Irving Jensen, Norman Geisler, JR

## I THESSALONIANS

- Describes how they received God's Word
- "*You became a model to believers*" (1:7)
- Mother's tenderness (2:7)
- Commendation (1:3-10)
- Coming of Christ
- Concerns the Church
- Christ coming *for* His saints
- Rapture (4:17 "*caught up*")
  - in the air
- The coming, presence
  - (Gk. **parousia**) 4:15

## II THESSALONIANS

- Describes their progress in faith, love, etc.
- We were "*a model for you*" (3:9)
- Father's discipline (3:10-15)
- Condemnation (3:6-15)
- Coming of Antichrist
- Concerns Satan, Antichrist, world
- Christ coming *with* His saints
- Revelation (1:7 "*revealed*") –
  - on the earth
- The revelation
  - (Gk. **apocalupsis**) 1:7