**Sermon Title: Introduction to the Book of Colossians**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 1:1-2**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a Biblical Christology in the face of confusing heresy of the day.**

**Sermon Proposition; There are 4 aspects of Colossians introduction that should be understood.**

**Introduction:**

**I. The book of Colossians:**

 If Ephesians can be labeled the epistle portraying the “Church of Christ,” then Colossians must surely be the “Christ of the Church.” Colossians focuses on the “Head” of the church.

 Colossians is perhaps the most Christ centered book in the Bible. In it Paul stresses the supremacy of the person of Christ and the completeness of the believer’s salvation. This is presented to confront and combat a growing heresy that was and is threatening the church.

**II. Date and Place of Writing:**

Colossians was written from Rome during Paul’s first imprisonment there as recorded in Acts 28:30. This is the same time Paul wrote Ephesians and Philemon (ca A.D. 60-62). The imprisonment was probably a time period of 2 years.

 Characteristics of the Heresy:

 1. It was Jewish, stressing the need for observing Old Testament laws and ceremonies.

 2. It was philosophical, laying emphasis on some special or deeper knowledge (gnosis). (woke)

 3. It involved the worship of angels as mediators (**2:18**) to God.

 4. It was exclusivistic, stressing the special privilege and “perfection” of those select few who belonged to this philosophical elite.

 5. It also denied the deity of Christ. (**1:15-16; 2:9**)

 Divided into 2 parts:

 1. Chapter 1-2 focuses on the supreme majesty of Jesus Christ. (**1:15-20; 2:1-5**)

 2. Chapter 3-4 focuses on the spiritual maturity of Jesus’ followers. (**3:1-4, 5-17, 18-25**)

**III. Purpose:**

Paul’s purpose is to show that Christ is preeminent – first and foremost in everything – and that the Christian’s life should reflect that as a #1 priority. Believers are called and equipped to reflect/make Christ first in every area of life. A firm grasp of the true gospel will give them stability and resistance to opposing influence.

 **Adjective:**

1. Believers are rooted in Him.

 2. Believers are alive in Him.

 3. Believers are hidden in Him.

 4. Believers are complete in Him.

 A predominately Gentile Colossian church. (**1:21, 27; 2:13**)

**IV. Colossians a Christological book is centered on Christ.**

 1. The Head of all principality and power. (**2:10**)

 2. The Lord of all Creation. (**1:16, 17**)

 3. The Author of reconciliation. (**1:20-22; 2:13-15**)

 4. The basis for the Christian’s hope. (**1:5, 23, 27**)

 5. The source of the Christian’s power for new life. (**1:11, 29**)

 6. The Redeemer and Reconciler of all Christians. (**1:14, 20-22; 2:11-15**)

 7. The embodiment of full deity. (**1:15, 19; 2:9**)

 8. The Creator and Sustainer of all things. (**1:16-17**)

 9. The Head of the Church. (**1:18**)

 10. The resurrected God-man. (**1:18; 3:1**)

 11. The all sufficient Savior. (**1:28; 2:3, 10, 3:1-4**)