Colossians - Lesson 2 - Chapter 1 - Overview

Colossae	The Book
The City - Asia Minor - modern day Turkey - Large and wealthy - Famous for its wool - Trade route - Diverse culturally - Jews, Greeks, and Phrygian	Theme: Gaining a True Knowledge of Christ so you won't be deluded  1. They were reconciled through Christ 2. Jesus took our sins and nailed them to the cross 3. Take off the old and put on the new 4. Devote yourselves to prayer
<ul> <li>The Problems</li> <li>oriental mysticism - becoming God through an altered state of consciousness</li> <li>Gnosticism - search for higher, hidden knowledge - body is evil and the spirit is good - deny the deity of Christ - Jesus is not the way to God</li> <li>Philosophy, traditions (Col 2:8)</li> <li>Legalism (Col 2:16-23)</li> <li>Appearance of wisdom - self-made religion, self-abasement, severe treatment of the body (Col 2:23)</li> <li>Simplicity of the Gospel - hard to grasp</li> <li>Christ is our all</li> <li>He died, shed His blood, made atonement through His sacrifice for our sins</li> <li>Accept His gracious work that saves us from eternal separation from God</li> <li>Pride (rebellion)</li> <li>I can do it myself</li> <li>I will earn my salvation</li> </ul>	Key Words - Church (body) - Faith - Love - Gospel - Knowledge/wisdom/understanding - Mystery - All - Prepositions (in, by, for, through)

Structure of Chapter	True Knowledge of Christ
Contrasts  - 22 - you were alienated, hostile, engaged in evil deeds YET He reconciled you through His death  - 26 - Paul preached the word of God - the mystery that was hidden from the past ages and generations BUT now has been revealed to His saints  Comparisons  - the gospel has come to you as to all the world (6)  - Gospel has been increasing just as it has since you first heard of it (6)  - Just as you heard it from Epaphras (7)  Terms of Conclusion  - we heard of your faith - pray for you (3/4)  - You have love because you have hope (5)  - For this reason (all that was just said 3-8) - we haven't ceased to pray (9)  - Filled with knowledge SO THAT you walk worthy (10)  - Firstborn from the dead SO THAT He has first place in everything (18)  - He has reconciled you IN ORDER TO present you holy and blameless (22)  - Teach every man FOR THIS PURPOSE I labor (28/29)  Doctrines  - Salvation (11-14)  - Christ as Creator (15-17)	<ul> <li>He wants us to walk in a manner worthy of Him (10)</li> <li>We are to please Him in all respects</li> <li>We have been transferred from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of Jesus (13)</li> <li>He has brought redemption and forgiveness of sins (14)</li> <li>He is the image of the invisible God (15)</li> <li>The firstborn of all creation (15)</li> <li>By Him all things were created (16) - things in heaven, earth, visible, invisible, thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities</li> <li>All things have been created through Him and for Him</li> <li>He is before all things (17)</li> <li>In Him all things hold together</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Christ's sufficiency (18-20)</li> <li>Salvation through Christ's death (22)</li> <li>Gospel proclaimed (25-27)</li> </ul>	I John - 32 times the word "know" is used John - 92 times "know"