

## “HIM WE PROCLAIM”

As a local church we must not only guard against doctrinal error, but we must exalt Christ and live in a manner worthy of our calling.

### THE BACKGROUND OF THIS EPISTLE.

Along with his son-in-the-faith, Timothy, who was “doing the work of the Lord” (1 Cor. 16:10), Paul desires to tackle heresy and encourage hearts (4:8).

- A. The city was known for—
  - a. Diverse population.
  - b. Prosperous economy.
  - c. Rich heritage.
- B. The church was needing to—
  - a. Combat the error they had been exposed to (ch. 2).
  - b. Consider the preeminence of Christ (ch. 1).
  - c. Conduct themselves in godly living (ch. 3–4).

### THE BURDEN OF THIS APOSTLE.

In 2:1 Paul says, “*I want you to know....*” What did he want them to know better through this letter?

- A. The impact of the gospel in the ancient world (1:3–8).
  - a. Greeting (1:1–2).
  - b. Thanksgiving (1:3–8).
- B. The importance of believing and living right (1:9–14).
- C. The supreme importance of Christ over all (1:15–23).
  - a. Over creation (1:15–17).
  - b. Over the Church (1:18).
  - c. Over salvation (1:19–23).
- D. The heart of his ministry (1:24–2:5).
- E. The danger of false teaching / teachers (2:6–23).
- F. The occupation of the victorious Christian (3:1–4:6).
  - a. To let the truth of God govern our thinking (3:1–4).
  - b. To seek the power of God in daily living (3:5–4:5).
    - This includes vigilance to thought and conduct (3:5–17).
    - This involves Christ in all our relationships (3:18–4:1).
    - This impacts how we pray and converse (4:2–6).
- G. The affection among the members of the body (4:7–18).