

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

Dr. John H. Niemelä Water of Life Bible Class March 20, 2025

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

Colossians 1¹: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother... ⁴ Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸ I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he¹ may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹ with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here. ¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him)... ¹² 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... ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you... ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."

Paul's companions:

	Philemon	Colossians
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 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

Those sent by Paul:

Tychicus, Paul's mailman	Ephesians 6:21	4:7
Onesimus, Philemon's slave accompanying 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)

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