

Synthetic Outline of Colossians.

The theme of the Epistle - The dignity of the Person of Christ, + the Glory of His Redemptive work.

The Purpose of writing. To counteract errors of false teachers.

These errors were twofold.

- 1 Jewish ritualism.
- 2 Oriental mysticism

Jewish ritualists went beyond the requirement of the law in their asceticism. The errors of this asceticism had not gotten much if any hold upon the Church at Colosse but it had become in danger of it.

Oriental mysticism, ~~was what~~ took on the form of gnosticism which involved three principles antagonist to the gospel.

viz. 1. Its exclusive spirit - prominently
in Knowledge -

Paul declares a free gospel, free
from intellectual exclusiveness
of ch. 2:8

2. Its treatment of the creation
in a speculative way

Paul meets this by declaring that
all things were created by one
who was born - The first born, & not
by a created being.
of Ch. 1:15-19; 2:18.

3. Its ethical practices

A gnostic was either an
ascetic or a licentious man.

Paul writes from the standpoints
of (a) Thanksgiving - (b) False teaching.

Intro. 1:1-14

Salutation,
Thanksgiving
Prayer.

I The Transcendent greatness
of the Redeemer's redemptive
work. (The fundamental
doctrine of Epistle) 1:15-

(1) v. 15 (1st clause) The relation of
the Redeemer to the Father
— The image of,

(2) v. 15-17. The Redeemer's relation
to the Creation — a
sovereign, not a mere
imitation

(3) v. 18-20 The Redeemer's relation
to the Church — The
Head.