
Detective Dan's (Shorter/Simpler) Version of Bible Story for Big Question 13, Bible Truth 5

The Case of the Confused Christians *Colossians*

(Numbers correspond to Bible story picture pages in Detective Dan's Big Question Box)

1. Epaphras packed his bags and left Colossae. Where did he go? No one knows for sure. Many think he went to the big city of Ephesus. But we DO know that when Epaphras returned, he was a changed man. And, it was through Paul preaching God's Word, that these changes came.

2. Every afternoon, Paul preached from God's Word. "God promised in the His Word to send Jesus to die on the cross and save God's people from their sins," Paul taught. "On Day Three, Jesus rose from the dead, proving He'd done it. Turn from your sins and trust in Jesus as your Savior!"

3. Epaphras must have been in the crowd. As he listened, God's Holy Spirit worked powerfully in his heart. Epaphras believed God's Word. He turned away from his sins and trusted in Jesus as his Savior. Epaphras' life was completely changed. This was such good news!

4. Epaphras learned more of God's Word from Paul so he could teach the Jews and Gentiles back in Colossae. The Jews needed to trust in Jesus, not in keeping God's laws. The Gentiles needed to turn from their fake gods and fake magical necklaces. Epaphras wanted them all to be saved.

5. At last, Epaphras said goodbye to Paul and went home. He preached the good news to all who would listen. What would the Jews think? What would the Gentiles think? Would they believe Epaphras' good news from God's Word?

6. The Holy Spirit worked in many hearts as Epaphras preached from God's Word. He helped the Jews trust in Jesus, not in keeping God's laws. He helped the Gentiles in Jesus, not in their fake gods and fake magical necklaces. Now, there was a church of believers in Colossae. How wonderful!

7. Epaphras prayed for the new believers and taught them God's Word. God's Word would help them keep on loving God and living for Him. Very soon, they would need all the help God's Word could give them. Bad teachers were coming with lies to cause all kinds of trouble.

8. "Jesus isn't enough," the bad teachers said to the Jewish believers. "You must keep all the old Jewish laws, too." "Jesus isn't enough to protect you from bad things," they told the Gentile believers. "Put the magical necklaces back on." All the believers were confused and scared.

9. Epaphras needed help, and he knew just who to ask for it: Paul. So once more, Epaphras packed his bags and left Colossae. But this time he went to faraway Rome, where Paul was in prison for telling others about Jesus.

10. Epaphras found Paul and told him everything that was happening in Colossae. What should he do? Paul shared his wisdom and prayed for the Colossae church. Best of all, he gave Epaphras a letter to take back to the believers. Letter in hand, Epaphras headed back home.

11. In Colossae, Epaphras read Paul's letter, "Dear Believers in Colossae, Epaphras told me how you heard the Word of truth about Jesus and believed. Help each other keep remembering what you've learned," he told them. "Don't go back to your old ways. Jesus IS enough. Signed, Paul"

12. Some of the believers in Colossae kept struggling with what the bad teachers said, but many were helped by Paul's words. They would trust God's Word to tell the truth about Jesus. They would trust it to give them all they needed to keep on loving God and living for Him.