

CHAPTER 2

COLOSSIANS PRESCRIPT

For purposes of convenience, these notes will follow the outline found in F. F. Bruce, the NIC, new edition. The translation is simply a literal translation from the Greek.

Prescript (1:1-2)

Paul follows the customary Greek order for letters of author, recipients, greeting. Cf. even Dan 4:1.

v. 1, Paul, name used among Gentile churches

An apostle of Christ Jesus, genitive of source

Apostle, duly authorized messenger; secular use also

Here only Paul, does not include Timothy as in 1 Thess 2:6

Apostle especially to Gentiles—Acts 9:5-6, 15-18; Rom 1:1, 5; Gal 1:1; 2:9

Through the will of God, not by self-appointment

Hendriksen: not aspiration (Acts 9:11); not usurpation or nomination (Gal 1:1, 16-17), but by preparation (Gal 1:15-16)

And Timothy the brother

Also in 2 Cor 1:1; Phlm 1; Phil 1:1

With Paul at Lystra (Acts 14:8-20; 16:1-3)

Also with Paul for Thess. letters

Previously in Ephesus (Acts 19:1, 22)

Paul's love for Timothy (Phil 2:19-23)

O'B, "brother" has same meaning as "co-worker"

More than an amanuensis (cf. Tertius in end of Romans); and more important than other companions (in ch. 4)

Contrast phrase "Timothy our brother" in Heb 13:23

v. 2, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ in Colossae

Saints, probably substantive use, rather than "holy and faithful brothers" (NIV); cf. v. 4 substantive use

Granville Sharp rule: saints = faithful brothers

Faithful, not just "believing"; cf. 1:7; 4:7, 9

Theme "in Christ" common in Prison Epistles