

## Workbook: Session Four

### Colossians 1:2 – Paul’s Salutation

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ZChurch Online Bible School

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#### Lesson Focus:

- Opening Salutation: Declaration of His Apostolic Calling.
  - Distinction: Saints, Faithful, and Brethren
  - Grace and Peace as a Theological Greeting
  - Greek Word Studies: Hagios, Pistos, Adelphos, Charis, Eirene

#### Scripture Reading

Colossians 1:1 & 2 (KJV)

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

#### Apostolic Calling

- Paul's Apostolic Authority: Paul establishes his position and identifies himself as an apostle of Christ Jesus. Thus, emphasizing that his authority comes not from men, but by the will of God.
- Declares God’s Sovereign Will: Paul highlights that his calling as an apostle is by the will of God, not personal ambition. This sets the foundation for his message, showing that his ministry aligns with God’s plan.
- Timothy’s Role: Timothy is mentioned as “our brother,” showing his partnership in ministry. While Timothy was not an apostle, Paul includes

him as a co-laborer, reinforcing their close spiritual bond and his role in supporting the Colossian church.

- **Why It Matters**

- Establishes Paul's authority to correct false teachings in Colossae.
- Reinforces the divine origin of the gospel message.
- Highlights Christian partnership in ministry, as seen in Paul and Timothy's teamwork.

## Greek Word Studies

**Saints (Greek: "hagios")** – Set apart for sacred use, holy, consecrated.

- This word "Saints" demands full treatment, as it is a significant part of the **teaching and doctrine** in what is identified as **faith-based churches**.
- Paul writing to the Colossians, Greek speaking people, uses "*hagios*" which is right out of their Greek pagan religious terminology: a word devoted to the **gods**.
  - By the direction of the Holy Spirit, Paul captures the Colossians' attention
  - Greek worshipers would dedicate themselves, others, or gifts to their **gods**. For example, a baby dedication.
  - "*Hagios*" is the rarest of five synonyms which the Greeks had to express the idea of being devoted.

Paul uses the Greek language – an exact language – to make it clear to the Colossian Church what he meant by the phrase “**To the saints...**”

Saints set apart for the Master's use

	Greek Term	Meaning	Emphasis
➔	Hosios (OH-see-os)	Pious, devout	Personal godliness
➔	Amōmos (AH-mo-mos)	Blameless, spotless	Sacrificial purity
➔	Amiantos (ah-MEE-ahn-dos)	Unfiled, unstained	Moral and ceremonial purity
★	<b>Hagios</b> (AH-vee-os)	Set apart, sacred	Ultimate consecration to God

According to Duncan (1958), Cremer was the author of a biblical-theological lexicon of New Testament Greek, titled *Biblical-Theological Lexicon of New Testament Greek*

**Discuss:** In what ways do you understand yourself as set apart for God's purpose?

**Faithful (Greek: "pistos")** – Trustworthy, steadfast, and loyal.

### 1. "Faithful" - G4103 (πιστός | **pistos**)

- **Meaning:** Trustworthy, reliable, steadfast, believing.
- **Root Word:** Derived from G3982 (πείθω | **peithō**), meaning “to persuade” or “to be convinced.”
- **Usage in Colossians 1:2:**
  - Paul uses "**pistos**" to describe those in Colossae who are **steadfast and reliable in their faith.**
  - Not all saints are necessarily "faithful" in their daily walk; Paul acknowledges those who **remain true and unwavering in their commitment to Christ.**

- It can also imply **faithfulness in action**, not just belief, reinforcing obedience and perseverance in truth.
- The **Holy Spirit** through **Paul** wants it understood that “*faithful*” is an important supplementary explanation of “*...to the saints...*”
- If the word “faithful” just meant believing then it would have added nothing to the text.
- “**To those who have not defected: “...trustworthy, steadfast, unswerving...”** – is the prominent meaning.

**Reflect:** How are you demonstrating active faithfulness in your day-to-day decisions?

**Brethren** (Greek: "adelphos") – Brothers and sisters in the faith, spiritual kinship.

**"Brethren" – G80 (ἀδελφός | adelphos)**

- **Meaning:** Brother, fellow believer, a member of the same family.
- **Root Word:** Comes from **ἀ-** (a, "same") and **δελφός** (delphys, "womb"), literally meaning "**from the same womb.**"
- **Usage in Colossians 1:2:**
  - Paul calls the Colossians “**brethren**” to emphasize their **spiritual kinship in Christ**.
  - This term signifies **unity and equality** among believers, regardless of background, reinforcing that all in Christ share the same spiritual family.
  - It reflects **deep affection and connection**, showing that Christian faith is not just individual but communal.

**Activity:** List three people in your spiritual family who support your walk with Christ.

**Important to Note:**

“Faithful brethren in Christ’ is a meaningful addition. Some in the Colossian church were unsettled in their loyalty, though not fully fallen. Paul uses ‘faithful’ to clarify he means the steadfast saints, subtly acknowledging the wavering. He’s not singling anyone; but, he is giving a strong warning. Here, ‘faithful’ doesn’t just mean ‘believing,’ but emphasizes being trustworthy, steadfast, and unswerving.”

### Grace and Peace in Paul’s Greeting

#### Grace (Greek: "charis")

- God's divine influence on the heart
- Unmerited favor that brings joy, delight, and inward transformation

Journal: Recall a time when God’s grace interrupted your plans for something better.

#### Peace (Greek: "eirene")

- Tranquility of the soul rooted in divine assurance
- Harmony and rest through reconciliation with God

Reflect: Are there areas where you're striving instead of resting in God’s peace?

# PEACE and GRACE

▶ **Peace** *eirene* (i-rah'-nay)

- ▶ By implication **prosperity**: - one peace quietness rest + set at one again.
- ▶ State of tranquility – exemption from the rage.
- ▶ Harmony because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous.

▶ **Grace** *charis* (khar'-ece)

- ▶ The divine influence upon the heart and its reflection in the life.
- ▶ That which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech.

## Translation Comparison

Kenneth S. Wuest:

"Paul, an ambassador of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints in Colossae, even faithful brethren in Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father."

Arthur S. Way:

"Paul—appointed through God's will an apostle of Messiah Jesus – and Timotheus the brother, to God's consecrated ones in Colossae, to the brothers who are still true to their union with Messiah..."

Lightfoot:

"To the consecrated people of God in Colosse, the brethren who are steadfast in their allegiance and faithful in Christ."

**Final Reflection:**

Paul's salutation reminds us of our identity (saints), our calling (faithful), and our community (brethren). It roots us in the grace of God and the peace that flows from that grace. This opening greeting carries deep theological encouragement for how we see ourselves and live out our faith.

**Personal Application:**

- Am I living as one who is set apart for God's purposes?
- Do I anchor myself first in grace, allowing peace to follow?
- How can I actively strengthen unity and partnership in the Body of Christ?

**Personal Prayer:**

Ask the Lord to help you walk faithfully, stay rooted in grace, and contribute to spiritual unity in your church or community.

## Works Cited

1. Chronology of Paul's Writings:  
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2. Wuest, K. S. (1978). *Word studies from the Greek New Testament: Volume one*. Reprint. Eerdmans Publishing
3. All Scriptures are from the King James Version (KJV) unless otherwise indicated
4. (For information about Hermann Cremer): Duncan, R. C. (1958).
  1. *The contribution of Hermann Cremer (1834–1903) to theological hermeneutics* [Master's thesis, University of Edinburgh]. Edinburgh Research Archive. <https://era.ed.ac.uk/handle/1842/31980>