

# Message Notes

## Welcome to Colossians

# Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

### Introduction – Two Cups and a String

#### New Message Series:

*Rooted in Christ ~ A study of Colossians*

Today's Message: Welcome to Colossians  
Colossians 1:1-2

#### Who wrote this letter? (Colossians 1:1a)

*Paul's Story*  
Acts 9:1-22

#### Where was he when he wrote Colossians? (Colossians 4:10)

*When was the letter written?*

#### Who is the letter to? (Colossians 1:2a)

*History of Colossae*

*History of the church in Colossae*  
Acts 18:23-19:10

#### Greetings (Colossians 1:2b)

*Paul's Greetings*  
Romans  
1 Corinthians  
1 Timothy

#### What's Colossians all about?

*The Colossians "Heresy"*  
Colossians 2:4, 8, 16-23

*Countering the false philosophy at Colossae:*  
Major Themes we will journey through

1. Welcome to Colossians (1:1-14) – see Colossians 1:9-10
2. Jesus: His Supremacy (1:15-20) – see Colossians 1:15-20
3. Jesus: The fulfillment of story of Scripture (1:21-2:5) – see Colossians 1:24-27
4. How to be rooted in Jesus as an individual and as a church (2:6-15) – see Colossians 2:6-7
5. Being Circumspect about what you believe (2:16-23) – see Colossians 2:8
6. What life looks like rooted in Jesus (3:1-4:18) – see Colossians 3:1-5a

**Gospel Application** – “Are you willing to bask in this wonderful book to be Rooted in Jesus?”

#### Colossians 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

#### Colossians 2:4, 8, 16-23

<sup>4</sup>I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments...

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. <sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. <sup>19</sup>They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

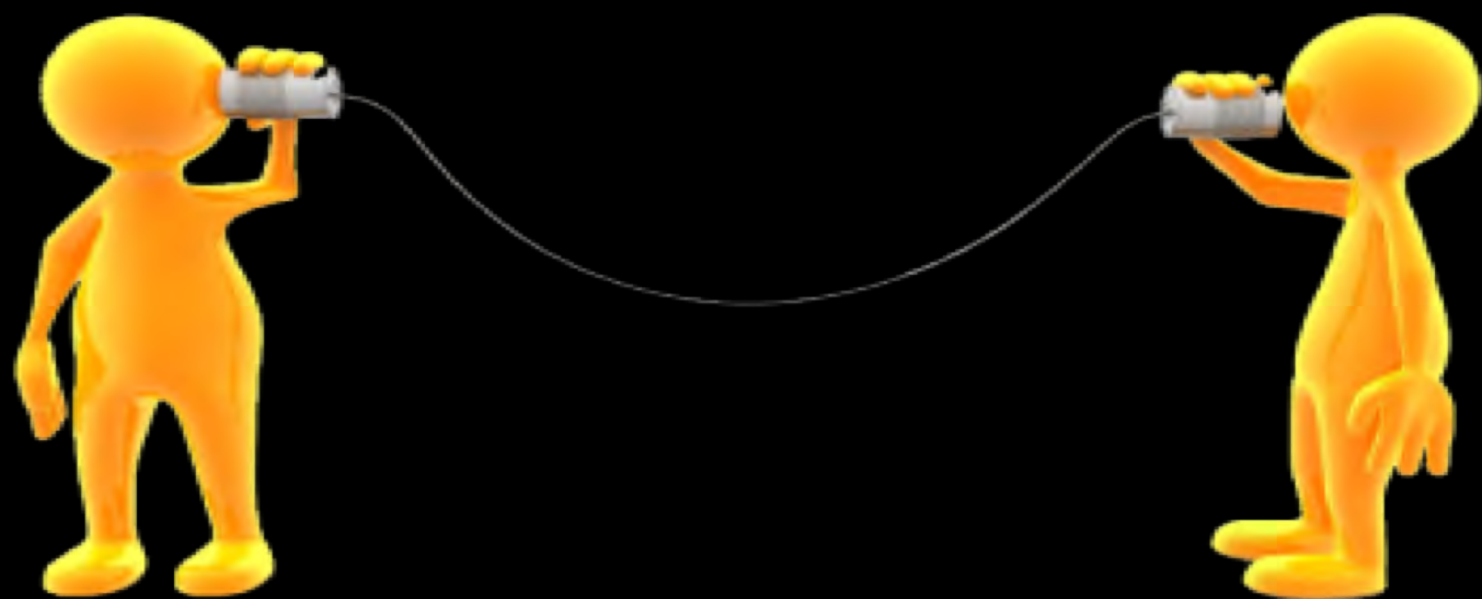
<sup>20</sup>Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup>“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? <sup>22</sup>These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup>Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.



