

RESISTING HERESY'S SEDUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The myth of the sirens in Homer's *Odyssey* and the strategies of Ulysses and Orpheus to survive their seduction.

False teaching is like the song of the sirens. It may be sweet, pleasant, captivating, but it is fatally dangerous.

THE CONTEXT OF THE LETTER

Colossians and the Prison Epistles

Tychicus (Ephesians 6:21–22; Colossians 4:7–8)

Onesimus (Colossians 4:9; Philemon 10)

Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke (Colossians 4:10, 14; Philemon 24)

Archippus (Colossians 4:17; Philemon 2)

The Church in Colossae

“all those who have not personally seen my face” (Colossians 2:1)

The church in Colossae is probably the indirect fruit of Paul's three years in Ephesus (Acts 19:9-10; 20:31; Colossians 1:7; 4:12)

The Reason and Purpose of the Epistle

Epaphras's good news about the growth of the churches and concerning news about an encroaching heresy (Colossians 2:4, 8, 16–23)

Paul's response

prayer (2:1; 4:12–13)

instruction (negative: 2:4, 8, 16–23; positive: 1:15–23; 2:9–15; 3:1–4:6)

preparation (4:12, 17)

Application

How far would you go because of your concern with the Christ's universal church, including brothers and sister you have never seen?

How far would you go because of your concern with missionaries and church leaders?

How far would you go because of your concern with your local church?

THE OPENING OF THE LETTER

In **Colossians 1:1-2**, Pauls presents **3 factors** about who we are in Christ that should prevent us from letting ourselves be seduced by false doctrine.

1. Our Foundation in Christ
2. Our Identity in Christ
3. Our Resources in Christ

Our Foundation in Christ

“an apostle of Jesus Christ”

Our Identity in Christ

“saints”
“faithful”
“brethren”

Our Resources in Christ

“grace”
“peace”
“Father”

CONCLUSION

Christ is all we have. Christ is all we need. Christ is sufficient.