

# Letters from Home

Messages for today  
from the letters of the New Testament

*The letters we have in the New testament were written by the inspiration of God to the churches, the new Christians, in the broadening world of Christianity. They have a message for the readers of that time period. But since they were written by God, who knew that more people throughout the ages would become Christians, and since the message holds principles for all time, then the letters were also written to us today. They are letters from Home, letters from Heaven, letters from God to us as we try to follow Him on our way Home. And just as you might expect from a letter from home if you were far away from home, these letters are meant to encourage, strengthen and guide while we are in exciting, new, adventurous and yet sometimes difficult times and situations. These studies will look at the practical messages we can find in these "Letters from Home."*

## **The letter to the Colossians**

### **¿ What was the spiritual climate of your home as you grew up?**

- We're right, they're wrong
  - Do your own thing
  - It doesn't matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere
  - Who cares?
  - The Bible says it and that settles it
  - Love God and do as you please
- Give an example.

### **¿ How did you feel when you realized that your family's view of God was not the only one? Defensive? Intrigued? Relieved? Depressed?**

*A little information - Colossae was previously an important commercial center, but in decay by the time of the writing of this letter. The church was struggling with "syncretism" whereby various ideas are mixed in with the Christian faith. Pay attention as you read this letter to the evidences of these problems and how God, through Paul, deals with it. Paul only knew the church in Colossae through Epaphras, who had probably founded the church there during Paul's teaching at Ephesus.*

### **READ 1:3-14**

verse 3-8 - What qualities of this church attracted Paul? Which would attract you the most?

verse 9-14 - What does Paul pray for for this young church?

How is the fruit growing in your life? How can you help this "crop" develop?  
What in this church encourages you to be the same?

### **READ 1:13-14 as conclusion**