Releasing children from poverty

Compassion<sup>®</sup>  
in Jesus' name

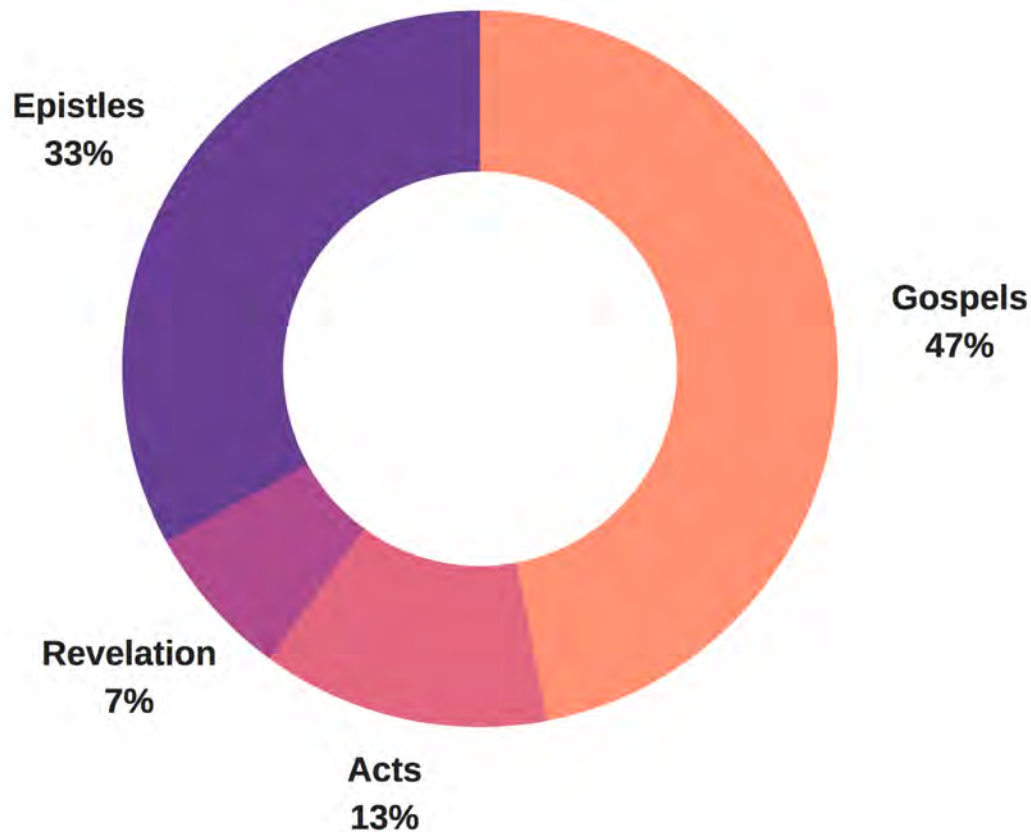


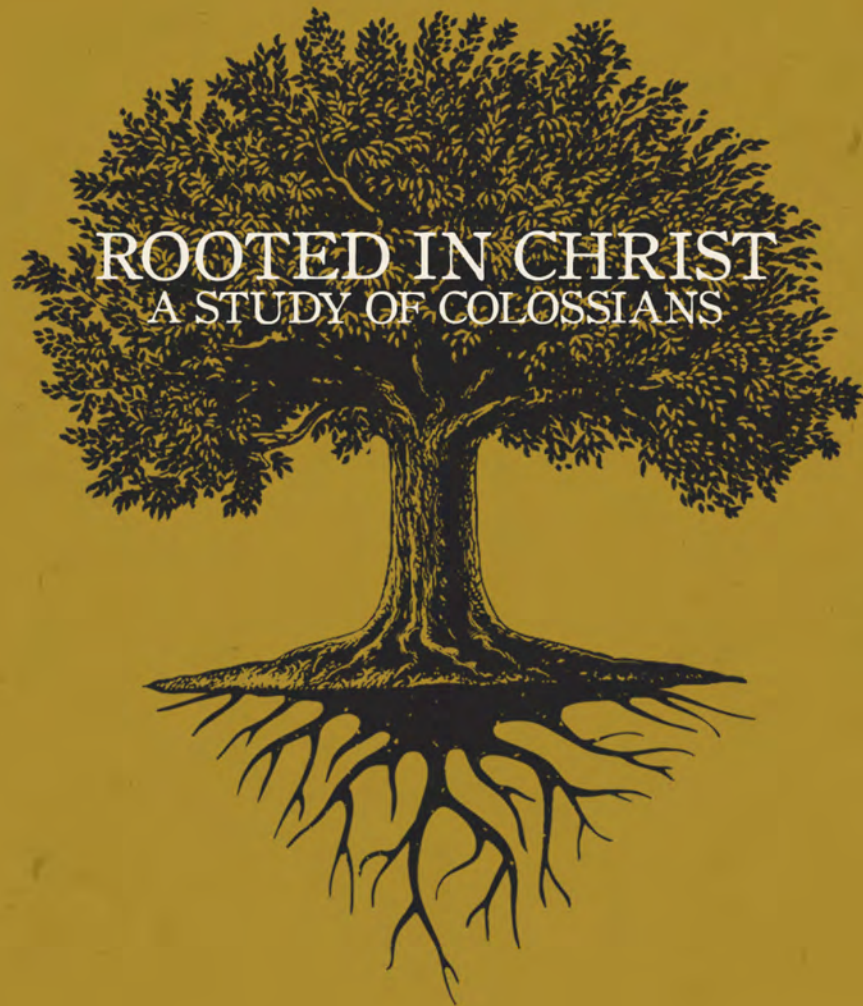




# The reality of our New Testament

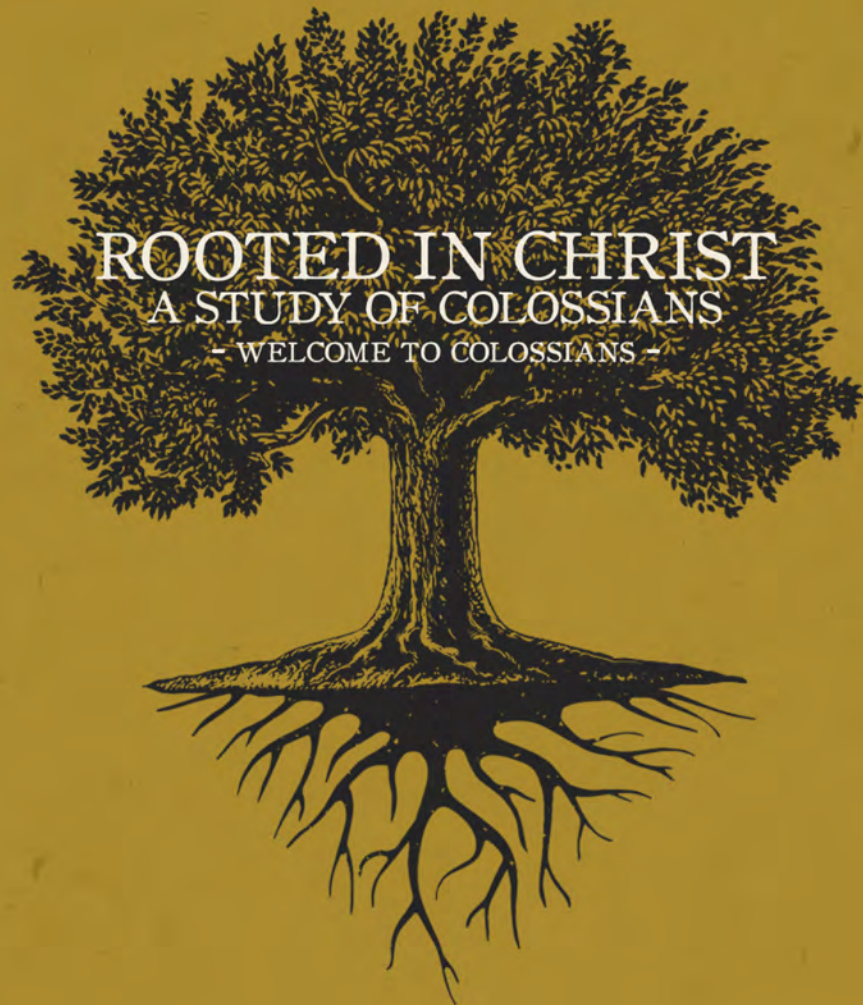
