

## Colossal Thanks for Colossae (Col 1:1-8)

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### Introduction

#### Prologue (1:1-2)

**Author:** Paul

**Date of writing:** Fall of 61 AD (Paul has been imprisoned one and a half years in Rome)

Sent simultaneously with Ephesians and Philemon. Carried by Tychicus  
(Eph 6:20; Col 4:17)

**Place of writing:** Rome [During Paul's first Roman imprisonment]

#### **Paul's companions, recipients, and couriers:**

Philemon <sup>1</sup>Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved *friend* and fellow laborer <sup>2</sup> to the beloved Apphia, Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house... <sup>23</sup> Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, <sup>24</sup> *as do* Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

Colossians 1<sup>1</sup>: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother... 4<sup>7</sup> Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. <sup>8</sup> I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he<sup>1</sup> may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, <sup>9</sup> with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here. <sup>10</sup> Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)... <sup>12</sup> Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God... <sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you... <sup>17</sup> And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

	Philemon	Colossians
<b>Paul's companions:</b>		
Timothy	1:1	1:1
Epaphras, a native of Colossae	1:23	4:12
Mark, the cousin of Barnabas	1:24	4:10
Barnabas?		[4:10]
Aristarchus, Paul's cellmate (in Ephesus) & Rome	1:24	4:12
Demas who later forsook Paul [2 Tim 4:10]	1:24	4:14
Luke, a fellow worker of Paul	1:24	4:14
<b>Those sent by Paul:</b>		
Tychicus, Paul's mailman	Ephesians 6:21	4:7
Onesimus, a slave who accompanied Tychicus	1:10ff	4:7-9

**Recipients:**

Philemon, in whose home the Colossian church meets	1:1	
Apphia (probably Philemon's wife)	1:1	
Archippus, Paul's fellow worker [likely = Philemon's son]	1:1	4:17

**Destination:** Colossae (linking Archippus & Onesimus in Philemon & Colossians)  
Paul had not been in the Colossian church: Colossians 2:1

**Paul extends grace and peace from the Father and the Son to the saints and to the faithful brethren in Colossae (1:1-2)**

Are the saints one group or two?

**Paul's thanksgiving for the Colossians (1:3-8)**  
**Paul unceasingly prays for the Colossians (1:4)**

**Paul has heard of their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints (1:5)**

From whom did he hear this report?

**The gospel has given them a pre-reserved heaven-based expectancy (1:6a)**

**The Gospel bears fruit everywhere, as it has since they first heard it in Colossae through Epaphras (1:6b-7)**  
What is fruit?

**Epaphras informed Paul of the love that the Colossians have for all saints (1:8)**

**Conclusion**