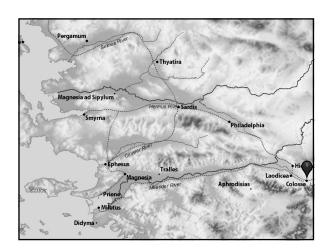


Introduction

<u>Author</u>: Paul – written 62 A.D. from Rome <u>Recipients</u>:

- "The saints at Colossae, who were addressed as faithful brothers in Christ (1:2), were not converted through the ministry of Paul himself. This Christian community had come into existence during a period of vigorous missionary and evangelistic activity associated with Paul's Ephesian ministry (52 -55 A.D.) recorded in Acts 19" (P. Obrien, Word, xxvii).
- ➤ Epaphras (1:7-8; 4:12, 13) more than likely was the one who evangelized the city of Colossae. He was one of them (4:12).



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Introduction The People of Colossae: Indigenous Greek and Phrygian settlers 1. Two thousand Jewish families had been planted in Lydia and Phrygia under Antiochus III in the 2nd century B.C. (Josephus, Ant 12. 147-153). To express personal interest in the church To warn against reverting to their old pagan ways 3. To refute the false teaching threatening the church Terms Needing To Be Defined Three phrases need to be defined in order to understand the heresy threatening Colossae. 1. Colossians 2:8, 20 stoiceia (Stoichia) = "Elementary Principles" (a) Elementary instruction (2+2=4) (b) Physical elements (wind, fire, rain, etc.) (c) Spirit beings who rule over the elements 2. What Was The Colossian Heresy? Col 2:18 NASB: Let no Col 2:18 Arnold's: Let no one keep defrauding one condemn you by you of your prize by insisting on ascetic delighting in self practices and invoking abasement and the angels because he worship of angels, "entered the things he had seen..." [i.e. he taking his stand on visions he has seen... based his knowledge/authority on visionary a' ebraken (enhbateuwn

experiences he received during the final

initiation].

stage of his mystery

Col 2:18

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3. What Was The Colossian Heresy?
Colossians 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of
your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the
worship of the angels (qrhskeia twn aggel wn)
Option 1: Gnostic- oriented cult of angels
Angels were worshiped and appeased because
they could hinder the ascent of the soul upon death.
Problems: Full blown Gnostic thought did not occur
for another 140 years.
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Hindrance of the soul's ascension is not addressed by Paul.
by Faul.
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3. What Was The Colossian Heresy?
■ Colossians 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of
your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the
worship of the angels (qrhskeia twn aggel wn)
Option 2: Jewish Mysticism (Qumran influence)
 People wanted to participate in the heavenly angelic
liturgy by worshiping with the angels.
Problems: "Worship of the angels" is almost
certainly an objective genitive based on evidence of
such usage in other writings.
The Qumran community was far removed from the
Lycus valley where Colossae is situated. (The
Persian –Jewish community would have had far
greater influence!)
3. What Was The Colossian Heresy?
■ Colossians 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of
your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the
worship of the angels (grhskeia twn aggel wn)
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Option 3: Combination of local pagan and Jewish folk
beliefs.
 Angels were invoked by the Colossians to protect
them from evil spirits (stoichia) and to provide favor
in the various day to day activities of life.
in the various day to day activities of life.
in the various day to day activities of life.Inscriptions in the Phrygian area verify that magical
 in the various day to day activities of life. Inscriptions in the Phrygian area verify that magical rituals were performed not to worship angels, but to
 in the various day to day activities of life. Inscriptions in the Phrygian area verify that magical rituals were performed not to worship angels, but to manipulate them for the guarding of graves, for

What Was The Colossian Heresy? "It appears that the practice of invoking angels at Colossae does not have as much to do with matters of ultimate spiritual significance as it does with the issues of day to day life. As with the veneration of angels in Judaism of magic and incantations, the Colossians practice involved a diminution of one's relationship to Yahweh (and now Christ) in favor of a manipulative relationship with His angels....The greater implication is with Christology where it appears that Christ is either neglected in favor of calling upon angels or is regarded on the same level as the angels..." (Arnold, The Colossian Syncretism, 102).

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The Importance of	Solos Christos	
•		
Christianity	Calaa Dalisiana	
Christianity	False Religions	
Revelation: Objective Word	Subjective Experience	
Focus: Salvation (Ultimate)	Favor here and now	
Faith: Cognitive/Positional	Mystical/Experiential	
Object: Christ Alone	Christ + Angels +	
Paul warns against be and a different gospel! 2		

Colossians Speaks Today Leif Hansen: Now, a more—what's the word to use?—a more conservative Christian, whatever—someone who believes in the literal ontological divinity of Christ would have an argument and say, well yes, but this was, this was more central because it was actually God, literally, demonstrating that kind of love. However, someone, a more liberal Christian, who might think that Jesus was perfectly imaging God's love, or totally inspired by God's love but not literally God—To be honest, that's the direction I am leaning more myself these days. We would have a hard time saying what makes Jesus' life and example of living love to the death more unique than any other. McLaren: Right. If I understand what you're saying. These are important subjects. I understand you're saying: Look, we could

•	McLaren: Right. If I understand what you're saying. These are
	important subjects. I understand you're saying: Look, we could
	look at Ghandi's life as an example of self sacrificial love or
	Martin Luther King Junior's life. There would be a lot of people
	we could look at. And so wouldn't it be better to just talk about
	Jesus as one among many, rather than lift Him up as some
	extraordinary example. Because by doing that we create, we
	perpetuate this Christian elitism and exclusivism

	The Apostle Paul's Battle Plan
1	Paul demonstrates the absolute superiority,
١.	lordship, and deity of Jesus Christ. No
	longer will the Colossians have to fear
	rogue spirits and angels.
2.	. dai on occor in o status of benefit as
	being people who are joint heirs with Christ
	who reigns over all demonic powers.
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	Flow Of Colossians
	lossians 1:13 -14 For He (Father) rescued us from
	he domain of darkness and transferred us to the
	kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have
	redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
	Col.1:15-23 The Supremacy of Christ
	Col. 1:24-2:7 The Ministry of Paul
III.	Col. 2:8-23 Warning Against Error
IV.	Col. 3:1-4:6 Appeal for Christian Living
٧.	Col. 4:7-18 Conclusion