# The reality of our New Testament





# ROOTED IN CHRIST

## A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS



# Welcome to Colossians

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**Who's the guy on one  
end of the line?**



Who's the guy on one  
end of the line?

**FLINCK, Govert Teunisz.**

Apostle Paul

1635

Oil on canvas, 135 x 111 cm

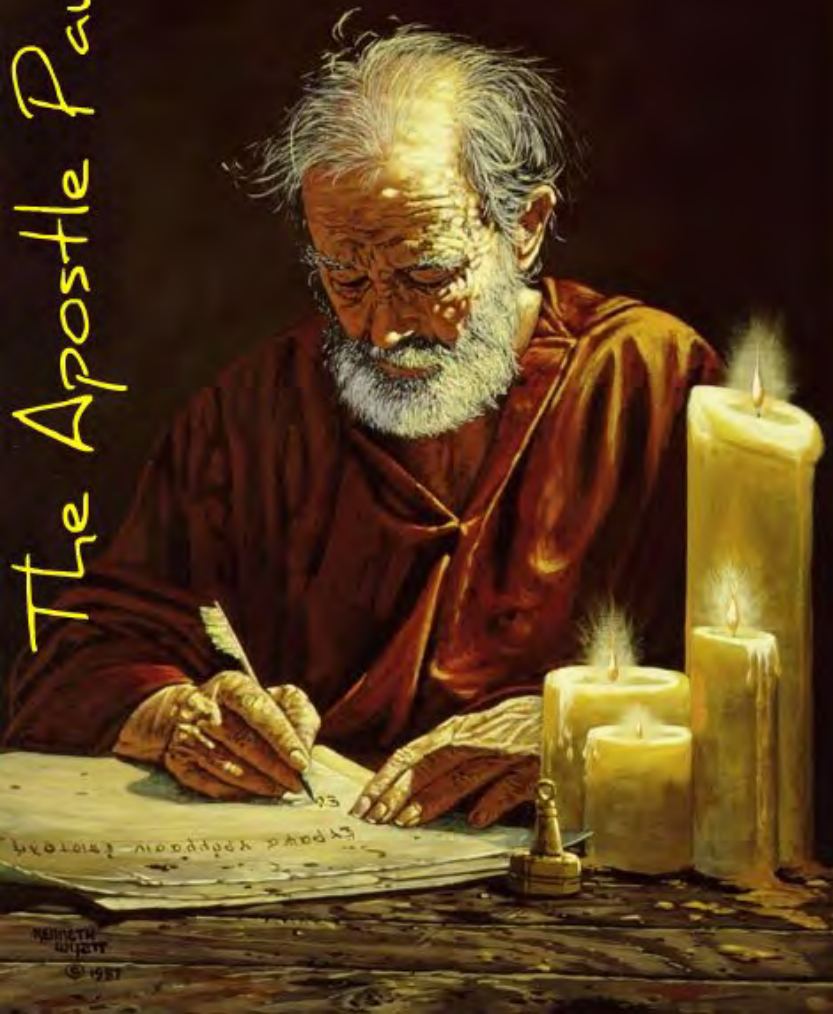
Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna



