

## Colossians...Assignment # 1

This is a two week assignment due to be completed March 23.

Background studies in the Colossian epistle. With the help of commentaries, historic text materials, etc. answer the following questions. Yes, write them out and do it in such a way as to make a permanent contribution to your own research.

1. Locate the city of Colosse and determine its social, economic, and political importance in New Testament times.
2. Tell how the church came to be founded at Colosse and what its relationship was with the Apostle Paul.
3. Determine when and from where the Epistle was written and what purpose it was to serve the church.
4. What is gnosticism and what are aspects of gnostic ideals that are seen in the problems of the Colossian community (church)?
5. What questions have been raised about the authenticity (genuinicity, if you will) of the Epistle and of the authorship? What is your response to these questions
6. Who were the Ebionites? Elkasites? Does it appear that any of their doctrines are reflected in the problems of the Colossian church?