

Recap of 5/12/19 (Col 1:1-8):

1. Colossae was a city in the Roman province of Asia (modern day Turkey). Paul writes this letter to the church at Colossae, a church he never personally visited (Col 2:1), from prison (Col 4:18). It was probably written from Rome around 60-62 S.D. Some scholars think it was written from Caesarea while Paul awaited a fair trial before he finally appealed to Caesar and was sent to Rome (Ac 23-26).
2. The letter is written to encourage the faithful people at Colossae and Laodicea (Col 4:16) in their Christian walk. In this letter, Paul teaches important truths about the person and work of Christ to help God's people stand firm in the face of opposition. Chapters 1 and 2 deal with doctrine while chapters 3 and 4 deal with practical application of that doctrine.
3. A rough outline of Colossians:
 - Greeting, Gratitude, Purpose (Col 1:1-14)
 - Christology and the Gospel (Col 1:15-29)
 - The problem in 2 parts with praise interlude (Col 2:1-23)
 - Practical living from (Col 3:1-4:6)
 - Personal notes (Col 4:7-18)
4. Paul praises the Colossian church for their faith in Christ which manifests in their love for each other. Their faith and love are underpinned by their hope in heaven. Their (and our) faith, love, and hope are possible because of the gospel which Paul calls "the word of truth."