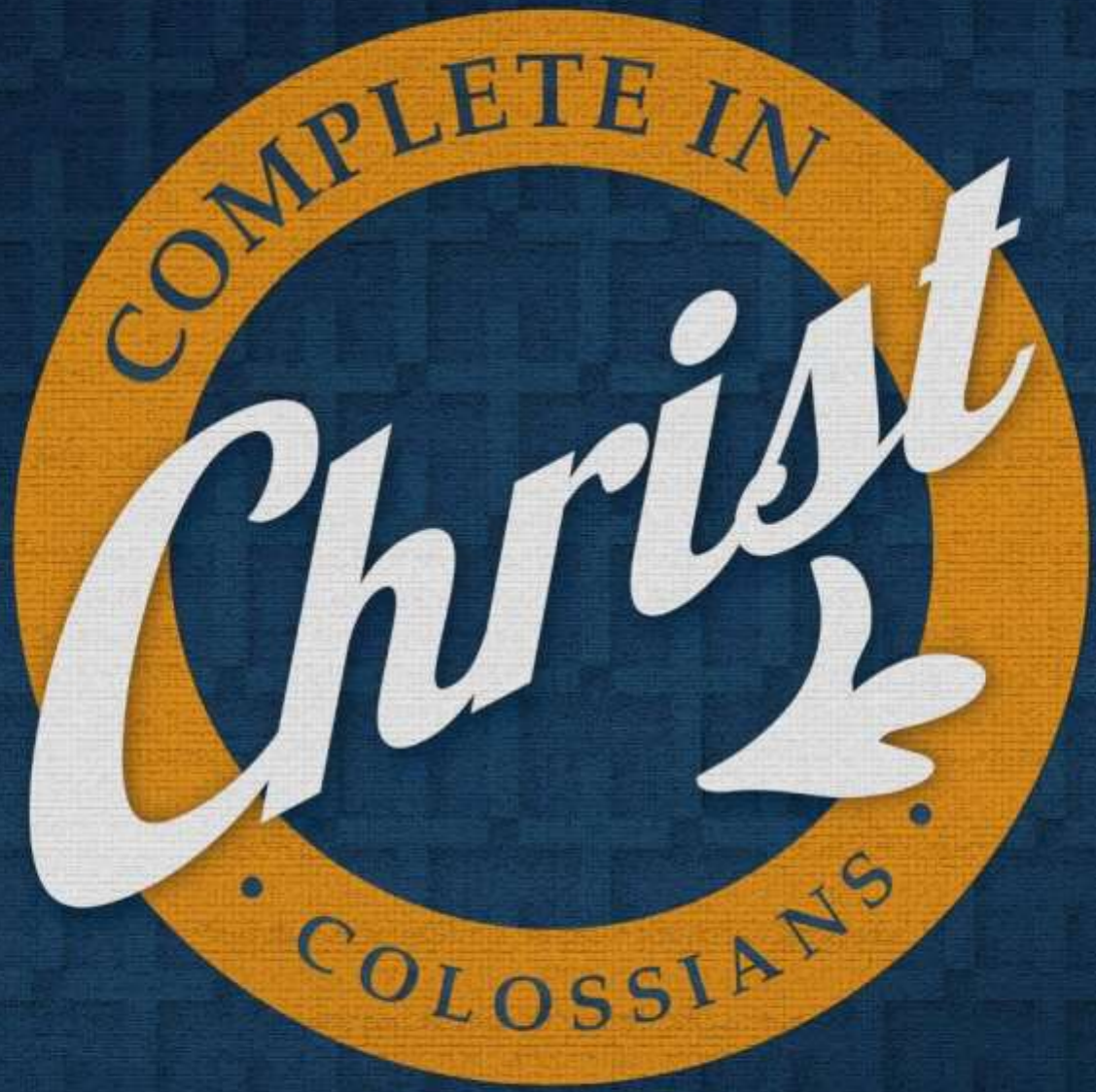
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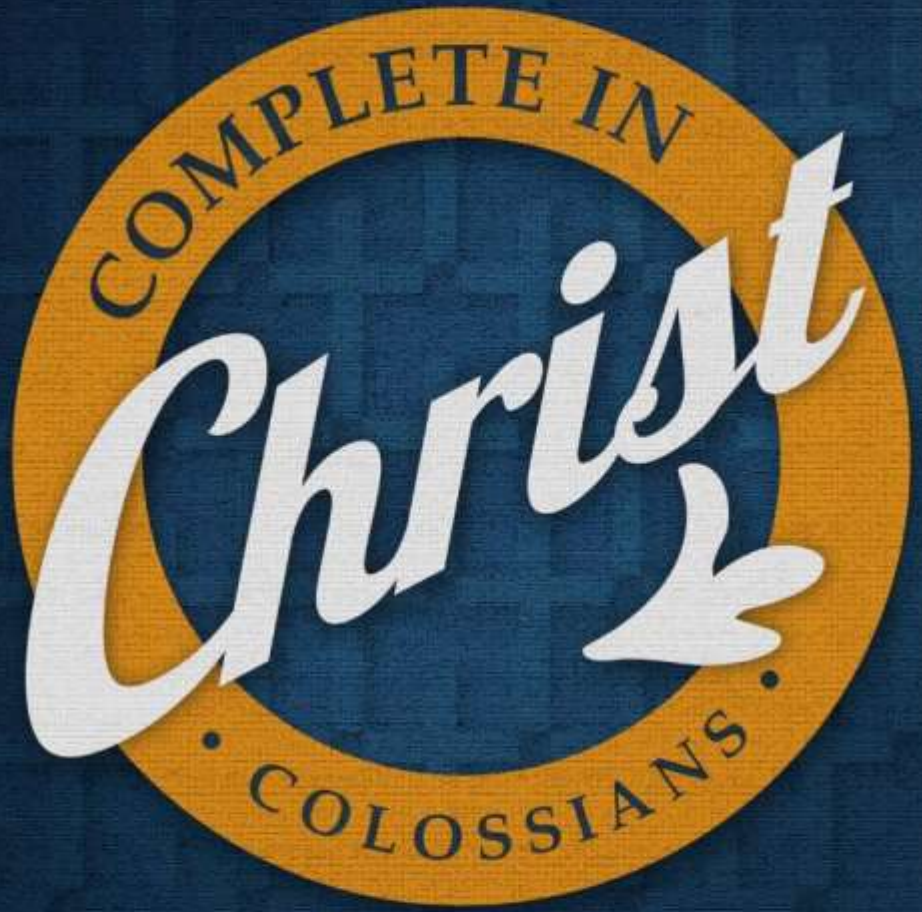

