

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 35 (August 30 - September 3)
("Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly" ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.

Historical Context (Paul's third missionary trip).

60-62 Did Paul ever visit Colossae, the city in which this letter is written.

There are some that say he did not. And it is true that the church first heard the gospel from Epaphras (1:7).

At the same time:

- Paul seems to expect them to recognize his handwriting (4:18)
- Tychicus is coming with news of what has happened to Paul, which suggests a prior relationship (4:7)
- Paul is sending Onesimus along – who "is one of you" Colossians (4:9), which connects the letter to Philemon with Colossae
- The connection with Colossae is strengthened as Paul greets people by name in the church of which Philemon, the "owner" of Onesimus, is a member (Philemon 1:1-3).
- Philemon – who is part of this church – owes Paul his "very self" (Philemon 3:19), which suggests contact beyond simply hearing of each other.
- Paul "hopes to be restored to you" – and asks Philemon so get a guest room ready (Philemon 3:22), which presupposes that at one time Paul was there.
- Paul with Barnabas, and then Paul with Silas, evangelized through this area.

Ephesians was written in this same time period, and appears to have been sent with Tychicus when Paul sent letters went to Colossae and Philemon. As it was written from Rome, it may reflect two years' worth of conversation with those who came to Paul's home (Acts 28:30).

<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Clarification from original language – Greek word in parentheses</u>
Mon.	Colossians 1 (:18)	<p>First place = (Proteuoon) This is an active participle. It means first within an order, which implies the consequent or secondary status of the following things.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be spatial (the first town you come to). • It can be temporal (the big bang starts time and leads to the creation of the ongoing development of the universe) • It can be succession (people from Eurasia were the first settlers in the Americas). • It can be rank or worth (Tom Brady is the G.O.A.T – greatest of all time among professional quarterbacks), <p>For reflection: As an active tense participle, it can be the ongoing beginning of everything that follows: which means we didn't have to go first and find the way.</p>

- Tues. Colossians 2 (:3) **Hidden** = (Apokruphoi) Literally “from + hidden”.
- Wed. Colossians 3 (:15) **Rule** = (Brabeuetoo) This is to act as an umpire in an athletic contest – and metaphorically to lead / determine what is to happen. Its root is the Greek word for the victor’s prize received.
- Thurs. Colossians 4 (:2) **Devote** = (Proskarteriete) It’s root means to be strong / steadfast / persevere. “Pros”, added to the root, intensifies the meaning. In other words, “don’t quit”.
- Fri. Ephesians 1 (:5) **Predestined** = (Proorisas) Decide beforehand / to make out with a boundary beforehand.