# Who's the guy on one end of the line?

**REMBRANDT Harmenszoon van Rijn**  
Self-Portrait as the Apostle Paul (detail)  
1661  
Oil on canvas  
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

The Apostle Paul



Who's the guy on one  
end of the line?

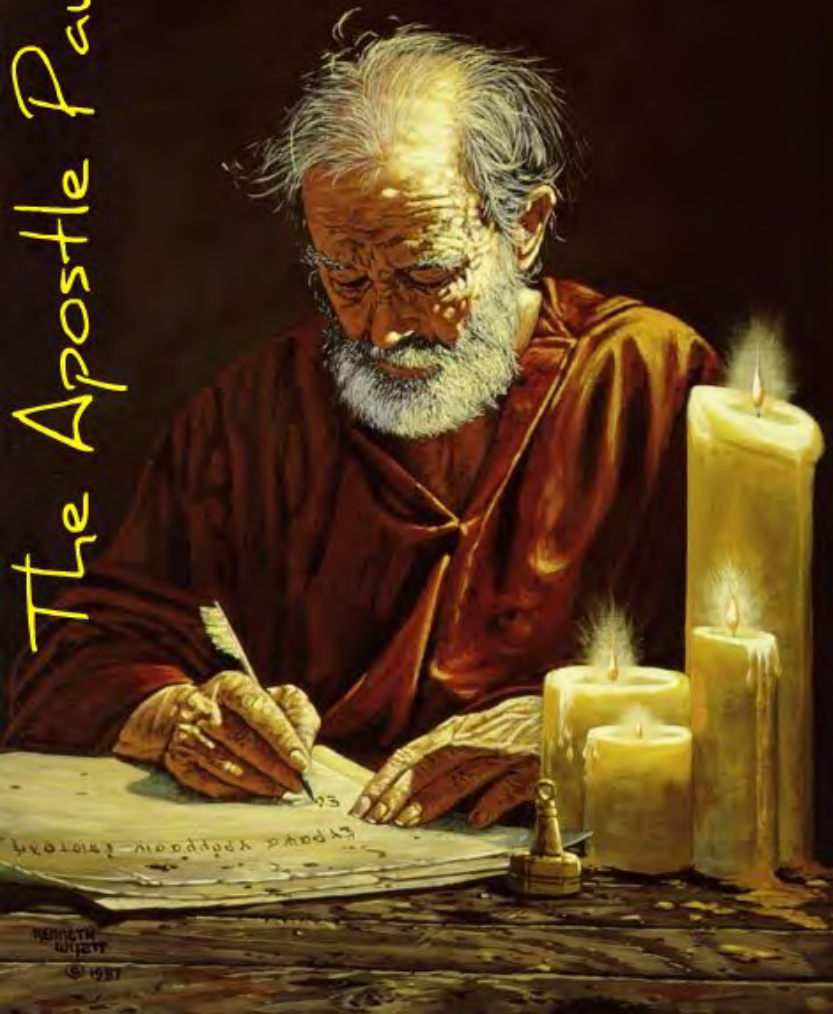
**Signed Portrait**  
The Apostle Paul  
62A.D.

**Who's the guy he's  
with?**



Who's the guy he's  
with?

The Apostle Paul



Paul's story

## Acts 9:1-22

<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

<sup>5</sup>"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

## Acts 9:1-22

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.

<sup>6</sup>“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

<sup>7</sup>The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

## Acts 9:1-22

<sup>10</sup>In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”

“Yes, Lord,” he answered.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup>In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.”