Introduction to Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2

Colossians 1:1-2

1. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
2. To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

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Will Rogers Memorial Highway





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Louisville
Nashville
Memphis
Atlanta

Background of Colossians

- Author: Paul (and Timothy)
- Date: 62 AD
  - One of 4 "Prison Epistles"
    - Philemon, Ephesians, Philippians
- Occasion & Location: During Paul's house arrest in Rome
- Carriers: Tychicus and Onesimus
- People of Colossae
  - Epaphras, Philemon, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark the cousin of Barnabas, Luke, Demas, Nympha, Archippus



Colossae

- Major city from the 5th century BC
- Famous for purple dye from cyclamen flower named Colossinus
- Fertile soil produced gardens and parks during Persian period
- Served as Metropolitan archdiocese: the Church of St Michael
- Fell to Alexander the Great's conquests 4th century BC
- Lost its prominence to Laodicea and Hierapolis
- Colossae was destroyed by an earthquake in 60 AD
- Laodicaea and Hierapolis were rebuilt
- Colossae slowly lost significance
- North of the village of Honaz


Thessalonica
Philippi
Troas
Corinth
Ephesus
Colossae
Syracuse
Tarsus
Antioch
Paphos
Mediterranean Sea
Cyrene
Caesarea
Jerusalem
Alexandria
0
250
500 mi
0
400
800 km


ROME
ITALY
MACEDONIA
Philippi
Thessalonica
(GREECE)
ACHAIA
ASIA MINOR
GALATIA
ASIA
SICILY
ADRIA
SEA
Corinth
Ephesus
Colossae
CILICIA
Tarsus
Syrian Antioch
SYRIA
Melita/Malta
CRETE
CYPRUS
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
Nazareth
SAMARIA
JUDEA
JERUSALEM
0 scale 250miles
400km


Aegean Sea
Paul spent 3 years here
Ephesus
120 Miles (190 km) Colossae to Ephesus
Hierapolis
(Pamukkale)
Laodicea
(Curuksu)
There's no record
Paul ever came here.
Colossae
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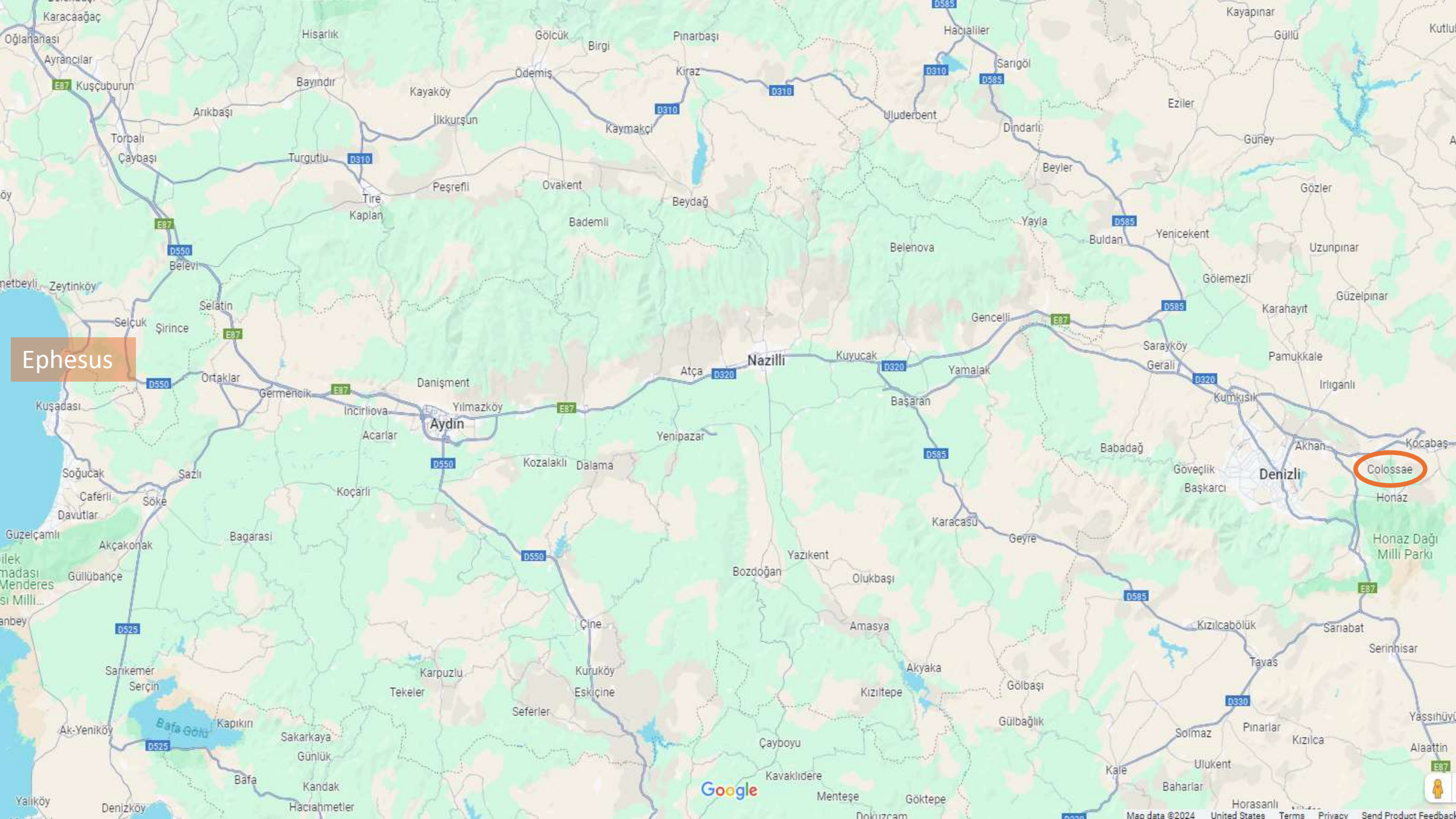
N


