Handout 1: THE LIFE OF PAUL: "Apostle to the Goyim (Gentiles)"

Born at Tarsus (modern Turkey) sometime between 7 and 12 AD of Jewish parents who are Roman citizens and traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5)   30	Handout 1: THE LIFE OF PAUL: "Apostle to the Goyim (Gentiles)"						
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12 AD of Jewish parents who are Roman citizens and traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5)		(all dates are approximate)					
traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5)  Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)  Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in Damascus & conversion (Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18)  Three-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17)  Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)  Sojourn in Tarsus (Acts 9:30)  Arrival in Antioch, Syria to serve the Christian community (Acts 11:25)  1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)  - Cyprus  - Roman Province of south Galatia (Antioch Pisidia)  - Lycaonia (Iconium, Lystra)  Visit to Jerusalem for the Council of the Jerusalem (Acts 15)  2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:21):  - at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman governor Gallio*  - wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians  3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14)  - visited Phrygia & Galatia  - at Ephesus (Turkey)  - wrote 2 Corinthians  - mission to Macedonia  - wrote 2 Corinthians  - at Corinth (Greece)  - wrote letter to the Romans  Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)  *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)  4rd Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)  Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28)  - wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*  Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letter  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter	Born at Tarsus (modern Turkey) sometime between 7 and						
Phil 3:5    Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)   30   Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in   36   Damascus & conversion (Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18)   Three-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17)   Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)   39   39   39   39   39   39   39   3	12 AD of Jewish parents who are Roman citizens and	10?					
Phil 3:5    Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)   30   Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in   36   Damascus & conversion (Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18)   Three-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17)   Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)   39   39   39   39   39   39   39   3	traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Rom 11:1;						
Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) 30	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						
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Three-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17) Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18) Sojourn in Tarsus (Acts 9:30) 2 Arrival in Antioch, Syria to serve the Christian community (Acts 11:25)  1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)CyprusRoman Province of south Galatia (Antioch Pisidia)Lycaonia (Iconium, Lystra)  Visit to Jerusalem for the Council of the Jerusalem (Acts 15:36-18:21):at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman governor Gallio*wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians  3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14)visited Phrygia & Galatiaat Ephesus (Turkey)wrote 1 Corinthiansmission to Macedoniawrote 2 Corinthiansmission to Macedoniawrote 2 Corinthiansat Corinth (Greece)wrote letter to the Romans  Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)  *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)  4th Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)  Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28)wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*  Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter  79  Assarca Adams as 36-39  29  39  39  39  39  39  39  39  39		36					
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Gal 1:17    Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)   39		36-39					
Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)   39   Sojourn in Tarsus (Acts 9:30)   ?							
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1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14) -Cyprus -Roman Province of south Galatia (Antioch Pisidia) -Lycaonia (Iconium, Lystra)  Visit to Jerusalem for the Council of the Jerusalem (Acts 15)  2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:21): -at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman governor Gallio* -wrote 1 &2 Thessalonians  3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14) -visited Phrygia & Galatia -at Ephesus (Turkey) -wrote 1 Corinthians -at Ephesus (Turkey) -wrote 2 Corinthians -at Corinth (Greece) -wrote letter to the Romans  Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)  *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)  4th Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)  Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28) -wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*  Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter		-					
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2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:21):       50-52         -at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman       50?52         governor Gallio*       50?52         -wrote 1 &2 Thessalonians       51-52         3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14)       53-58         -visited Phrygia & Galatia       53         -at Ephesus (Turkey)       54-57         -wrote 1 Corinthians       57         -mission to Macedonia       57         -wrote 2 Corinthians       57?58         -at Corinth (Greece)       57-58         -wrote letter to the Romans       57/58         Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)       Spring of 58         *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at       58-60         Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea =       58-60         sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)       60.61         Malta (Acts 27)       61-63         Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28)       61-63         -wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*       63-67         Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to       63-67         Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus       67							
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-wrote 1 Corinthians -mission to Macedonia -wrote 2 Corinthians -at Corinth (Greece) -wrote letter to the Romans  Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22) *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)  4 <sup>th</sup> Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)  Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28) -wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*  Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter  57.58 57.58 57.58 57.58 57.58 57.58 67.60 68.60 69.61 69.61 60.61 60.61 60.61 60.63 60.67 60.61 60.63 60.67		54-57					
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-at Corinth (Greece) 57-58 -wrote letter to the Romans 57/58  Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22) Spring of 58  *Roman Governor Felix and two-year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)  4 <sup>th</sup> Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)  Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28) 61-63 -wrote letters to the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, possibly to Philemon, and Colossus*  Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus  Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter 67	-mission to Macedonia	57					
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Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter 67							
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Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter 67							
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<sup>\*</sup>Paul may have written his letters to Philemon and Colossus from Ephesus in c. 57 AD
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<sup>→</sup>over

The consistency of Paul's Christology reflected in three passages from his letters to the

