

Colossians 1:1-8 Greetings and Thanksgiving

1. Paul, an apostle • Colossians 1:1

- a. Paul opens 8 of his 13 epistles this way (apostle + by the will of God)
- b. Apostle = foundation layer (Eph 2:20, 1 Cor 3:10, Rom 15:10)
- c. By the kingdom gospel, Paul was not qualified (Acts 1:21-22, 1 Cor 15:9)
- d. "By the will of God", a defense of apostleship; by God's grace Paul held this office (1 Tim 1:16-17, 2:3-7, Gal 2:6-8)
- e. Galatians 1 is one of the clearest passages of Paul defending his apostleship (See also: 2 Cor 11:3-5, 11:23, 2 Cor 12:11)
- f. Timothy, beloved son, also an apostle in the body of Christ (2 Tim 2:2, Eph 4:11, 1 Thess 2:6)

2. To the saints • Colossians 1:2

- a. Saint = sanctified, set apart, holy, sacred (Rom 15:15-16, 1 Cor 1:2, 1:30, 6:9-11)
- b. Faithful: saved, serving, yet in need of understanding for perfecting (Col 1:9, Col 2:8, 2:18, 1 Thess 3:9-10)
- c. At Colosse: In Phrygia near Laodicea, letter shared with those in Laodicea (Col 4:15)
- d. "Grace be unto you, and peace..." variation of this in every of Paul's epistles.

3. We give thanks to God, praying • Colossians 1:3-5

- a. Thanksgiving is the will of God, salvation is the operation of God - thank you! (1 Thess 5:18)
- b. Pray for others, and not just believers - also the will of God (Phil 1:3-4, 1 Tim 2:1-4)
- c. Faith and love = fruit of the Spirit, the Colossians are exhibiting fruit (Gal 5:22, Phil 4:8)
- d. For the hope (heard in word), word of God → faith → hope
 - i. Biblical hope is something not seen, yet sure. (Rom 8:23-24, Heb 11:1)
 - ii. Hope: to be clothed upon, glory (2 Cor 5:1-7, Col 1:27)
 - iii. Hope: Jesus Christ (1 Tim 1:1, Titus 2:13)
- e. The gospel was communicated to the Colossians, it must be heard to be believed (2 Thess 2:14, Rom 10:17, Eph 1:13)

4. Fruit in you • Colossians 1:6-8

- a. If you are saved, the Spirit is able to produce fruit unto God (Rom 6:20-23, Gal 6:7-8)
- b. The law cannot accomplish this, we need to be dead to the law (Rom 7:4-5, Gal 3:24-25)
- c. Epaphras delivered the gospel to this group and desires they be perfect (Col 4:12)
- d. Faithful ministers spread the gospel, labor with God (1 Cor 3:5, 2 Cor 5:18-20)
 - i. Faithful stewards of the mysteries of God (1 Cor 4:1-2)
 - ii. Faithful men (2 Tim 2:2)