Asia Minor
(southwest Turkey)
in the time of Paul
Pergamum
Thyatira
Sardis
Smyrna
Philadelphia
Pisidian
Antioch
Ephesus
Hierapolis
Meander R.
Laodicea
Royal Road
Colossae
Miletus
Cibyra-Gölhisar
Termessos


Ephesus
Colossae
Aydın
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Ortaklar
Germencik
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Yamalak
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Kuşadası
İncirliova
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Acarlar
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Akhan
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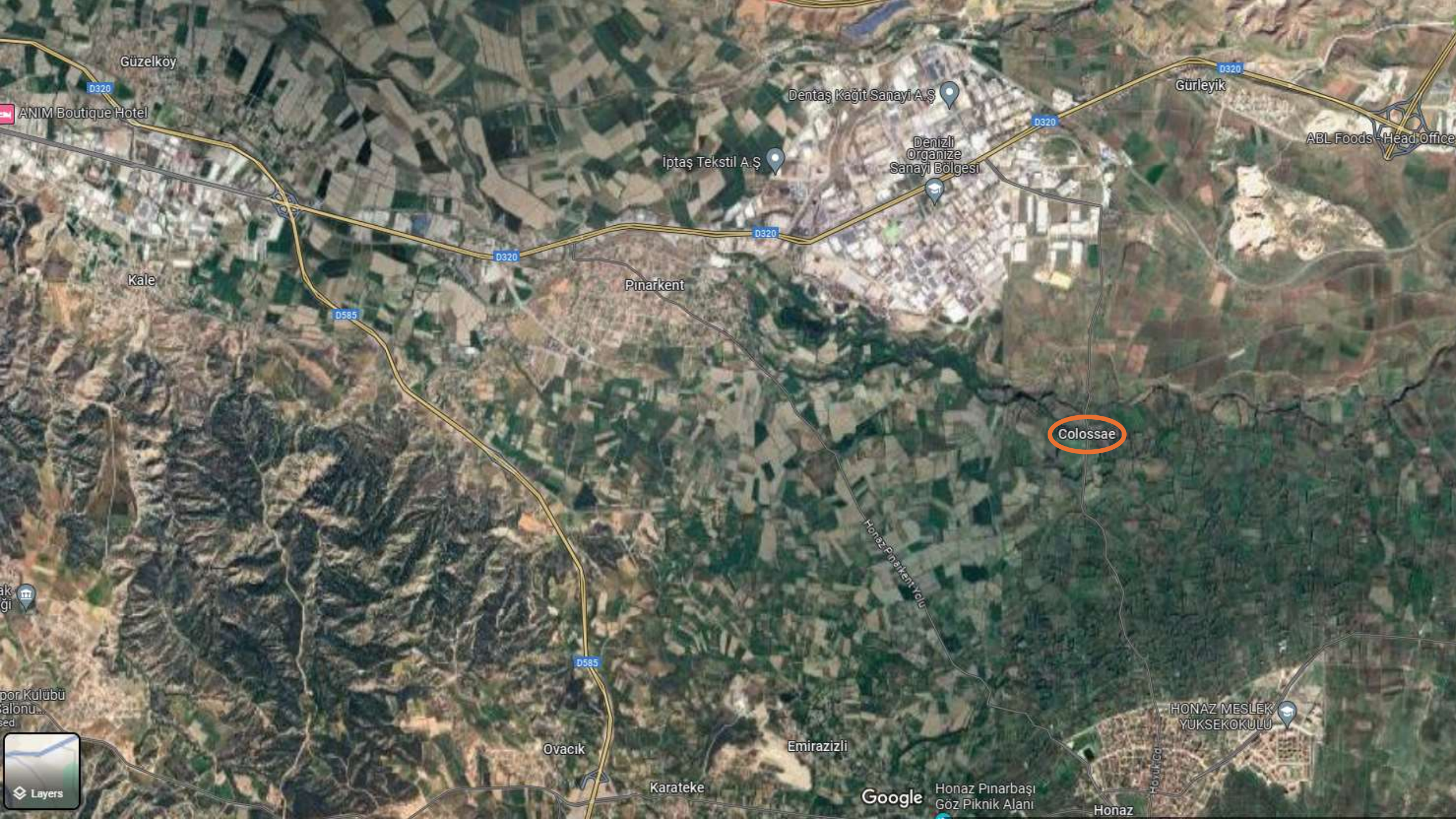
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Pınarkent
