

Date: February 12, 2012
Title: **Colossians Introduction**
Series: **The Sufficiency and
Supremacy of Christ**
Speaker: **Phil Schaefer**

christianfellowship



Summary

Scripture: Acts 19:10, 28:30; Colossians 1:27-28, 4:7-9

Paul wrote the letter to the church at Colosse when he was in prison at Rome. Epaphrus, a leader in the church, traveled between 1000-1300 miles to see Paul and discuss some Jewish outsiders who were teaching that by fasting and refraining we are to supplement and complete ourselves in Christ. They are saying they have a superior way of knowing Christ (a new asceticism or elevated way of knowing Christ). Paul dictates his letter to the Colossians (also a letter to the Ephesian church and one to Philemon) to emphasize the truth and simplicity of what is ours in Christ. Paul writes that the only means of satisfying the longing of the human soul is by revealing the surpassing goodness of God in Christ. Everything we need we have in Christ and He is supreme. He is all-in-all.

Paul sends Tychicus, Epaphras, and Onesimus (a runaway slave who was returning to make things right with his master) to deliver the letters.

Discussion Questions:

1. The focus of asceticism is on what I do instead of what Christ has already done. How can this lead to problems in a believer's life?
2. What is the difference between ascetic practices which emphasize self and Christian disciplines or practices which are done to be more effective for the work of God?
3. Asceticism also emphasizes what I can attain rather than what I can do to further the kingdom. How could this negatively impact the church?