

Colossians - Chapter 1

Colossians 1:1-2 – “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”

3972 [e]	652 [e]	5547 [e]	2424 [e]	1223 [e]	2307 [e]	2316 [e]	2532 [e]	5095 [e]	3588 [e]	80 [e]
Paulos	apostolos	Christou	Iēsou	dia	thelēmatos	Theou	kai	Timotheos	ho	adelphos
1 Παῦλος	ἀπόστολος	Χριστοῦ	Ἰησοῦ	διὰ	θελήματος	Θεοῦ	, καὶ	Τιμόθεος	ὁ	ἀδελφός
Paul	an apostle	of Christ	Jesus	by	[the] will	of God	and	Timothy	the	brother
N-NMS	N-NMS	N-GMS	N-GMS	Prep	N-GNS	N-GMS	Conj	N-NMS	Art-NMS	N-NMS

3588 [e]	1722 [e]	2857 [e]	40 [e]	2532 [e]	4103 [e]	80 [e]	1722 [e]	5547 [e]	5485 [e]
Tois	en	Kolossais	hagiois	kai	pistois	adelphois	en	Christō	Charis
2 Τοῖς	ἐν	Κολοσσαῖς	ἁγίοις	καὶ	πιστοῖς	ἀδελφοῖς	ἐν	Χριστῷ	: Χάρις
To the	in	Colossae	saints	and	faithful	brothers	in	Christ	Grace
Art-DMP	Prep	N-DFP	Adj-DMP	Conj	Adj-DMP	N-DMP	Prep	N-DMS	N-NFS

4771 [e]	2532 [e]	1515 [e]	575 [e]	2316 [e]	3962 [e]	1473 [e]
hymin	kai	eirēnē	apo	Theou	Patros	hēmōn
ὑμῖν	καὶ	εἰρήνη	ἀπὸ	Θεοῦ	Πατρὸς	ἡμῶν
to you	and	peace	from	God	[the] Father	of us
PPro-D2P	Conj	N-NFS	Prep	N-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P

1. Greeting – None of Paul’s letters begin the same. This provides a clue concerning the content and attitude of the letter.
 - a. Paul uses “apostle” not because his authority is under attack like in Corinth and Galatia, but as credentials for the right to discern false teaching and doctrinal error they are dealing with.
 - b. Paul adds to authority in “the will of God” not self-appointment.
 - c. Timothy as “our brother” which seems to indicate a connection with Colossae, so Timothy’s name is used.
 - d. Dual Kingdoms is introduced in this Greeting and will be developed beginning in 1:13. But for now it is identified as:
 - i. believers living “in Colossae”
 - ii. while also being alive “in Christ.”
 - e. “Holy” means “set apart” for the work of God. They belong to the Lord while “in Colossae.”
 - f. “Faithful” describes the quality of their relationship with the Lord. They are proving to be faithful “in Colossae.”
 - g. “Grace” was common Greek greeting which meant “favor.” Paul uses it to refer to God’s favor offered to man.
 - h. “Peace” (91x in NT) is the Greek word “*eirene*” (meaning, “one, peace, quietness, rest”) used to express the Hebrew word “*shalom*” (250 x in OT). Means well-being,

wholeness, total harmony and express the general Hebrew sense of the individual's welfare. This favor and wholeness are from God the Father, presented here as "God OUR Father."

2. In this greeting there is no specific problem hinted at.
 - a. Galatians - Consider the conflict in Galatians 1:1.
 - b. Corinthians - claim of authority, demand for holiness and conformity in 1 Cor. 1:1-3.
 - c. Romans - The embracing and presenting of the Gospel in Romans 1:1-3.
 - d. 1 Tim, 2 Tim, and Titus - their calling and teaching.
 - e. James 1:1, servant, Israel, Greetings.
 - f. 1 Peter, an apostle to the scattered, yet elect!
 - g. 2 Peter, an apostle who is a servant to those who have the same, similar, valuable faith as me...stay focused on the knowledge;
 - h. Jude, servant of Jesus, brother of James to those who are called, loved and kept.
 - i. Revelation 1:4-8.
3. Colossians is to be read to all the believers according to Colossians 4:16.
4. Already in the greeting the need for a mystical experience or Merkabah vision for a full experience is rejected.
 - a. The "greeting" in Colossians 1:1-2 teaches that the believers have these things assured to them already:
 - i. An authoritative word from God... Paul is an "apostle"
 - ii. Leadership from God... Paul in "the will of God"
 - iii. A relationship with God...they are "saints"
 - iv. An allegiance to Christ...they are "faithful"
 - v. Addresses the Cultural tension...they are "in Christ" while "in Colossae"
 - vi. Affirmed relationship with God...they are "favored"
 - vii. Confirmed attainment...they are at "peace" (wholeness, total well-being) with God
 - viii. They are not alone, but belong...they are members of those who can say "our Father"
5. Paul's greetings include:
 - a. writer,
 - b. identification of the writer,
 - c. associates,
 - d. recipients with description,
 - e. blessing

1:3-8 Thanksgiving for what the Gospel had done in Colossae. Not what people had done or ministry or application or counseling or programs or etc. (Exodus 18:15-23, 18:17 and 20, "What you are doing is not good...Teach them the decrees and laws, and show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform.")