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Greeting

A Study in Colossians

I. The Text

Colossians 1:1-2 - 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.

II. The Meaning

A. Authorship - Who wrote this letter?

- _____ is the author of Colossians.
- Paul describes himself as:
 - An _____
 - Of _____
 - By the will of _____
- _____ was also involved with this letter to the Colossians.

B. Date - When and where was this letter written?

- Colossians was written while Paul was a prisoner in _____.
- Colossians was written sometime between _____.

C. Recipients - To whom was this letter written?

- Paul wrote this letter to _____ in the church at _____.
- The Colossian church was not established by _____.
- _____ most likely helped start the churches in Colossae, Laodicea, and Hieropolis.
- Paul's description of the Colossians:
 - They are _____.
 - They are _____.
 - They are in _____.
- Note: It is important to remember that Colossians was written _____ us today as we read it but not to _____!

D. Reason - Why was this letter written?

- Paul wrote Colossians to help fortify the Colossian church against _____.
- Although we do not know the exact _____ of the false teaching, we do know that Epaphras was concerned enough to travel all the way to _____ to seek help from Paul to combat it.
- Clues to the nature of the false teaching:
 - The false teaching involved a worldly philosophy and a _____ tradition that was not based on _____. (2:8)
 - The false teaching promoted the observance of certain food _____ and Jewish _____. (2:16)
 - The false teaching insisted on keeping _____ rules as a means of _____. (2:20-23)

E. Paul's Greeting to the Colossians

- Paul greets the Colossians with _____ and _____.
- Grace is for the _____ in Colossae.
- Peace comes from _____ who is our _____.

III. The Application

- What biblical hope is found in Paul's greeting that we can offer to those we disciple and counsel?
- How should we frame this hope if we are not sure of the spiritual condition of those with whom we are working?
- Considering the effort Epaphras went through to reach Paul and seek help in correcting the false teaching of mixing worldly philosophy with biblical truth, what cautions should we take in accepting the world's wisdom in biblical counseling? What are some examples of this?