

## *Introducing Colossians*

Today we begin an in depth study through the book of Colossians.

### **Question #1** - Why Study Colossians?

I'll give you 5 reasons to study this book.

(Reason #1) - Colossians is in the Bible.

(Reason #2) - Colossians teaches us who the authentic Jesus really is.

(Reason #3) - Colossians debunks false ideas about the Christian lifestyle.

(Reason #4) - Colossians directly contradicts many false religious teachings.

(Reason #5) - Colossians will fill your mind with Jesus.

### **Question #2** - How does the book of Colossians begin?

*[1] Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, [2] To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. (ESV)*

## **GOD, THROUGH PAUL, BEGAN HIS LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS BY PREPARING THE READERS MINDS FOR WHAT WAS TO COME.**

How did God prepare the readers? By assuring them of 3 realities

### **(Reality #1)** - Through this letter, God has given His people a written source of authority. **1:1**

The Colossian church needed to counter the false teachings of their area with an authoritative message. When Epaphras went to Paul and Paul sent the letter to Colossae, they had in their possession an authoritative message.

How can we know this letter was authoritative? It was coming from God through an apostle of Christ Jesus - the apostle Paul. An apostle was a person who was a specially appointed messenger by Jesus Himself. An apostle is a messenger - a delegate - he is sent forth with orders. An apostle of Jesus Christ is a person specifically sent forth with orders by Jesus Himself in order to give others a message.

Paul the apostle can say that he personally was approached by Jesus Himself. Paul didn't even want this job, but it was the will of God.

I want you to notice that Paul distinguishes himself from Timothy in regards to this idea of apostleship. He says he (Paul) is an apostle but Timothy is a brother. Timothy was not an apostle. Why? Because the Bible explains to us what is needed in order to be an apostle. There are requirements that a person must meet in order to be an apostle of Christ Jesus.

1. Specifically called by Jesus Christ. Acts 9:15.
2. Seen Jesus risen from the grave. 1 Corinthians 9:1
3. Taught in person by Jesus Himself. Galatians 1:12-18
4. Given sign gifts of apostolic miracles. 2 Corinthians 12:11-12

Paul fit the Biblical requirements of an apostle. He never said he was part of the twelve. He referred to himself as the apostle to the Gentiles, and he referred to the twelve as the twelve. Timothy did not fit the requirements of an apostle.

There's a lot of people today claiming to have authority of apostleship, but do they fit the Biblical requirements? If there was anyone in line to take over the position of apostle after Paul died, it would have been Timothy. But we read no where in the Bible that Paul was prepping Timothy to be an apostle. Why? Because Timothy, although Paul's choice man, did not meet the requirements.

**(Reality #2)** - Through this letter, God's aim is to grow His people into the spiritual position they already have while living in their physical placement in this world. **1:2a**

Paul writes who the recipients of this letter are by giving two explanations. He explains their spiritual position and their physical location. As far as their Spiritual position goes, they are in Christ, but physically, they are at Colossae.

If you are a Christian, you live in two different realms at the same time. Positionally, you're in Christ. Physically, you're in this world. Christians are in this world but not of this world (John 17). God places you by grace through faith into Christ, and His goal is to make you more and more like Christ as the days go on.

A saint has the same root meaning as the words holy, sanctify, and consecrated. Saint = set apart by God from the world unto God. We are set apart by God for God's purposes. We are set apart and called by God holy. That is a saint. A Saint is anyone who has placed his or her faith into Jesus for salvation. You are a saint, if you have trusted in Jesus for eternal life. You are a saint, if your faith rests completely in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins.

Paul uses the term faithful. There is no article before faithful. Saints are classified as the faithful people of God. Saints and faithful brethren are the same. Positionally you are a saint, but in practice, you're faithful. The two go hand in hand.

**(Reality #3)** - Through this letter, God will comfort His people. **1:2b**

God's message to His people will convict us, it will challenge us, but it also will comfort us. A true and authoritative message of God focuses on grace and peace.

Grace is when God gives us something good that we do not deserve. It's unmerited favor.

G ods  
R iches  
A t  
C hrist's  
E xpense

Will you respond to the grace of God today? Do you know what happens to a person who's responds to God's grace? He has peace in his soul. Would you like to be at peace with God and have the peace of God? It comes from God and it becomes your through receiving His grace by faith.

This book of Colossians is an authoritative writing of God. It's going to teach us who Jesus really is. It's going to challenge us, but it will also comfort us.