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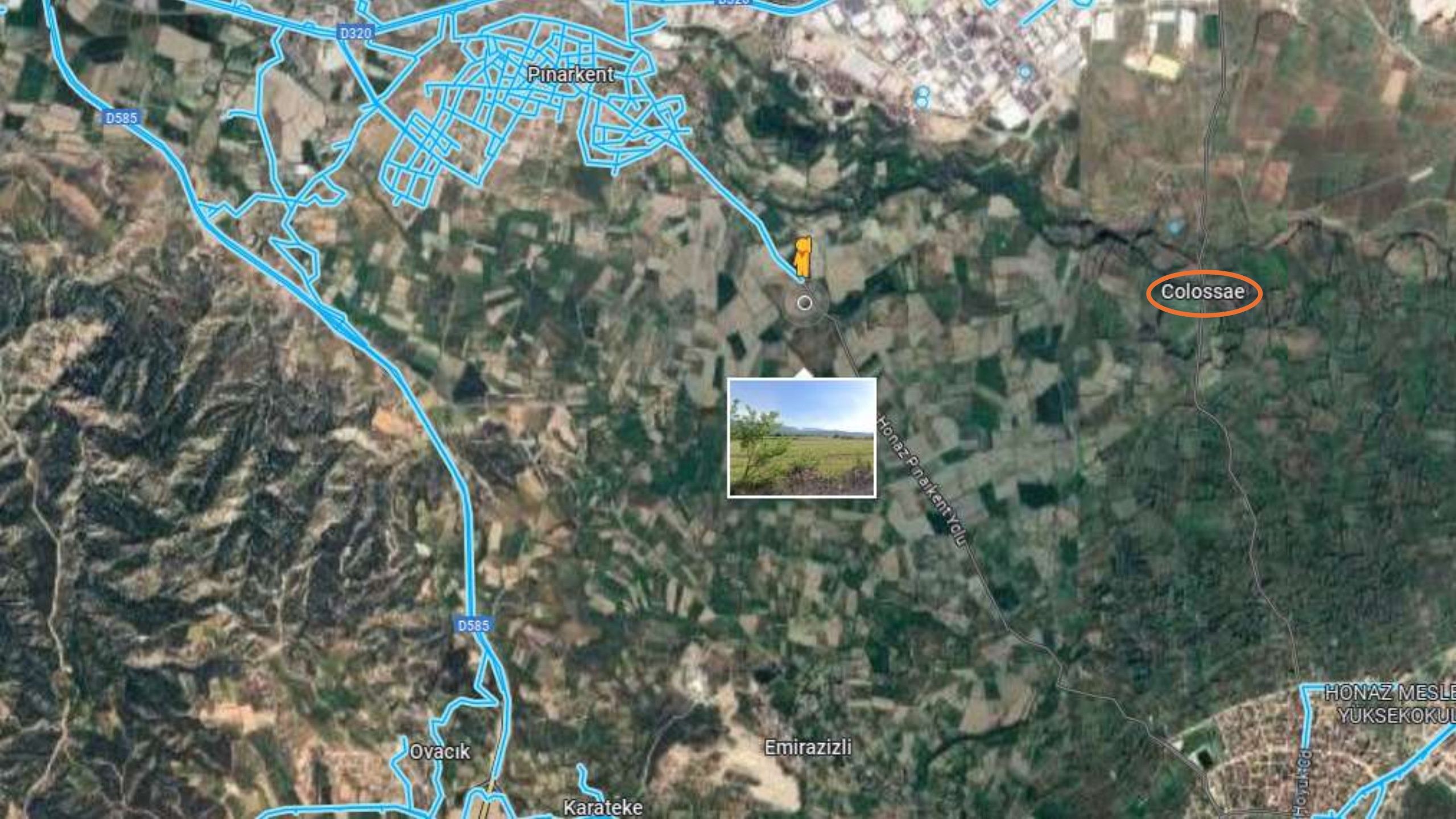
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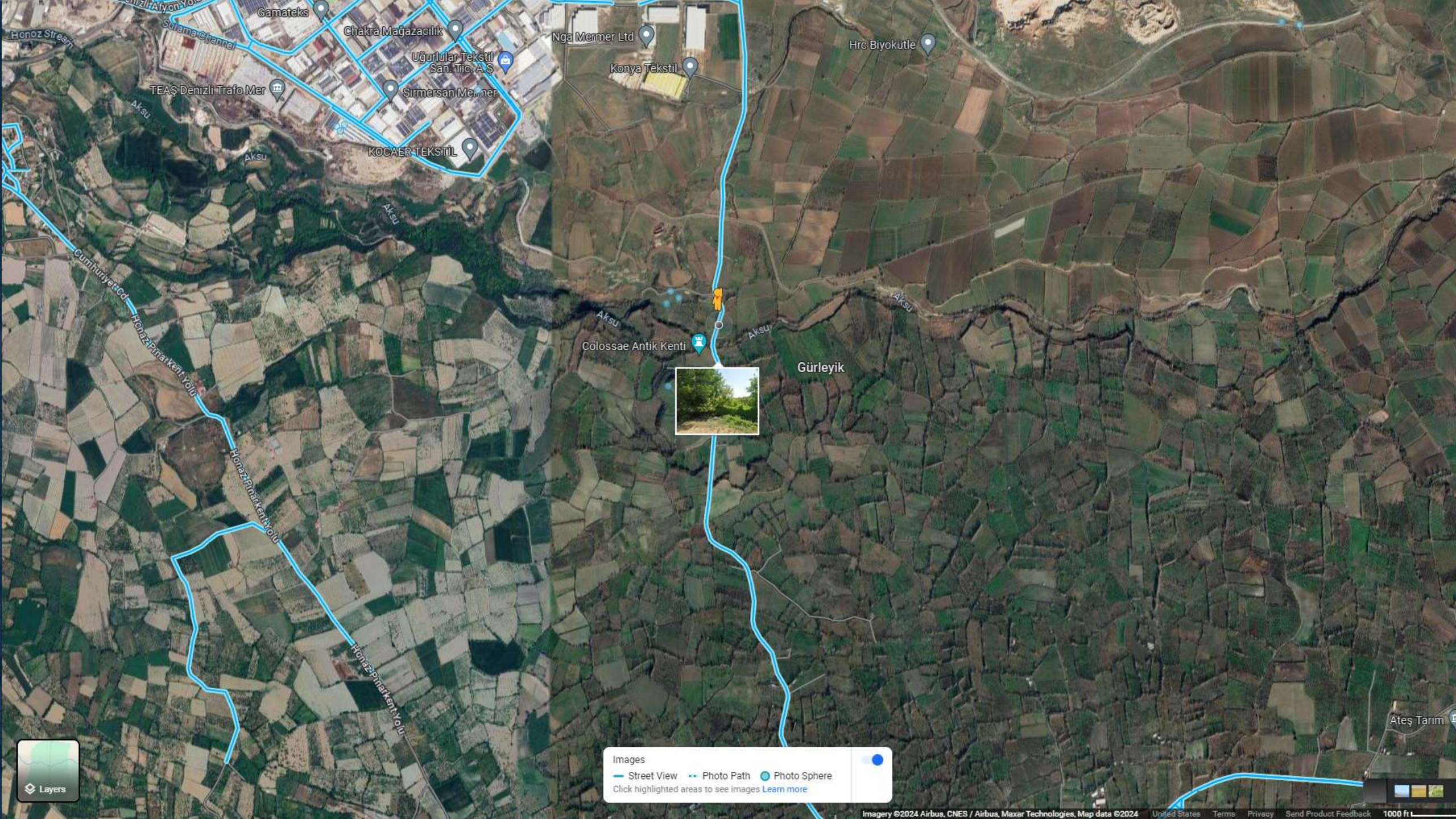
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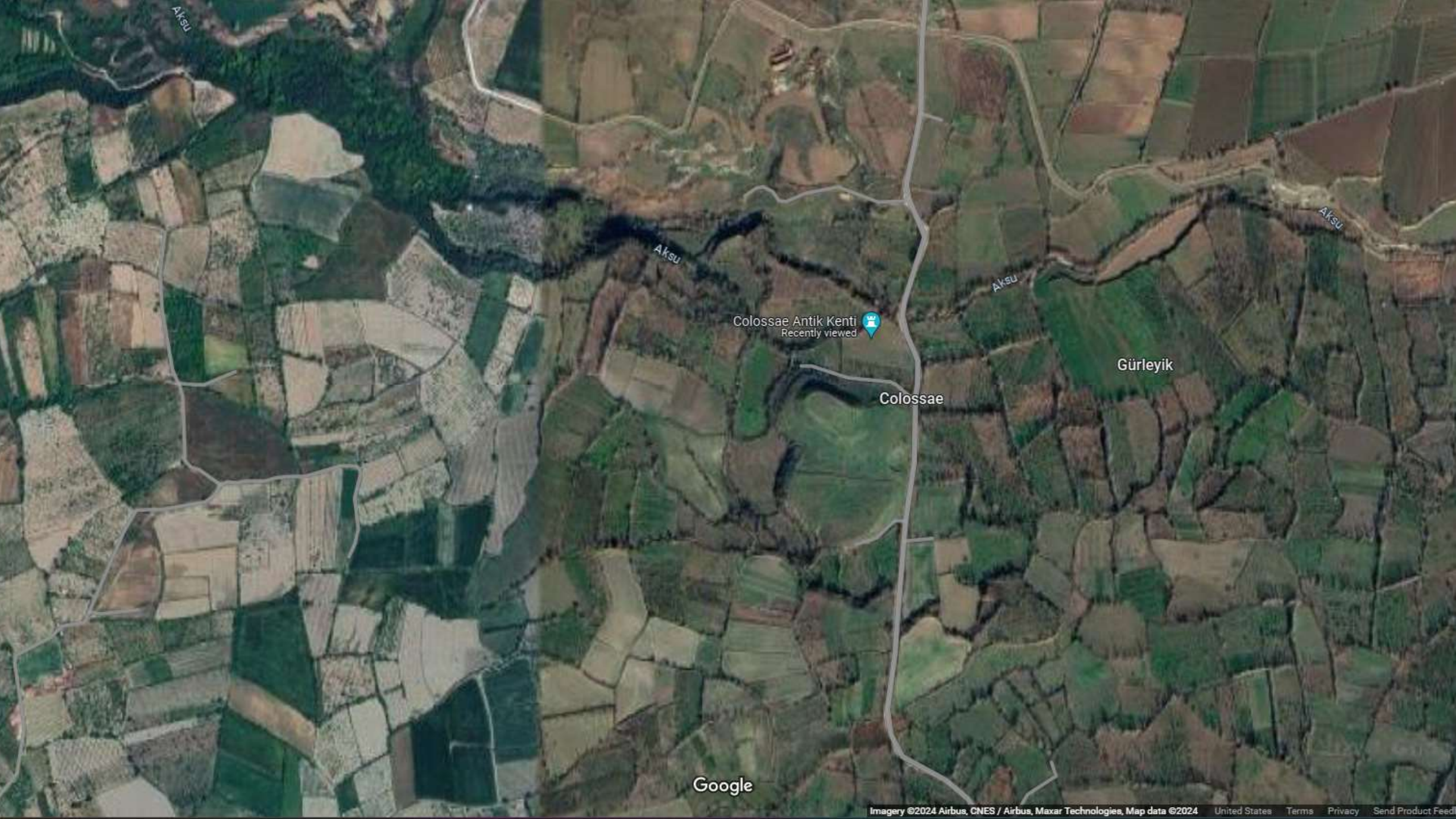
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Timeline of The Apostle Paul

