



GOD'S FELLOWSHIP – RESCUED AND REDEEMED (17)

START HERE:

Colossians is a real letter written by a real person (the apostle Paul) to real Christians who lived in a real place (Colossae) during real historical events. Remember that as you read.

Though Paul had probably never visited the church, he'd heard about the people from the church's founder and his friend, Epaphras. Paul was in prison when Epaphras visited him to give an update on the church, which went something like this:

“Our brothers and sisters in Colossae are doing great, **but...**”

Life often feels like that, doesn't it?

“Things are great, **but...**”

That's because we still live on earth. Jesus absolutely and positively reigns in the hearts and lives of his followers. And the power of sin absolutely and stubbornly causes destruction wherever it can.

The Christians in Colossae were bombarded on both sides. On one, false pagan beliefs encouraged people to pursue a life defined by sex, money, and power. On the other, certain legalistic religious beliefs demanded people follow ceremonial laws and rituals in order to earn God's forgiveness.

Paul writes that neither of these two ways is right. Paganism is a lie, and legalism is empty. Instead, Jesus himself is the one and only “right way” because he has defeated the powers of pagan religions and has abolished the demands of legalistic rituals. He is the first and last, the beginning and the end. He is the King of kings - and our redeemer.

READ THIS: Colossians 1:1-23 (especially 1-14 and 21-23)

THINK ABOUT:

How do verses 13-14 and 21-22 describe:

life before/without Jesus

life with/following Jesus

EXTRA THINGS

Colossae was located in the southwest corner of modern-day Turkey. The city was a Roman province, like many other places during that time. Long before Paul wrote this letter, the people of Colossae were known for making dark red wool cloth, called **colossinum**.

By the time Paul wrote his letter, the city had gone from being an important metropolis to being a second-class city to being a run-down ruin because of earthquakes in 17 and 60 AD. The city was rebuilt after each earthquake, but it never regained its status. By 400 AD, it no longer existed.

Philemon (Paul's short letter to him is in the New Testament) was from Colossae.

EXTRA VERSES

Ephesians 2:1-10

EXTRA STUFF

Listen to Rend Collective's "Rescuer" [HERE](#).

Listen to Matt Redman's "You Alone Can Rescue" [HERE](#).

Watch the Bible Project video about Colossians.

What do you learn about each of these things from this passage:

Truth about God:

Truth about Jesus Christ:

Truth about the Spirit:

Truth about God's children:

AM: Today, take note of how your life as a Christ-follower is distinct and different from a life without Jesus.

PM: Today, how did Jesus make himself present in your life?

Dear Lord, Thank you for rescuing and redeeming me. Help me to live the new life that you offer and provide. I pray that my thoughts, words, and actions are different and distinct from the the world, offering a reflection of your love and grace. Amen.

