

# *Christ Over All*

## *A study in Colossians*

Grace and Peace  
Colossians 1:1-2  
April 7, 2024

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. - Colossians 1:2

### I. A BACKGROUND TO COLOSSIANS

- Colossae was a small town with at least one new church plant. The city had waned in importance since its golden years, and was now supplanted by Laodicea ten miles to its west and Hierapolis, twelve miles to the northwest.
- This is a “prison epistle.” Paul is writing from what is likely his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28:20, 30-31; Eph. 3:1; Phil. 1:13; Col. 4:3; Philemon 1:10).

### II. AN APOSTLE...TO THE SAINTS

- The Apostle Paul writes to a primarily Gentile church in Colossae, although there were undoubtedly Jewish believers in the church as well.
- Paul has a specific ministry to the Gentiles. He is an apostle, set apart by the will of God for this work (Acts 9:13-16; Rom. 15:16; Gal. 2:7-8).
- The believers at Colossae are sinners transformed into saints, as are all followers of Jesus Christ (Vs. 2; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Peter 2:9-11).

### III. GRACE AND PEACE

- Paul sends the greeting of grace and peace to all the churches to whom he writes. It is an offer from Jesus to all those who believe in his name. It was purchased at the cross, and brings true reconciliation with God the Father (John 14:25-27).

**KNOW:** The Apostle Paul has not run without being sent. He is an apostle by the will of God, and he writes to sinners who have become saints in Colossae. He offers them the grace and peace of God.

**DO:** Receive the blessing of grace and peace through the Father and the Son.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Grace and Truth Paradox: Responding with Christlike Balance* by Randy Alcorn (Available in the LifePoint Library)

#### For Children:

*His Grace is Enough: How God Makes it Right When We've Got it Wrong* by Melissa Kruger (Available in the LifePoint Library).

**NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT:** Colossians 1:3-8

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### **Please Read Colossians 1:1-2**

1. What is the opening theme to this letter?
2. What does it mean that Paul was an “apostle?”
3. What makes the Colossian believers “saints?” Are believers today saints? What does that mean?
4. What have you learned about life in Roman Colossae? Are there any parallels with our lives today?
5. What are you hoping to learn from this study in Colossians? Are you willing to read through the letter multiple times during our study?
6. What application points can you make for yourself from this passage?