St. Paul's Great Christological Passages							
Topic	Philippians 2:6-11	Colossians 1:15-22; 2:6-15	Hebrews 1:2-18				
Jesus' divine relationship to God the Father	Form of God (Phil 2:6)	Image of the invisible God (Col 1:15, 19)	Image of the Revelation of God invisible God (Heb 1:2)				
	Equality with God (Phil 2:6)	Status of Firstborn (Col 1:15, 18)	Status of Firstborn (Heb 1:6)				
	Slave of God (Phil 2:7)	Son of God (Col 1:13)	Son of God (Heb 1:2a, 5, 8)				
Jesus' divine work:							
In creation		All things created (Col 1:16-18)	Created universe (Heb 1:2, 3, 10, 12)				
In salvation	Suffering for our salvation (Phil 2:8)	Reconciling all things (Col 1:19-22; 2:6, 13-15)	Sustains all things that exist by His word (Heb 1:3; 2:10, 11)				
Jesus' Divine Nature	Christ is <i>Theos</i> /God (Phil 2:6, 11)	Theotetos/Godhead (Col 2:9)	Theos/God (Heb 1:8)				
Exclusively God	Christ is Lord (Phil 2:11)	Fullness of the deity (Col 1:19; 2:9)	Created the universe (Heb 1:1-12)				
In the flesh	Coming in human likeness (Phil 2:7, 8)	Of the deity bodily (Col 2:9)	Blood and flesh (Heb 1:6; 2:14-18)				
Pre-existence		Created all things/before all things (Col 1:16-17)	At the beginning made the earth; your years will have no end (Heb 1:10-13)				
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Compare these passages with the Christological passages in the Gospel of John: 1:1-3, 12, 13-14, 18; 3:16; 14:6-7, 18.

## Handout 2: Colossians Lesson 1

Holy indeed are all Paul's letters. But those he writes behind bars are especially advantageous for the reader. Those include, for instance, the letters to the Ephesians and Philemon, that to Timothy, that to the Philippians and the one before us. For Colossians was written while Paul was imprisoned, since he writes in it: "for which I am also in bonds; that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak."

St. John Chrysostom, *Homilies on Colossians I* 

While all the Fathers of the Church accept Paul as the author of the Letter to the Colossians, not all modern Biblical scholars agree. However, most modern scholars, in agreement with the Church Fathers, accept Paul as the writer of the Letter to Philemon which has many links to the Letter to the Colossians:

- 1. Both letters are sent by Paul and Timothy together (Phlm verse 1; Col 1:1).
- 2. Both letters mention Paul is writing from his imprisonment (Phlm verses 1 and 13; Col 4:3, 10, 18).
- 3. Both letters mention the same group of Christian friends (Phlm verses 23-24; Col 4:10-14).
- 4. Both letters mention Onesimus, the runaway slave who has become a Christian (Phlm verse 10; Col 4:9).

Therefore, the evidence connecting both letters and the weight of Christian tradition makes a compelling defense for Paul as the writer of the Letter to the Colossians.

## SUMMARY OF ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

Biblical Period	#12 The Kingdom of the Church				
Covenant	The New Covenant in Christ Jesus				
Focus	Supremacy of Christ in His Submission to Christ in His		Supremacy of Christ in His		rist in His
	Church		Church		
Scripture	1:13		3:14:74:18		
Division	Address	Preeminence of Christ	The Ideal Christian Life	Conclusion	
Topic	Preeminence of Christ in Creation, Redemption, and in the Church		,		
	Fre	edom in Christ	Living in Holiness		
Location	Possibly from prison in Caesarea Possibly from prison in Ephesus Possibly from house-arrest in Rome 61/63 AD				
Time	Probably c. 57 AD from Ephesus, or c. 58-60 AD from Caesarea, or c. 61-63 AD from Rome				
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The first part of Paul's letter is an exposition of Christ's supremacy over all creation (Chapters 1:15-2:23). The second part explains what Christ's supremacy means in terms of the Christian's submission to Christ as Lord and Savior and as a citizen of His Kingdom that is the Church (Chapters 3:1-4:6).

The divisions of Paul's Letter:

- I. Address (1:1-14)
- II. The Preeminence of Christ: His Person and His Work (1:15-2:29)
- III. The Ideal Christian Life (3:1-4:6)
- IV. Conclusion (4:7-18)

Paul's Letter to the Colossians is the most Christological of all Paul's letters. The predominant theme his letter is the preeminence and sufficiency of Christ in all and through all in the life of the Christian. Paul uses Christos/Messiah twenty-five times in the letter (Col 1:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 24, 27, 28; 2:2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 17, 20; 3:1 twice, 3, 4, 11, 15, 16, 24; 4:3, 12). Paul teaches that every Christian is made complete in Jesus as God intended for that person from the moment of his/her conception. The redeemed Christian lacks nothing to prepare him/her for the Kingdom of Heaven because "in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9).

1:26-27; 2:2b-3: 26 the <u>mystery</u> hidden from ages and from generations past. But now it has been manifested to his holy ones, 27 to whom God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this <u>mystery</u> among the Gentiles; it is Christ in you, the hope for glory ... 2:2b for the knowledge of the <u>mystery</u> of God, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

In preaching the word of God, Paul is carrying out the mystery of God's Divine Plan for humanity that was not revealed in past ages and generations but is now revealed to make Christ known as God to the Gentiles. Jesus spoke of the "mystery of the kingdom" as an understanding granted by divine authority to the Apostles (Mt 13:11; Mk 4:11 and Lk 8:10). Paul also wrote about the "mystery" of God in Romans 11:25; 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:7; 15:51; Ephesians 1:9; 3:3, 4, 9; 5:32; 6:19; Colossians 2:2; 4:3 and 1 Timothy 3:9, 19.

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