

Colossians

In Christ Alone

Introduction

Verses 1-2

Opening Table Discussion (8 min.): Writing Letters in the Ancient World

- What makes Colossians different:
 - From the emails in your inbox?
 - From the newsletters published by our church?
 - From the mail you receive at home?

Pauline Letter Composition in the Ancient World

1. Opening
2. Body
3. Conclusion

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing
- Thanksgiving
- Prayer for the reader

2. Body

- Instruction in Doctrine
- Instruction in Practice
- Response to the “other side”
- Call to repentance
- Travel Plans

3. Conclusion

- Blessing
- Wish for Peace
- Request for Prayer
- Greetings to others
- Autographed greeting

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office

“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,”

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients

“To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:”

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father.”

Table Discussion (10 min.)

- Compare Colossians 1:1-2 with the opening of other Pauline epistles.
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon

Group Discussion

- Compare Colossians 1:1-2 with the opening of other Pauline epistles.
- What did you notice? Is anything unusual?

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing
- Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving

Verses 3-10

Table Discussion (8 min.)

- Could our society be described as thankful?
- Do most Christians you know exhibit an attitude of thankfulness?
- What thwarts thankfulness in your life?

Group Discussion

- Why is Paul so thankful?
- Look at verses 11-14.
Some commentators call this Paul's encouragement to the Colossian Christians.
 - Do you agree?
 - If not, what would you call it?

1. Opening

- Correspondent and his office
- Recipients
- Greetings and blessing
- Thanksgiving
- Prayer for the reader

Table Discussion (10 min.)

- Compare the Thanksgiving section (Col. 1:3-10) with the Thanksgiving section of other Pauline epistles.
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon

Group Discussion

- Compare the Thanksgiving section (Col. 1:3-10) with the Thanksgiving section of other Pauline epistles.
- What did you notice? Anything unusual?

Prayer

Verses 11-23

Table Discussion (10 min.)

- Compare the Prayer section (Col. 1:11-23) with the Prayer section of other Pauline epistles.
 - Galatians
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Romans
 - 1 & 2 Corinthians
 - 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 - 1 & 2 Timothy
 - Titus
 - Philemon

Group Discussion

- Compare the Prayer section (Col. 1:11-23) with the Prayer section of other Pauline epistles.
- What did you notice? Anything unusual?

