

# Treasure Hunt

- When was Colossians written, relative to the book of Acts?
- What is the law of proportion, and where does it help us in Colossians?
- What is the difference between a NT mystery and (say) Sherlock Holmes?
- What are some different terms that express the difference between the indicative sections in Paul and the volitional sections?
- In general, what do the indicative sections in Colossians teach us?
- In general, what are we told in the volitional sections?
- What evidence is there for Jewish teaching in Colossians?
- What solution does Paul propose to the tension between Jewish and Gentile believers? Give some examples from Colossians.
- What are some similarities between Colossians and Hebrews?

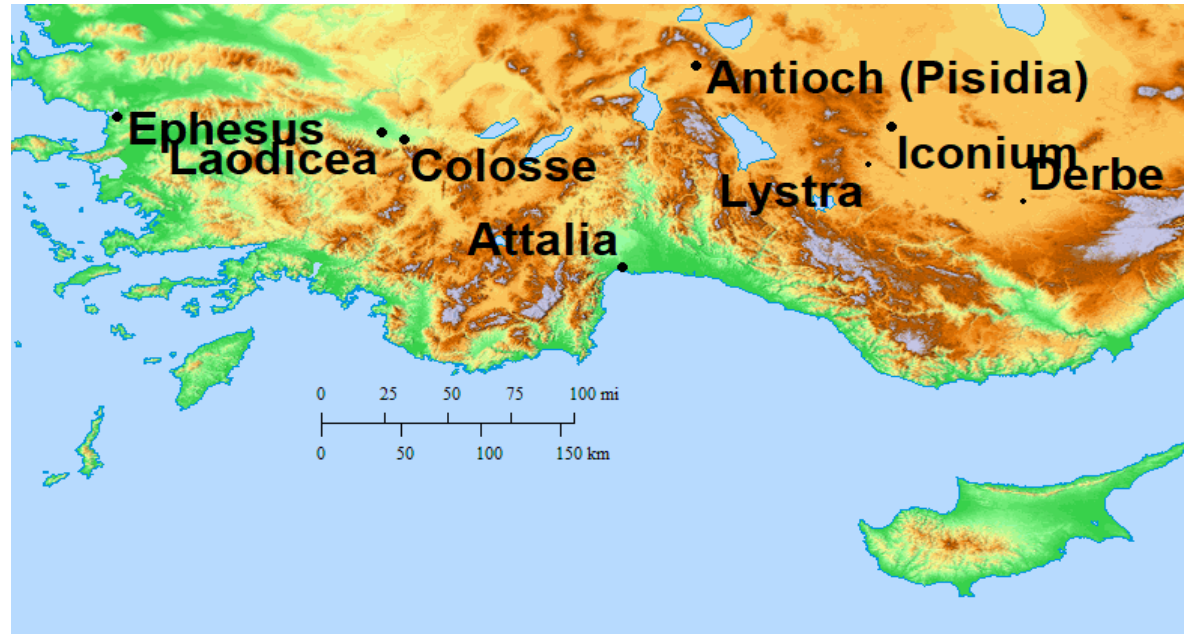
# Structure of Colossians

## Epistle to the Colossians

1:1-20, Opening  
1-2, Epistolary Greeting  
3-20, **Paul's Prayer**  
3-5, **Summary**  
6-20, **Development**

1:21-4:1, Body  
1:21-23, **Summary**  
21-22, **Position**  
23a, **Practice**  
23b, Paul's Ministry  
1:24-4:1, **Development**  
1:24-2:3, Paul's Ministry (9vv)  
2:4-8, **Practice** (5vv)  
2:9-15, **Position** (7vv)  
2:16-3:9a, **Practice** (17vv)  
3:9b-11, **Position** (3vv)  
3:12-4:1, **Practice** (15vv)

4:2-18, Closing  
2-6, **Their Prayer for Paul**  
7-17, Greetings  
18, Epistolary Close



# Summaries

## Summary of Prayer in 1:3-4

3 We **give thanks to God** and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

**praying always for you,**

4 **Since we heard** of your faith in Christ

Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

## Body of Prayer in 1:5-20

12-20 (9 vv)

9-11 (3 vv)

6-8 (3 vv)

## Summary of Body in 1:21-23

*Position:* 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now hath he reconciled** 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