## Acts 9:1-22

<sup>13</sup>“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup>I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”

## Acts 9:1-22

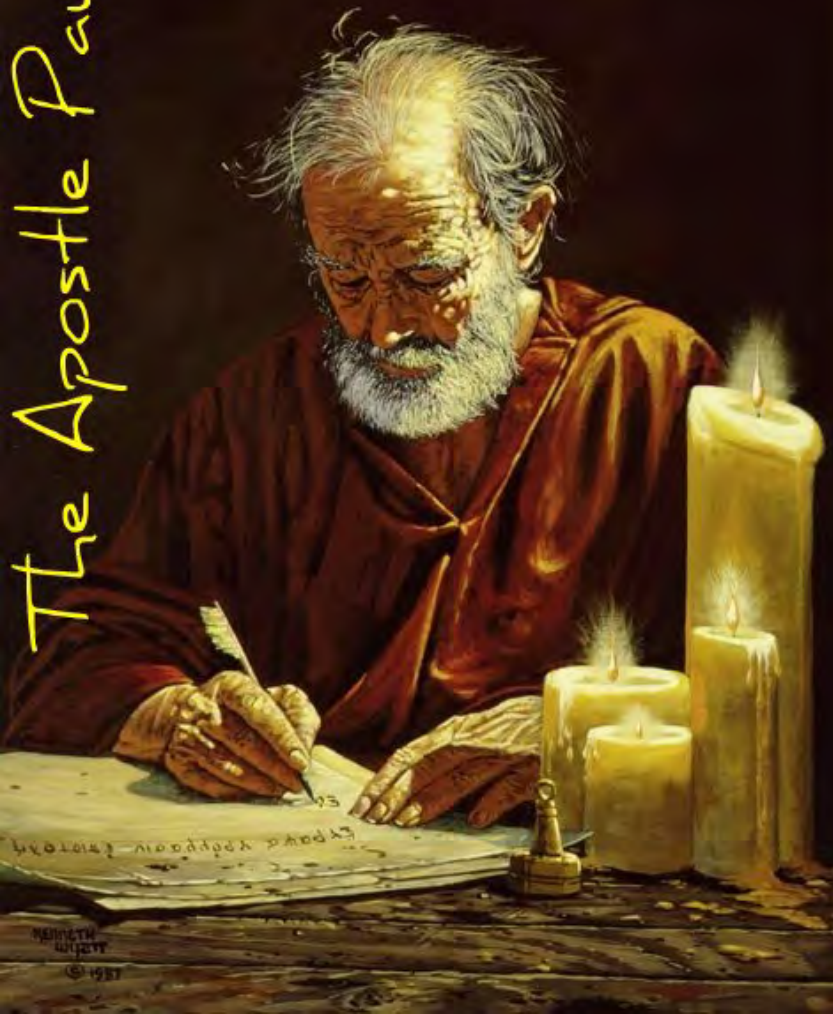
<sup>17</sup>Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord — Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

## Acts 9:1-22

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

<sup>20</sup>At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. <sup>21</sup>All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” <sup>22</sup>Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

The Apostle Paul



Where was he when he wrote Colossians?



# Where was Paul?

## Colossians 4:10

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Ephesus/Caesarea – mid to late '50s

Rome – early '60s

# Who is the letter written to?

## Colossians 1:1-2

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and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup>To God's holy people in Colossae,  
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We know little about the agricultural town of Colosse in the time of Paul except where it was located — on the southern bank of the Lycus River in the territory of Phrygia (modern Turkey), about 110 miles east of Ephesus. At one time it was a notable city; but during Paul's day its neighboring cities, Laodicea, eleven miles to the northwest, and Hierapolis, twelve miles to the northwest on the opposite side of the river, had outstripped it in importance. Colosse was situated in a region prone to earthquakes, and one rocked the area in A.D. 61–62, causing severe damage and possibly destroying the city. Laodicea was also devastated but recovered quickly. Colosse may not have been rebuilt, since, according to Reicke, no references to the city appear in Christian or pagan sources after A.D. 61.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, *The NIV Application Commentary*, 17.