(Dates approximate and some in question)

- Birth and Education
  - AD 6 Born Roman citizen to Jewish parents in Tarsus (modern Turkey)
  - 20–30 Studies Torah in Jerusalem with Gamaliel; a Pharisee
  - 30–33 Persecutes followers of Jesus in Jerusalem and Judea
- Conversion
  - 33–36 Converted on the way to
    - Spends three years in Arabia
    - Returns to Damascus to preach Jesus
  - 36 Flees Damascus because of p
    - Visits Jerusalem and meets with the a
  - 36–44 Preaches in Tarsus and surr
  - 44–46 Invited by Barnabas to teo
  - 46 With Barnabas visits Jerusalem



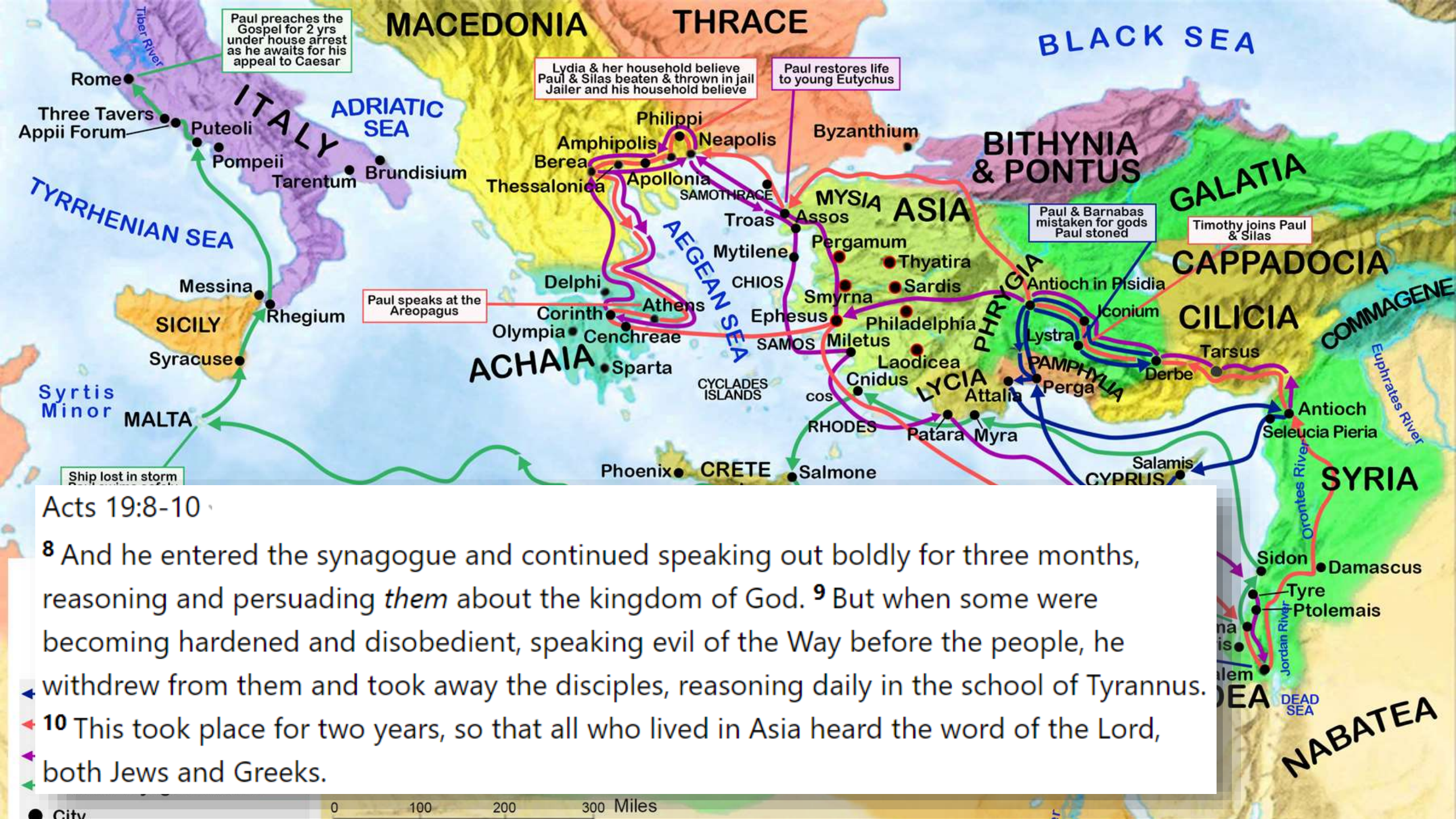
Timeline of The Apostle – Misson Trips

- 47–48 First missionary journey with Barnabas, to Cyprus and Galatia
- 49 At the Council of Jerusalem; Paul argues that Gentile Christians need not follow Jewish law; returns to Antioch; confronts Peter
- 49–52 Second missionary journey with Silas, through Asia Minor and Greece; settles in Corinth
- 52 Visits Jerusalem & Antioch briefly; begins third missionary journey
- 52–55 Stays in **Ephesus**; writes the letters to Galatians and Corinthians
- 55–57 Travels through Greece and possibly Illyricum; writes Romans