*Practice:* 23 **If ye continue in the faith** grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,

*Paul's Ministry:* which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof **I Paul am made a minister;**

## 1:24-4:1, Development of Body

1:24-2:3, **Paul's Ministry** (9 vv)

2:4-8, **Practice** (5 vv)

2:9-15, **Position** (7 vv)

2:16-3:9a, **Practice** (17 vv)

3:9b-11, **Position** (3 vv)

3:12-4:1, **Practice** (15 vv)

# Two Parts to the Message

Knowledge	Position	Exposition	Indicative Verbs
Works, Walk	Practice	Exhortation	Volitional Verbs*

## Prayer, 1:9-11

9 that ye might be filled with the **knowledge** of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might **walk worthy** of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every **good work**,

and increasing in the **knowledge** of God;

11 Strengthened with all **might**, according to his glorious power, unto all **patience** and **longsuffering** with **joyfulness**;

## Body Summary, 1:21-23

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now hath he reconciled** 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight:

23 **If ye continue** in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;

## Body, 1:24-4:1

2:4-8, **Practice**

2:9-15, **Position**

2:16-3:9a, **Practice**

3:9b-11, **Position**

3:12-4:1, **Practice**

\* Imperatives, but also expressions like “I would that you” or “you should”

# What is a “Mystery”?



[http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart\\_images/well-my-dears-here-s-a-65901144](http://www.clipartpanda.com/clipart_images/well-my-dears-here-s-a-65901144)

Modern English:

- Something *unknown* ...
- ... that someone clever *can figure out*

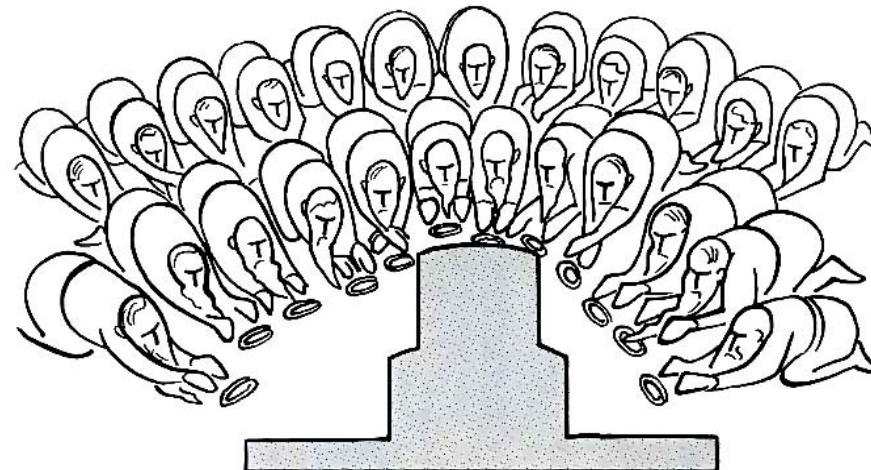
NT:

- Something that *nobody can figure out* ...
- ... but that *God has made known*.

Col 1:27 this **mystery** among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you ...

Eph 3:2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: 3 How that by revelation he made known unto me the **mystery**; (as I wrote afore in few words, 4 Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the **mystery** of Christ) 5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; 6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

# The Answer to the Tension



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The largest part (1:12-20) exalts the Savior.

2:8 contrasts **“the tradition of men”** with **“Christ.”**

2:10: “ye are complete in him.” Our death and resurrection with him constitutes a spiritual circumcision (2:11) that makes physical circumcision unnecessary.

2:17 contrasts the shadow of Jewish tradition with the body, that is, the Messiah. Instead of pursuing Jewish modes of worship, they must “hold fast the head” (2:19).

“Christ is all, and in all.”

1Jo 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

# Jewish Teaching in Colossians

- 2:8 the tradition of men
- 2:11 ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands
- 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us
- 2:16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*
- 2:18 worshipping of (by) angels
- 2:20 ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;
- 3:10 the new *man*, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: 11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, ...

# Parallels between Colossians and Hebrews

- Focus on the person of Christ (Col 1:12-20; Heb 1:1-10)
- Repeated alternation of Exposition and Exhortation
- OT symbols as shadows of Christ (Col 2:17; Heb 8:5; 10:1)
  - Col 2:17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.
  - Heb 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things,
  - Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things