# Greetings

## Colossians 1:1-2

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# Paul's Greetings

## Galatians 1:3-5

To the churches in Galatia:

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup>who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup>to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

# Paul's "Greetings"

## 1 Corinthians

<sup>1</sup>Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ  
Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere  
who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ —  
their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the  
Lord Jesus Christ.

# Paul's "Greetings"

## Romans

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — <sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

<sup>6</sup>And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Paul's "Greetings"

## 1 Timothy

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy my true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father  
and Christ Jesus our Lord.

# Greetings

## Colossians 1:1-2

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together praying anyone  
 love mind servant  
 God  
 raised always  
 invisible mystery wrath know  
 heaven basic world  
 hidden humility Lord  
 faith death comfort men  
 put also heard brother  
 principalities grace glory new  
 among Father thanks  
 hearts image  
 Christ  
 dwell  
 body knowledge Paul faithful  
 hope Paul peace made  
 things Jesus one  
 yet power dead  
 another minister brethren  
 saints church  
 word wisdom received  
 created fellow make lest  
 now earth  
 according  
 circumcision  
 flesh Laodicea man  
 read since

# What's Colossians all about?

What's the deal? *The Colossians "Heresy"*

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- F. O. FRANCIS: JEWISH CHRISTIAN MYSTICAL ASCETICISM

~ Peter T. O'Brien, *Colossians, Philemon*, vol. 44, *Word Biblical Commentary*, xxxiii–xxxvi.

No complete agreement has been achieved among scholars as to the nature of the teaching. Basically the heresy seems to have been Jewish, because of the references to food regulations, the Sabbath and other prescriptions of the Jewish calendar. Circumcision is mentioned (Col 2:11) but did not appear as one of the legal requirements... But what kind of Judaism? Apparently it was not the more straightforward kind against which the Galatian churches had to be warned, but was one in which asceticism and mysticism were featured and where angels and principalities played a prominent role in creation and the giving of the Law. They were regarded as controlling the communication between God and man, and so needed to be placated by keeping strict legal observances.

~ Peter Obrien in *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, Gerald F. Hawthorne, Ralph P. Martin, and Daniel G. Reid, eds (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 149.

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## S. P. TREICHLER: JUDAISM + YES!!!

Countering the false philosophy at Colossae:  
*Major Themes we will journey through in Colossians*

Paul's central message in Colossians is the affirmation of the sufficiency of Christ in the face of false philosophy in Colossae and the threat it posed to the truth of the gospel. Paul uses each section of the letter to address this problem....

Two major themes dominate the letter to the Colossians: cosmic Christology and the truth of the gospel.

Countering the false philosophy at Colossae:  
*Major Themes we will journey through in Colossians*

**Welcome to Colossians (1:1-14)**

## Colossians 1:9-10

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup>so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...

# Countering the false philosophy at Colossae: *Major Themes we will journey through in Colossians*

Welcome to Colossians (1:1-14)

**Jesus: His Supremacy (1:15-20)**

## Colossians 1:15-20

<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

# Countering the false philosophy at Colossae: *Major Themes we will journey through in Colossians*

Welcome to Colossians (1:1-14)

Jesus: His Supremacy (1:15-20)

**Jesus: The fulfillment of story of Scripture (1:21-2:5)**

## Colossians 1:24-27

<sup>24</sup>Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup>I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. <sup>27</sup>To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

# Countering the false philosophy at Colossae: *Major Themes we will journey through in Colossians*

Welcome to Colossians (1:1-14)

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Jesus: The fulfillment of story of Scripture (1:21-2:5)

**How to be rooted in Jesus as an individual and church (2:6-15)**

## **Colossians 2:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

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**Being Circumspect about what you believe (2:16-23)**

## Colossians 2:8

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**What life looks like rooted in Jesus (3:1-4:18)**

## Colossians 3:1-5a

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature...

# Gospel Application

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*Are you willing to bask in this  
wonderful book to be  
Rooted in Jesus?*