Apostle Paul Timeline – Arrest & Death

- 57–59 Returns to Jerusalem; arrested & imprisoned at Caesarea
- 59–60 Before Festus; appeals to Caesar; voyage to Rome
- 60–62 Under house arrest at Rome; writes letters to Philippians, Ephesians, **Colossians**, and Philemon
- 62–64 Released; possible journey to Spain; writes Timothy & Titus
- 64-67 Returns to Rome; martyred





Acts 19:8-10

8 And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God. **9** But when some were becoming hardened and disobedient, speaking evil of the Way before the people, he withdrew from them and took away the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. **10** This took place for two years, so that all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Church at Colossae

- Paul did not visit Colossae
- Planted by Epaphras when Paul was at Ephesus
  - Laodicea and Hierapolis as well
- Met in Philemon's home
- Onesimus from Colossae

Heresies at Colossae – 2:8-25

- A belief system, called a "hollow and deceptive philosophy" (2:8)
- Traditions of men (2:8)
- Elemental spiritual forces underlie the system (2:8)
- Not Christ-centered (2:8)
- Food restrictions (2:16)
- Jewish "holy days" (2:16)
- Ascetic disciplines are encouraged (2:18, 23)
- Angel worship (2:18)
- Visionary experiences (2:18)
- Pride characterizes the proponents (2:18)
- Losing connection with Christ is the result (2:19)
- Rule-keeping is urged (2:20-23)
- Circumcision is advocated (2:11, 13; 3:11)
- Christ is being denigrated (2:17)
- Ascetism (2:18, 23)

Colossians 2:8-23

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the
elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have
been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without
hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you
were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were
dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our
trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a
Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting
on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not
holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a
growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to
regulations— 21 "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to
human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism
and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Colossians 3

3 So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. **6** Because of these, God's wrath is coming upon the disobedient, **7** and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. **8** But now, put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. **11** In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

12 Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a grievance against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you are also to forgive. **14** Above all, put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. **15** And let the peace of Christ, to which you were also called in one body, rule your hearts. And be thankful. **16** Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. **17** And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them. **20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they won't become discouraged. **22** Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. **23** Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, **24** knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.

Outline of Colossians

1) 1:1-2 – Salutation (Introduction and Overview)
2) Chapters 1-2 – Complete in Christ our Lord
   a) 1:3-14 – Paul's prayer for the Colossians
      i. 1:3-8: Prayer of thanks for gospel growth
      ii. 1:9-14: Prayer for a walk worthy of the Lord
   b) 1:15-20: The supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ
   c) 1:21 – 2:7 Paul's passion for proclaiming the sufficiency of Christ
      i. 1:21-29 For the gospel to gentiles
      ii. 2:1-7 For stability of faith Colossian church
   d) Complete in Christ, therefore:
      i. 2:8-10 Reject empty philosophy
      ii. 2:11-15 Shun legalism
      iii. 2:16-23 Turn from shadows of ritual to substance of Christ



Outline of Colossians

3) Complete in Christ our Life Ch 2-3
   a) Raised up with Christ 3:1-4
   b) Death to the old, put on the new 3:5-11
   c) Put on the new toward one another 3:12-14
   d) Letting the peace and word of God rule within 3:15-17
   e) Christian homes that honors the Lord 3:18-21
   f) Christian work that honors the Lord 3:22-4:1
   g) Prayer, Conduct and Speech that honors the Lord 4:2-6
4) Final remarks 4:7-18



Colossians

- Deeply Theological
- Personal, Pastoral Letter
- Correct Theology = Correct Living

- Big Question on Theology = “Where does it put Jesus Christ?”



Colossians: 3 Main Points

- Jesus Christ is Preeminent 1:18

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.



Colossians: 3 Main Points

- Jesus Christ is Preeminent (1:18)
- Believers are in Jesus Christ (1:27)

Colossians 1:27

27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians: 3 Main Points

- Jesus Christ is Preeminent (1:18)
- Believers are in Jesus Christ (1:27)
- We are complete in Him (1:28)

Colossians 1:28

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Colossians: Theme Verse

- Jesus Christ is Preeminent (1:18)
- Believers are in Jesus Christ (1:27)
- We are complete in Him (1:28)

Colossians 2:9-10

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is
the head over every ruler and authority;



Colossians 1:1-2

- Apostolos of Jesus Christ
  - Delegate, Ambassador of the Gospel, Messenger, Commissioned of Christ, One sent
  - By the Will of God



