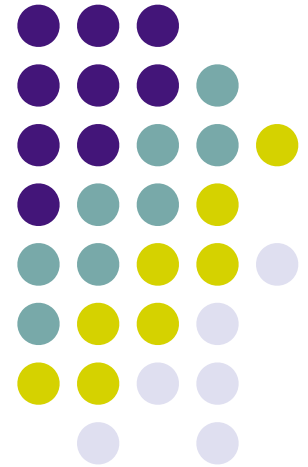
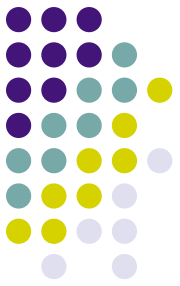


# Epistles to the Colossians

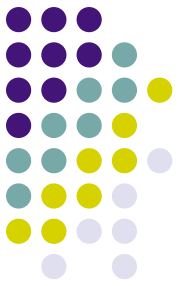
---



# Colossians

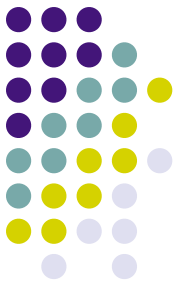


- 1:1-1:8
  - Greetings of peace and giving thanks for ever-growing faith:
    - “faith” and “love” arising *from HOPE* laid up in heaven.
    - “celebrate the “ever-fruitful” gospel (“entire world”; “preached in all creation under heaven”, 1:23).



# Colossians

- 1:9-1:20
  - “spiritual wisdom and understanding **SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE WORTHILY**--...bearing fruit in every **good deed**, growing in the knowledge of God...”
  - “kingdom of the Sons he loves” ...leads to 1:15-20 (Supremacy of Christ).



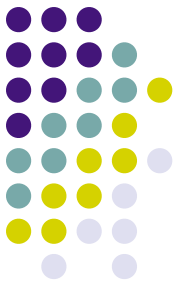
# Colossians

- 1:21-29—”ESTABLISHED AND HOLY”
  - V. 24—sufferings accepted for sake of God’s revelation to saints: CHRIST IN YOU!..
    - TO THIS END DO WE LABOR WITH *HIS POWER*!?  
(v.29)



# Colossians

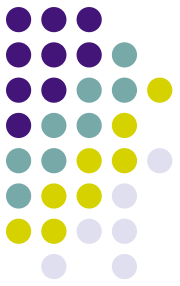
- 2:1-23—ENGAGE THE FALSE PHILOSOPHIES
  - “The knowledge of the mystery of God is Christ,” (2:2) not an esoteric, elitist conception of divine wisdom “deciphered” by humans.
  - “In him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge...” (2:3).



# Colossians

- 2:6-15—LIVE LIVES IN CHRIST and avoid philosophy based on human traditions and “elemental spirits of the world” (2:8 cf. Galatians).
- Return to SUPREMACY OF CHRIST—“you have been filled in him, who is head over every ruler and authority” (v. 9-10).

# Colossians—POWER OF GOD and False Teaching



- 2:12-2:15—“faith in the **power** of God” ... “**destroyed** what was against us” ... **disarming** the rulers and authorities” ...
- 2:16-19—“**therefore** do not let...Arguments from Hellenistic Jews.
  - Worship of angels; visions...let go of “the head” (Christ).
- v. 20—“IF you have died to the “elemental spirits of the world” ...false humility and worship; unhealthy emphasis on “bodily proscriptions” promotes indulgence.

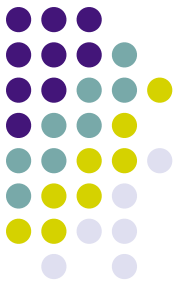


# Colossians 3—LOOK UP

- 3:1-11—Rather, (“therefore”) keep seeking the things **above,** because **Christ reigns...**
- **V.3—your life is hidden *with Christ* (contrast with “human” philosophies)..**
- 3:12-17—Exhortation to **UNITY OF FAITH and LOVE, HUMILITY, FORGIVENESS**
  - False teachings correspond to behaviors that undermine these virtues.
  - Life of church fellowship **REQUIRES** these virtues (3:13-17).

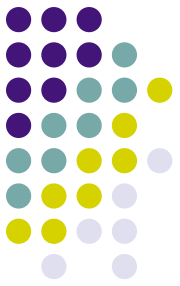


# Colossians 3 and 4



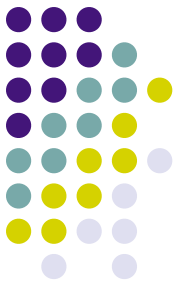
- 3:18-24—Household Code/Directions (Ephesians and 1 Timothy)
- 4:2-6—Considering the onslaught of false teaching, PRAYER FOR GODLY CONDUCT, SPEECH, and EVANGELISM WITH RESPECT TO THOSE OUTSIDE CHURCH SEEMS NECESSARY.
- Letter ends with specific instructions regarding ministry needs.

# Philemon



- ☞ 52-55 A.D. to Philemon (house-church leader) in Colosse
- ☞ V.4-7—thanksgiving and explicit recognition of faith.
- ☞ V. 6—KEY TO ENTIRE LETTER (PREMISE TO CONCLUSION)
  - ☞ (2 Cor. 1:6-7)
    - ☞ **PHILEMON IS TO WELCOME ONESIMUS AS IF HE WERE PAUL—DEBIT PAUL'S BILL AS IF HE WERE ONESIMUS.**

# Philemon



## ☞ V.8-22—THE REQUEST

- ☞ V.17, 18—Paul asks Philemon to treat Onesimus as he would if he (Paul) were present.
- ☞ 20-22—“do *even more* than what I am asking you to do” (21).
  - ☞ He is expecting more than simply meeting with Onesimus and verbally forgiving him. He may be suggesting here that it would be great to have them not only reconciled but even living together, or, alternatively working together as partners for the sake of the church in Colosse.