



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "How to Get Started" Colossians 1:1-8

No. 5025

Stuart Briscoe

Paul's letter to the church in Colosse was written in the customary style of his day but it contains truth of lasting importance for people in diverse cultures in all ages. His opening greetings contain much information about the beginnings of spiritual experience.

I. A Description. v. 2a

- A. Spiritually they were "in Christ."
- B. Morally they were "holy."
- C. Intellectually they were "believing."
- D. Sociologically they were "brothers."
- E. Geographically they were "in Colosse."

II. An Appreciation.

- A. The expression of appreciation to God. v. 3
 - 1. Carefully described.
 - 2. Specifically acknowledged.
- B. The evidence of the working of God.
 - 1. Faith in Christ Jesus. v. 4
 - 2. Love for all the saints. vv. 4, 8
 - 3. Hope that is stored in heaven. v. 5

III. An Explanation.

- A. The message.
 - 1. God's grace in all its truth. v. 6
 - 2. Gospel that is fruitful and growing. v. 6
 - 3. The word of truth that has come to you. v. 6
- B. The messengers.
 - 1. Paul the apostle. v. 1; See Acts 19:9, 10
 - 2. Epaphras the local man. v. 7
 - a. Fellow servant – "*Doulos*."
 - b. Faithful minister – "*Diakonos*."
- C. The method. v. 7
 - 1. Hearing.
 - 2. Understanding.
 - 3. Learning.
 - 4. Believing.
 - 5. Doing.