



# THE GREETING (PART 1) WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

LESSON ONE

COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

## INTRODUCTION

- Paul was in jail at that moment, Epaphras went all the way to Rome to ask for the support of Paul concerning his church (4:12). Therefore, Paul wrote the epistles of **Colossians** and **Philemon** and sent them back to Colossae with Epaphras.
- The purpose of this letter was to **defend Christ and the true Gospel** from some cults' teaching of their day.
- Instead of focusing on the **false teachings** and attacking them, Paul focuses on **Christ and the truth**. (ill. dollar bill)

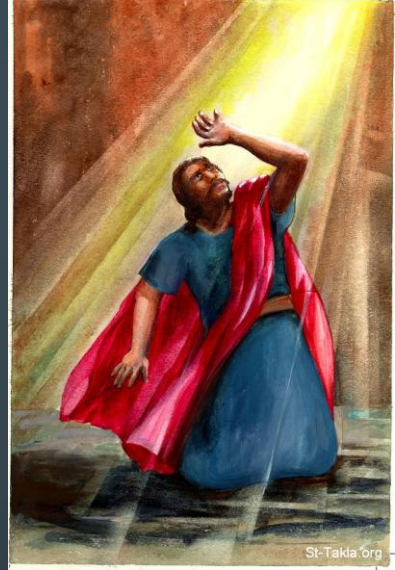
# THE THEME OF COLOSSIANS

- Sadly this is not our main church culture today...
- The three parts of this book all declare Christ's preeminence—which should be our focus.
- **Doctrine:** Christ's Preeminence Declared
- **Danger:** Christ's Preeminence Defended
- **Duty:** Christ's Preeminence Demonstrated
- **Question:** Is our church a Christ-centered church?



# CONCERNING PAUL'S APOSTELSHIP

- The first qualification for apostles—Acts 1:21-22
- The second qualification—1 Corinthians 9:1
- Paul's situation was unique: as “untimely born” (1 Cor. 15:8-9). He had seen the risen Christ, and the signs of a true apostle were also performed by him (2 Cor. 12:12).
- Most importantly, Christ repeatedly confirmed Paul's ministry in Acts. His apostleship is according to God's will (v.1)
- Are you living according to God's will?





## THE GREETING

- Before we dive into the attributes of Christ in this book, we can learn from the greeting concerning who we are.
  1. We are **saints** (1 Cor. 1:2)—we are sanctified and called to be saints, that is who we have become.
  2. **Faithful** brothers (v.7; 1 Cor. 4:2)—called to be faithful (committed, trustworthy) stewards, that's who we should be.
  3. **In Christ** (Rom. 6:23; 8:1; 6:11)—who we are now, we belong to Christ and will be with Christ for all eternity.

## CONCLUSION

- **Grace** (Greek general greeting) and **peace** (Hebrew general greeting) has become Paul's greeting.
- We can find grace and peace if we are in Christ and see ourselves as saints in Christ, plus pursuing to be faithful.
- Conclusion: are we a Christ-centered church?
- Are you living according to God's will?
- Do you enjoy the peace of God and the grace of God in your daily life?