

Colossians 1:1-2 Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer

- **Guided Prayer:** Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

Recap

In this first sermon in our series through the book of Colossians, we examine the background of the book including its author, provenance (place of writing), occasion for writing, and the recipients. Paul wrote this encouraging epistle to the church at Colossae to combat the heretical teaching that threatened the church and to establish them in the truth that Christ is supreme over all. Although Paul did not personally know the church at Colossae, he addressed them with an introduction of love and support.

Understanding the Text

1. **Who Wrote Colossians:** Who wrote the letter to the Colossians and what are some common objections to his authorship? How does an inspired Bible effect our understanding of it's authorship?
2. **Why Did Paul Write It:** What is this letter meant to accomplish? What is the occasion that Paul responds to in Colossians?
3. **How Did Paul Know:** How did Paul come to know that the Colossian church was struggling? Who was the messenger that brought him word and how was he related to the church in Colossae?
4. **Where Was It Written From:** Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? Who had traveled from Colossae and was now with Paul (besides Epaphras)? What other letter did Paul write and send at the same time?
5. **Colossians Summarized:** What truth is taught in this book in a more developed way than anywhere else in the Bible?

Practical Application

1. **Faith For The Faltering:** How can you help and encourage the faith of those that may be enticed by the world's lies?
2. **Love For Distant Believers:** How can you love and support believers in other churches?
3. **Concern For Others:** Like Epaphras, how can your care for others engage others in supporting them?
4. **Appointed by God:** What do you believe God has called you to? How can you fulfill that mission with confidence in God's power?
5. **Faithful Brethren:** What are some areas that you need to be more faithful in following the Lord?
6. **Rejoicing In The Lord's Work Through Others:** Do you find it difficult to rejoice in the Lord's work through others? How can you encourage others and rejoice with them in the Lord's work?