

**THE BIBLE FOR HOME AND
SCHOOL. THE EPISTLES TO
THE COLOSSIANS AND TO
THE EPHESIANS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649524815

The Bible for Home and School. The Epistles to the Colossians and to the Ephesians by Gross Alexander

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THE EPHESIANS**

THE BIBLE FOR HOME AND SCHOOL

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THE EPISTLES TO THE COLOSSIANS
AND TO THE EPHESIANS

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THE
EPISTLES TO THE COLOSSIANS
AND TO THE EPHESIANS

BY

GROSS ALEXANDER, S.T.D.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

New York
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1910

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Mem

To
THE MEMORY
OF MY BROTHER
H. CLAY ALEXANDER
A GIFTED SURGEON
A NOBLE MAN

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COLOSSIANS
GROSS ALEXANDER

INTRODUCTION

THE Epistle to the Colossians is comparatively brief; but it is unique among the writings of the New Testament, and its importance and value are out of all proportion to its brevity. In consequence of the difficulty of its main subject and the obscurity of the form of false teaching which it was intended to guard against, it has not received the attention and appreciation to which it is entitled. In short, it has been comparatively neglected.

I. THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH

The church at the city of Colossæ on the banks of the Lycus in Asia Minor was not founded by Paul; for several passages of the epistle imply that he had never seen them, that he was personally unknown to them (1 : 4 and 2 : 1). Moreover, there is no mention of a visit of Paul to Colossæ in the accounts of his missionary journeys in the book of Acts. It is probable that the founder of the church was Epaphras (an abbreviated form of Epaphroditus). This is implied in 1 : 7, where it is said, "since ye heard of the true grace of God, even as ye learned it of Epaphras." It is likely that Epaphras had learned it from Paul. It is certain that he preached Paul's gospel. In several passages of the epistle Paul strongly expresses his approval of the way that Epaphras had taught the Colossians. He refers to him in the opening paragraph as "our beloved fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on *our* behalf." The pronoun here used practically implies that Epaphras was a representative, possibly an actual appointee of Paul.

As to the complexion of the church at Colossæ, it was