
Book of Colossians

— Lesson 1 - Introduction —

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Colossians 1:1

Paul the author

- Formerly known as Saul, a ferocious persecutor of Christians.
- Confronted by Jesus Christ, converted, and appointed as an apostle.
- Uniquely qualified to be sent to the Gentiles all across the Roman world.

Timothy our brother

- Paul's faithful companion and ministry partner.
- Once the foundation of the Church was completed, *apostles* were no longer required. Faithful *brothers* then continued to build on that foundation.

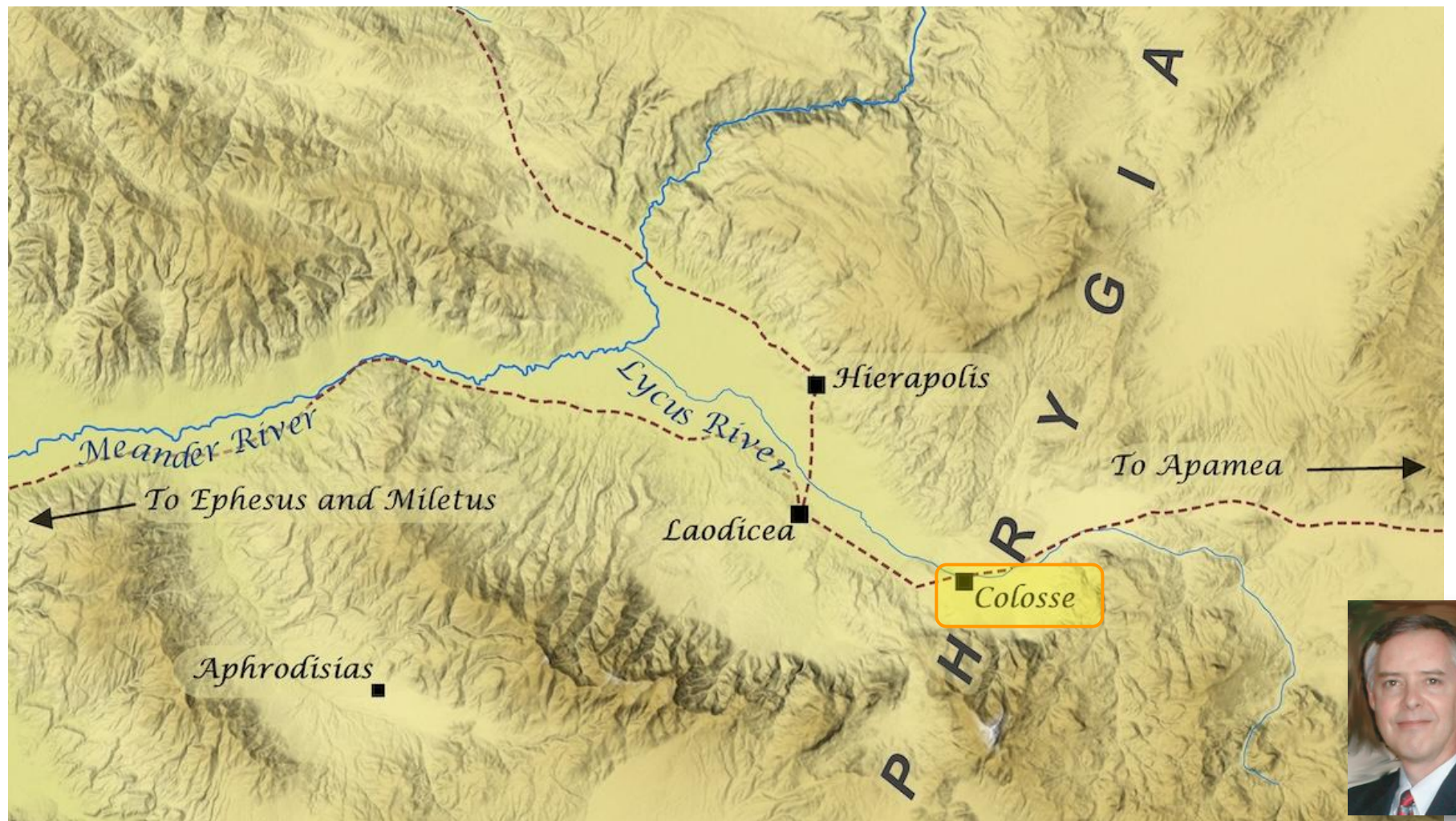


Colossians 1:2a

The recipients of the letter

- **saints** = ones who are set apart as belonging to God
- **faithful** = firm in faith; fully trusting so as to be trustworthy
- **brethren** = expresses the close family relationship in the household of faith. Very diverse people are now *siblings* in the new family of God.
- **in Christ** = because of their faith, together they are “hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3).
- **at Colossae** = spiritually they are *in* Christ, while physically they are *at* the city of Colossae.





New Testament Times

- Population consisted mainly of native Phrygians, Greek settlers, along with a number of Jewish colonists.
- A small market town, focused mainly on produce such as olives and figs.
- Sheep raising created an industry famous for purple wool dyed from the cyclamen flower.
- Phrygians tended toward emotional forms of religious expression with exciting music and frenzied dancing.
- Earthquakes led many to move to the more prosperous commercial centers of Laodicea and Hierapolis nearby.





Colossians 1:2b

The salutation

- **grace** = the unmerited favor of God to those who do not deserve it.
- **peace** = inner harmony because of our restored relationship with God.
- **from God our Father** = if we have experienced any *grace* and *peace* in our lives it is because God has granted it to us.

An application

- If Paul were writing to you, could he address you as a brother in Christ – a believer who is in Christ?

Grace and Peace to you

