

# sermon notes

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April 12, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**  
“Introduction: Let’s Study Colossians Together” | **Colossians 1:1–2**

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## 1) Who wrote Colossians?

The Apostle \_\_\_\_\_ and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_  
(Col 1:1; 2 Tim 3:16–17; 2 Pet 1:21)

## 2) What was the occasion for the letter?

Paul wrote to the church in \_\_\_\_\_ planted by \_\_\_\_\_  
(Col 1:1, 1:7, 4:12)

## 3) When was this letter written?

Approx. AD \_\_\_\_\_, while Paul was imprisoned in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Acts 28:11–31)

## 4) Where is Colossae located?

In \_\_\_\_\_ near Ephesus and Laodicea  
(cf. Acts 19:10)

## 5) Why was this letter written?

To \_\_\_\_\_ the preeminence of Christ  
To \_\_\_\_\_ false teaching and asceticism  
To \_\_\_\_\_ the believer’s transformation in union with Christ

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Walk through the details of the book of Colossians above. Who wrote Colossians, and to whom was it written? Why was it written? Did Paul ever visit the church in Colossae? How do we know? Watch the Bible Project video on Colossians to help you gain a broad overview of the book:  
<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/colossians/>

Read Colossians 1:1–2. What is an apostle, and why does Paul introduce himself as one in many of his letters? Why would Paul begin this letter with such a statement? Who is Timothy, and what role did he have in Paul’s ministry? Who is Epaphras (see Col 1:5–8; 4:12–13; Phm 23)? Who is Tychicus (see Acts 20:4; Eph 6:21–22; Col 4:7–8)?

### GET PERSONAL

How familiar are you with Colossians? How many times have you read through this book? Which verses in this book are you familiar with? What about Colossians 1:13–14; 1:15–20; 1:21–23; 2:8; 2:9–10; 2:11–12; 3:1–4; 3:12–14; 3:16; and 3:23? Look up those verses. Are there any passages in this book that you have memorized? Are there any that you want to memorize?

Consider the title for this series, “Preeminence.” What does that word mean? How is Christ presented as preeminent in chapter 1 of Colossians? Is preeminence a strong enough word to describe Paul’s statements about Christ? What other words would you use to describe Christ in the book of Colossians?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Read the entire book of Colossians in one sitting. Do not take your eyes off the page or divide your reading into segments. Read it from start to finish without taking a break (it should take you about 10–12 minutes). Write down any observations from your reading. What verses or statements surprised you? What is the tone of this book? What major ideas emerged during your reading? What impact does the Spirit want to make on your life through this Scripture?

### ADVANCED QUESTION

A commentator on the book of Colossians recently asserted that 60% of current NT scholars think that Paul did not write Colossians. They assume that only seven of the current thirteen NT books ascribed to Paul were actually written by him. Why is it necessary to reject this theory? What evidence can we marshal to show that Colossians was indeed written by Paul? How do the themes, ideas, and teachings of Colossians correlate with the other Pauline letters in the NT?