

“Torn Between Two Worlds”
Colossians 1:2

Introduction: Paul is writing to the church at Colosse during his first imprisonment in Rome. This was a special church to Paul because it was fruit from his ministry in Ephesus. Although he never visited it, he had a special burden for them. This burden was the result from Epaphras, their pastor. Paul and Epaphras were imprisoned together and it was during this time that he learned about them. He listened to the prayers and the pleas of their pastor. Henceforth, God inspired him to write this epistle. The book of Colossians:

1. Came from Man v. 1- “Paul” (His name reveals the change that salvation makes.)
2. Carried forth a Message v. 1- “an apostle”
3. Comforted a Ministry vs. 1-2
 - a. Because of God’s Determination v. 1- “the will of God”
 - b. Because of God’s Deliverance v. 2- “saints”
 - c. Because of God’s Demonstration v. 2- “Grace...and peace”

Body: Let us notice an important thought in verse two. The saints were “in Christ” and “at Colosse” at the same time. This seems impossible, but it is a spiritual truth. Although they may not have realized it, they were living in two worlds. Paul later dealt with this in 3:2. He was trying to get them to recognize the importance of another world (Matthew 6:19-21). In his life, Paul was torn between the two (Philippians 1:23). May we look at both worlds.

- I. In Christ- Heavenly
 - A. In Christ Reveals Our Standing Romans 8:1, Ephesians 2:13
 - B. In Christ Reveals Our Safety Romans 12:5
 - C. In Christ Reveals Our Sanctification I Corinthians 1:2
 - D. In Christ Reveals Our Strength II Corinthians 2:14
 - E. In Christ Reveals Our Switch II Corinthians 5:17
 - F. In Christ Reveals Our Spirituality Ephesians 1:3
 - G. In Christ Reveals Our Seat Ephesians 2:6
- II. In Colosse- Earthly (Philippians 1:21-24)

There was a need to stay because of:

 - A. Schisms Jude 1:4
 - B. Saints Hebrews 10:24-25
 - C. Sinners Matthew 9:37

Conclusion: It is a tremendous blessing to be in Christ Jesus! With this blessing comes responsibility. May we never become so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly use. God help us to not be so earthly minded that we are of no heavenly use. There must be a balance so let us find it and serve our Lord.