



Week 1: Introduction & Colossians 1:1-2

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

About This Week's Message – January 2, 2011

This week's teaching will be a full introduction to the background of Colossians. We won't spend much time actually digging into the text, we just want to set the stage for what's coming. When we do get to the greeting text of v. 1-2 later in the message, our focus will be on who Paul is, who Timothy is, the bible's teaching on what it means to be a saint (one "set apart"), and God's grace and peace. – Josh

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of January 2, 2011.
Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

Getting Started

This week's study is based on Colossians 1:1-2.

This week's questions are very simple, and only geared at getting you to journal and getting you to think about the text we're about to jump into.

There is a 20+ page booklet we've put together with background information on the book of Colossians. You can find it online at wawaseebible.com or pick one up at the church. This booklet might be worth thumbing through together with your 1:10 group this week.

1. What are you most looking forward to as we study the book of Colossians together? Have you ever studied it before? What do you know about it? What did you learn this week that you didn't know?

2. The book of Colossians was a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in the town of Colossae. What is the most memorable letter you've ever received and/or written? When was the last time you sat down and wrote a letter to someone?

What are other examples beside letters? E-mail? Facebook? Lots of easy discussion can come from this question...

3. This week Pastor Josh mentioned that the church in Colossae was likely a small congregation in a rather unimpressive town. If we're honest, in the grand scheme of things, so is Wawasee Bible. As a small church in a rural area, what are some ways we can make an eternal impact and honor Jesus in big ways?

This might be a good time to introduce the idea of your group's missional project for the semester. Brainstorm a few ideas that get as many people as possible in your group involved.

4. Paul calls the believers in Colossae "saints". What's the difference between Paul's definition of "saint", the Catholic Church's definition of "saint", and the world's definition of "saint"?

This one could be explosive if you've got some people of Catholic background in your group. We're not in any way trying to demonize or criticize Roman Catholics, be sure to steer your group away from conversation that would. We just want to communicate well the idea that if you are a believer you are "set apart" by God as a saint. Set apart to "live a life worthy of the Lord" (v. 10) and set apart to be sent as a missionary.

5. Paul begins his letters with "Grace to you and peace..." In what ways have you experienced God's grace and peace? Have you repented and trusted Jesus with your life? In what areas of your life do you need grace and peace?