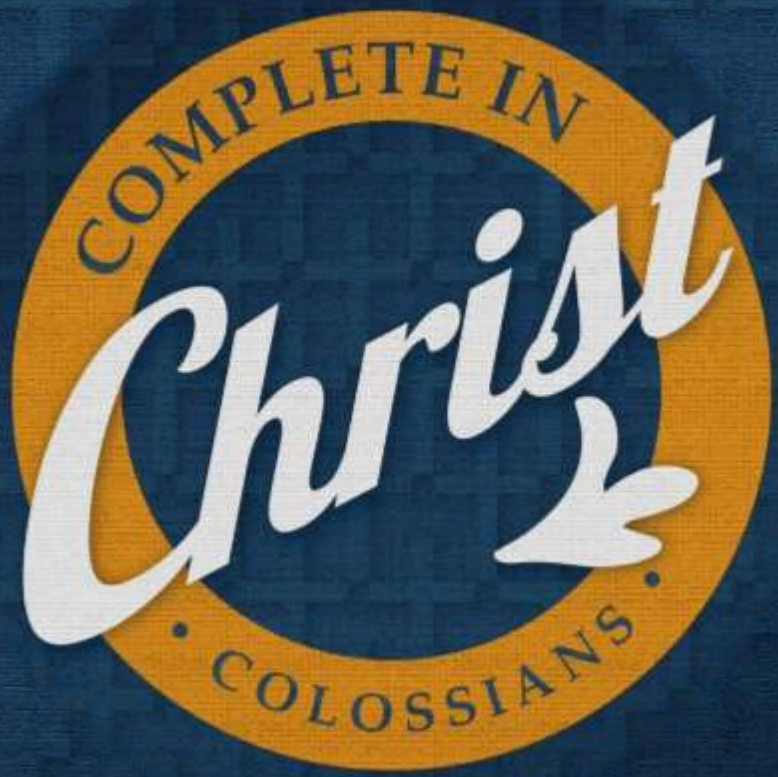
by Je

im from the dead)

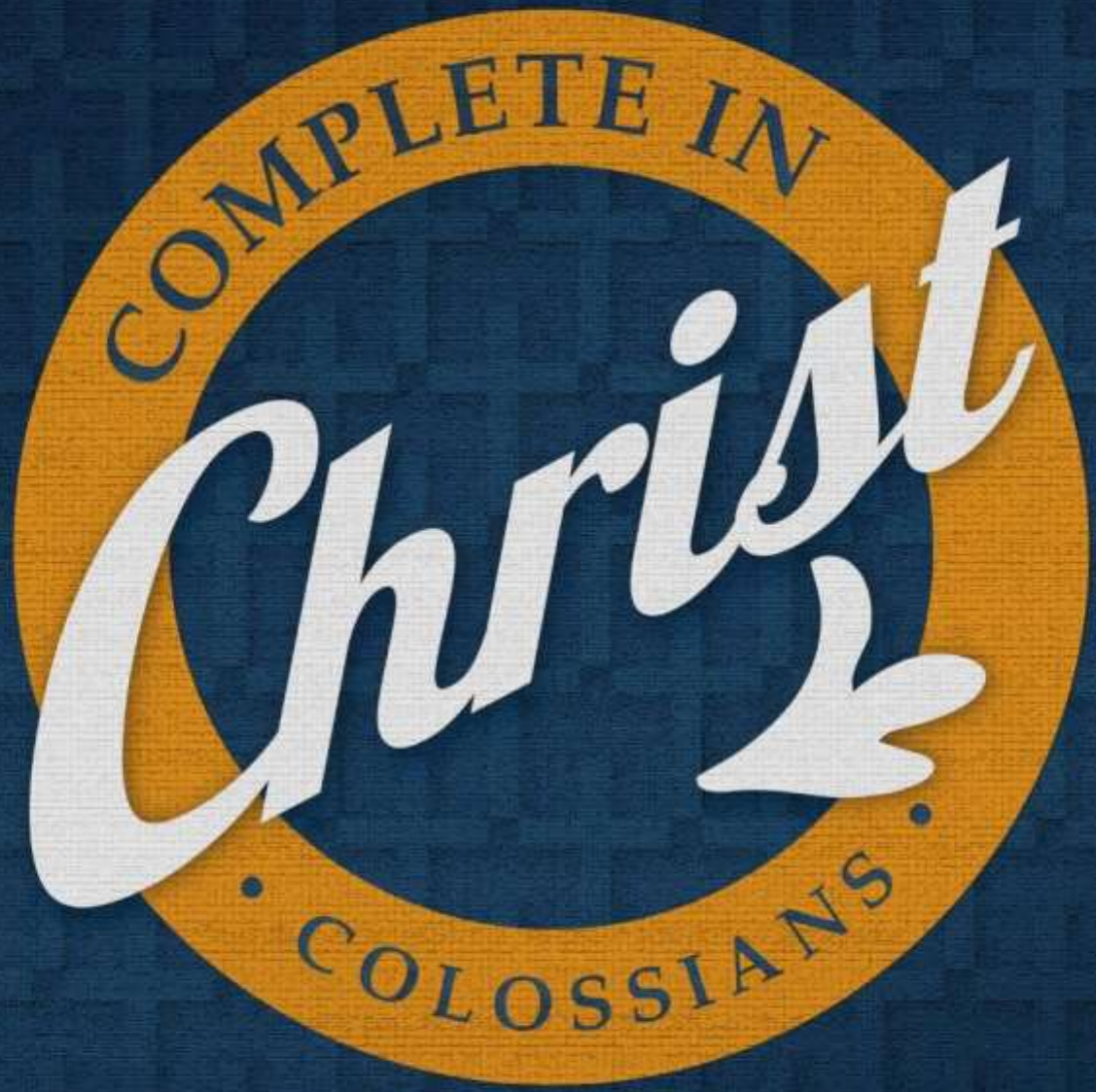
“Everybody is Somebody in Christ’s Body”

Colossians 1:1-2

- Apostolos of Jesus Christ
  - Delegate, Ambassador of the Gospel, Messenger, Commissioned of Christ, One sent
  - By the Will of God
- Fellowship of Believers
- In Christ
- Grace and Peace



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Colossians 3

3 Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on
the things above, not on the things that are on earth. 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, is
revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry. 6 For it
is because of these things that the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience, 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in
them. 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you
laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the
One who created him— 11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave
and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; 13 bearing
with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. 14 Beyond all these
things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity. 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be
thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual
songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through
Him to God the Father.

18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be embittered against them. 20 Children, be
obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart,
fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the
reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done,
and that without partiality.

PAUL'S MISSION TRIP 2: 3 years, 2700 miles (4345 km)



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Timeline of The Apostle – Misson Trips

