

COLOSSIANS: Complete In Christ

Lesson 2

Opening Greetings & Admonitions (1:1-12)

Introduction

Judging from the way Paul praises the Colossian Christians in the opening remarks of this epistle, one would think he knew them intimately. Most likely, he had never even seen them (2:1). This emphasizes the credibility of Epaphras and his love for those at Colossae among whom he had labored (1:7; 4:12).

Even though Paul did not know them personally, these saints had done well and the Holy Spirit thought it proper for Paul to commend them for their faithfulness.

- 1) How does Paul identify himself? (v. 1a; Acts 9:15; 1 Cor. 9:14-17; Gal. 1:11-16)

- 2) Who had joined Paul in Roman imprisonment? (v. 1b; Phil. 1:1; 2:19-23; Phlm. 1)

- 3) What terms are used to describe the Colossian Christians? (v. 2a)

- 4) What does Paul say he has done re: the Colossian saints? (v. 3) What does Paul say had caused him to give thanks and pray for these brethren? (vv. 4-6) [NOTE: consider also Eph. 1:15-16]

- 5) Who is mentioned in v. 7a? What role had he apparently played in the life of the Colossian church? (cp. 4:12) What else had he done for the Colossians? (v. 8) What would happen to him? (Phlm. 23)

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- 6) Because of what Epaphras told Paul about the Colossians, for what did the apostle pray on behalf of these brethren? (vv. 9-10a) *[NOTE: consider also Eph. 1:17]*

- 7) In vv. 10b-12, Paul lists 4 participles that help identify such a “worthy walk with the Lord.” *(Greek participles were often used to describe verbs...they also often end in “-ing.”)*
Use the spaces below to list these 4 participles.

v. 10b _____

v. 10c _____

v. 11 _____

[HINT: this is the only one of the 4 not translated in most versions as a participle.]

[NOTE: consider also Eph. 1:19]

v. 12 _____
