

Study Guide

# COLOSSIANS

Always. Only. Jesus.

## Always. Only. Jesus. | Colossians 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup>to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

### Introduction

As in other cities of first century Rome, Colossae's religious climate would have been a mixture of the classic Greek gods with their temples and shrines, newer mystery cults focused on personal spiritual experiences, various stoic and skeptic philosophies, and the influence of Judaism.

One danger for the church at Colossae would have been syncretism, the merging of other religious dogma, practice, and philosophy with the gospel of Christ Jesus. The danger could have come in the desire to fit in with the culture, to avoid conflict with family, friends, or coworkers, or to escape governmental or religious pressure to conform. Regardless, the result of syncretism would have been the watering down of the gospel and diminishing of the person of Christ Jesus.

Paul's answer to the danger for the church at Colossae was to exalt and exult in Jesus. The single paragraph encompassing verses 1:14-20 is dense with doctrine of and delight in the deity and preeminence of Jesus. And verses 21-23 that follow resonate with the reconciling work of Jesus "in his body by his death" to not only reclaim us but remake us for eternity with Him.

Paul's opening sentence itself was a reminder of who he was as an apostle of Christ Jesus and who they were as a church in Christ Jesus.

The danger for the church at Colossae remains a clear and present danger for the church today. And Paul's answer for the church at Colossae remains the clear and present answer for the church today.

#### The BIG Idea: Always. Only. Jesus.

##### PARTNERSHIP IN CHRIST

The Apostle Paul.  
Timothy our brother.

##### RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST

Paul called the church saints.  
Paul called the church faithful brothers

##### GROWTH IN CHRIST

By the Grace of Christ in the Peace of Christ  
From God our Father

#### Click or Scan to Listen

[Song: Always Only Jesus \(Mercy Me\)](#)



[Song: In Christ Alone](#)



## Let's Think About It

### Thinking about partnership in Christ:

In what ways does the church face the danger of syncretism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? How does the church today counteract that danger?

Why was the Apostle Paul an Apostle? How did being an Apostle affect Paul's view of himself? (1 Timothy 1:12-17; Galatians 6:11-16)

What does Paul's reference to Timothy, his son in the faith, teach us about how we should consider ourselves in relation to other believers in the church?

*What happens to our estimations of self and others in the church when the church is Always. Only. Jesus.?*

### Thinking about relationship in Christ:

How did the word 'saint' describe who the church at Colossae was? What does it mean that we are saints today?

What makes us as brothers and sisters in Christ?

*How do we think about and pray for our far flung forever siblings in Christ when we are Always. Only. Jesus.?*

### Thinking about growth in Christ:

Why are we dependent on grace for our growth in Christ?

How does thinking about 'peace' in the full sense of 'shalom' encompassing all the blessings of belonging to God's covenant family encourage us and enable us in our growth in Christ?

*How is every need we have for growth in Christ met when we are Always. Only. Jesus.?*

### Book Recommendation (Click or Scan)

[Sipping Saltwater \(Steve Hoppe\)](#)



Only Jesus satisfies now and for eternity.

Always. Only. Jesus

### Sing...

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus;  
there's just something about that name.

Master, Savior, Jesus,  
like the fragrance after the rain;

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
let all Heaven and earth proclaim

Kings and kingdoms will all pass away,  
But there's something about that name.