

FEB. 7, 2018

## Study Page: Col. 1:1-2

### In The Opening Lines

#### Reading Colossians 1:1-2

This is the usual format we discover in the study of New Testament epistles. Other epistles (non-biblical) of that era were similar.

**The writer is identified:** “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ.”

**The writer’s credibility is affirmed:** “...an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God.” (Paul did not make himself an apostle, nor did disciples elect him. He was chosen by Christ and therefore his work was carried out under “the will of God.”)

**The writer’s associate is named:** “...and timothy our brother.”

This is not information that lends itself to extensive commentary, but was necessary in the opening lines of epistles in that time.

Next, **the recipients are addressed:** “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colossae.”



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Colossians:

Study Page: Col. 1:1,2

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The term “**saints**” means – they were Christians, sanctified and set apart by the blood of Christ.

“**Faithful brethren**” indicates their loyalty, and their good association with others who shared that loyalty.

Perhaps one of the most important phrases in Colossians and Ephesians is, “**in Christ.**” That shows relationship with God, through or “in” Jesus Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism (see Col. 2:12).

To these brethren, Paul issued his warm wishes, put in spiritual terms: “**Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**”

It is noteworthy, even when Paul must sound an alarm, answer error or issue rebuke – he does all that in the context of his sincere love and care for the people.