

# PRESCRIPT FOR LIFE (PART 1)

## — CHRISTUS VICTOR WEEK 2 —

*Colossians 1:1-2 (NIV)*

### I. OUR \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Paul,  
an apostle of Christ Jesus  
by the will of God,  
and Timothy our brother,

### II. OUR ...

<sup>2</sup> To God's holy people in Colossae,  
the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

- (1) ...and Timothy our brother,  
(2) ...from God our Father.

### III. OUR ...

(2) Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

### IV. OUR ...

(2) ...the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

## THE BOTTOM LINE

\_\_\_\_\_ that at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Christian  
faith are the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ who  
saw and experienced the supernatural \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

So:

1. “\_\_\_\_\_” our most \_\_\_\_\_, Paul, by reading his letters.
2. When \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, try to appeal to the *witnesses behind* \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the Bible \_\_\_\_\_. (Paul is useful here because seven of his letters are undisputed in terms of authentic authorship: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Philippians, 1 Thessalonians, and Philemon.)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ that part of the \_\_\_\_\_ trust \_\_\_\_\_ is because you \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (and of course the other apostles and early witnesses).

### Usage of “Apostle” in the New Testament

“Apostle” is used in three senses in the NT: (1) in a general, nontechnical sense, of a messenger or emissary commissioned by people for a specific, temporary task (Phil 2:25, Epaphroditus; 2 Cor 8:23, Titus's two companions); (2) in a semitechnical sense, of a Christian with a particular, permanent commission from Christ or the local church (Rom 16:7, Andronicus and Junia[s]; 1 Cor 15:7 and Gal 1:19, James the brother of Jesus; 1 Cor 9:5-6, Barnabus by implication [cf, Acts 14:4, 14]); (3) in a technical sense, of the Twelve (Matt 10:2; 1 Cor 15:5, 7) and Paul (1 Cor 9:1; 15:9), as commissioned directly by Christ for permanent and distinctive leadership in the universal church (Murray J. Harris, *Colossians and Philemon*, 7).

### Timothy our Brother

Paul states in 4:18 that he did not write out this letter. Timothy is likely the co-author, or contributing author. Timothy is Paul's best friend, closest co-worker and associate, and a man about whom we know plenty, even if he is always in the background. Thus, Timothy's father was a Gentile but his mother a Jew; he was probably converted to following Christ during Paul's first missionary journey to Lystra, where Timothy surely saw Paul being stoned. Timothy's mother was a believer; Paul chose Timothy to be “with” him on his second missionary journey, and Timothy received a special endowment of the Spirit through the laying of hands. To regulate his “status,” Paul had Timothy circumcised, and when Paul traveled to Athens, Timothy stayed with Silas in Berea and then joined Paul in Athens. In addition, Timothy encouraged the Christians in Thessalonica and reported good news about the Thessalonians to Paul later, part of that good news expressed by a gift of money for the poor saints in Jerusalem. Though his name never appears in titles of books written by him, Timothy helped Paul write both 1 and 2 Thessalonians, helped evangelize Corinth, helped write 2 Corinthians and probably also Romans. He traveled with Paul to Jerusalem as Lystra's delegate to the Jerusalem church, and he helped Paul in writing Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians. Later, Paul may have sent him to Philippi, and he was encouraged to stay in Ephesus and eventually to meet Paul in Rome (?) during a winter. Also, Timothy was imprisoned for the gospel and eventually released.<sup>1</sup> All of this friendship and ministry together is at work when Paul calls Timothy, in Col 1:1, “our brother.” (McKnight, *Colossians*, 80-82)

<sup>1</sup> See Acts 16:1-3; 17:14-16; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4; 1 Thess 1:1; 3:1-6; 2 Thess 1:1; 1 Cor 4:17; 16:10-11; 2 Cor 1:1, 19; Rom 16:21; Col 1:1; Phlm 1; Phil 1:1; 2:19, 23; 1 Tim 1:3, 18; 4:12, 14:2; 2 Tim 1:5-6; 3:10-11, 15; 4:13, 21; Heb 12:23.