

Colossians has a more complex structure:

- I. Salutation 1:1,2
- II. Jesus: His Person and Work 1:3-2:7
- III. False Teaching 2:8-3:4
- IV. living as Christians 3:5-4:6
- V. Farewell 4:18

History of Redemption:

In Ephesians Paul expounds the grace of God's eternal plan of election and redemption as in in other of his writings (1:13-14). One result of this plan of God is the uniting, hitherto impossible, of Jew and Gentile in Jesus Christ, both in, through, and into his body (2:11-22). This new unity is the "mystery of God" (3:6), given to Paul as the ambassador of Christ to the Gentiles (3:1-3), which had been unknown until the time of Christ (3:5).

As important to Paul as the plan of salvation is redemptive change of life built on that salvation (4:1-6:20). The church, the body of Christ, is united in a new and permanent way (4:2-16) and is equipped by him for growth in righteousness (4:11, 12). Believers are to be "imitators of God" (5:1) in every aspect of life and are to stand firm in Christ as warriors in the universal battle of God (6:10-18).

Colossians shows the (final?) flowering of Paul's Christology. The cosmic scope of redemption (1:20) is a direct result of his universal supremacy over everything in every way (1:15-20). This is a further development of teachings mentioned in some of his earlier epistles (cf. Rom. 8:19-22; 1 Cor. 1:24; 2:6-10; 8:6) as is his emphasis in both Colossians and Ephesians upon Christ as the only head of the church, his body (Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:15; 5:23).

The teaching of Colossians can also be seen as three main points countering the "Colossian heresy". (It is important to note that there is no extant record of the contents of this heresy; it must, therefore, be derived from what Paul says in Colossians.) Jesus, as Creator and Lord of all things (1:15-20; 2:9-15), is alone able to redeem them and is alone worthy of worship and honor. Wisdom is the "mystery" (revelation) of God's fullness in Christ (1:27; cf. 2:8). Holiness comes by living in and putting on the Lord Jesus (3:1-4) in everything that is part of life (3:17).

Some Questions;

To whom was Ephesians addressed? It it was sent to Ephesus, why