

# Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Philippians Colossians Philemon

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Introduction–Philippians

- Introduction
  - Author–Paul, written while in Roman prison
  - Date: ca. 60-62
  - Written to church in Philippi
  - Tone of the letter: friendship and thanksgiving

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Historical/Theological Themes

- Gospel
  - (1:5, 7, 12, 17, 27; 2:22; 4:3, 15)
- Joy
  - (1:4, 18, 25; 2:2, 17, 18, 28, 29; 3:1; 4:1, 4, 10)
- Unity
  - (1:7; 2:2, 5; 3:15, 19; 4:2, 10)

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Purpose

Paul rejoiced in the Philippians' partnership in the Gospel and exhorted them to be better Gospel partners by walking in unity with one another and holding the Gospel in steadfastness against the opponents of the faith.

- Purpose is stated in 1:27

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Structure

Gospel Joy in . . .

- i. Suffering (chpt 1)
- ii. Submission (chpt 2)
- iii. Salvation (chpt 3)
- iv. Sanctification (chpt 4)

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Interpretive Issues

The “Kenosis” (emptying) of Christ -2:6-8

- Emptied of Deity?
- Renunciation of Divine privileges and glory and open exercises of attributes?
- Deity taking humanity?
  - Combo of #2 and #3 most fits context

7

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Introduction–Colossians

- Introduction
  - Author = Paul, written while in Roman prison
  - Date = ca. 60-62
  - Recipients: Church at Colossae

8

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Historical/Theological Themes

- The Person of Christ (1:15-18; 2:9-10; 3:11)
- The Work of Christ
  - The Cross (1:20; 2:14-15)
  - His Death (1:22; 2:11, 20; 3:3)
  - The Resurrection (1:18; 2:12; 3:3)
- The Union of Christ with Christians (1:27-28; 2:10-14; 3:1-4)
- The False Teaching (2:8-23)
- Christian Conduct (3:5-4:6) / Walk (1:10; 2:6; 3:7; 4:5)

9

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Purpose/Structure

**PURPOSE:** Christians were taught about Christ and their union with Him and were exhorted to have their conduct flow from that union with Christ.

**STRUCTURE:**

- I. The Sufficiency of Christ in Doctrine (chpts 1-2)
- II. The Sufficiency of Christ in Duty (chpts 3-4)

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Interpretive Issues

Nature of Colossian Heresy?

- Gentile?
- Jewish (Law-keeping)?
- Jewish/Gentile (Law-keeping and pagan rituals brought in)
  - 2:16 is very Jewish
  - 2:18 is very Gentile
  - Syncretism—combination of different elements of different religions

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Interpretive Issues

What we DO Know about the Heresy from 2:8ff

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deceptive philosophy</li><li>• Human tradition</li><li>• Demonic</li><li>• Teaching not dependent on Christ</li><li>• Food and holy day restrictions</li><li>• Asceticism</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attention to angels</li><li>• Attention to visions</li><li>• Spiritual pride</li><li>• Loss of connection with Head</li><li>• Rules outside Christ</li><li>• Questioned supremacy and sufficiency of Christ</li></ul> |
|---|---|

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Interpretive Issues

“The firstborn of all creation”

- The First Thing Created (Jehovah’s Witnesses)?
- Chronological -prior to everything?
- Positional -supreme over creation?
- Chronological AND Positional—complete preeminence

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Philemon

Introduction

- Author = Paul, written while in Roman prison
- Date = ca. 60-62
- Recipients: Philemon and Colossian church (1-3, 22b-25)

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Historical/Theological Themes

- Paul the prisoner (1,9,10,13)
- Philemon, Paul’s ministry companion and faithful Christian (1-2, 47, 17-22a)
- Onesimus, the formerly useless whose name means “useful”—Philemon’s converted slave (8-16)

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Purpose/Structure

**PURPOSE:** Paul appealed to Philemon to accept his newly converted slave, Onesimus, as a brother in Christ and a partner in the Gospel.

**STRUCTURE:**

- I. Praise of Philemon (1-7)
- II. Plea to Philemon (8-17)
- III. Pledge to Philemon (18-25)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

16

## Lessons of Philemon

- Gospel is the great equalizer
- God's high standard of forgiveness
- Transformative power of the Gospel
- Onesimus a living example of Col 3:1-4 against the Colossian Heresy.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

17