

“Assurances of Completion”
Colossians 1:1-2

I. Assurance of Trustworthiness

- A. Paul was an Apostle of Jesus according to God’s will.
 - 1. His words were authoritative.
 - 2. His words were trustworthy.
- B. “of Jesus *Christ...*”
 - 1. Christ = Messiah
 - 2. Since the Colossians had the Messiah, they were already complete.
- C. We too can trust Paul.
- D. We are also complete with the Messiah.

II. Assurance of Inclusion

- A. To call the Colossians “saints” or “holy” was to say they had been chosen by God to be part of His people.
- B. For Paul to call them “brothers” was to say they had been included in the fulfilled Israel:

Ephesians 2:12–13 - ¹² remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Galatians 3:7 - Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham.
- C. This was true because the Colossians were now “in Christ [the Messiah]”. Nothing else was necessary for their inclusion in God’s people.
- D. We too have been claimed by God and fully included in His people.

III. Assurance of Grace and Peace

- A. The Father’s Grace (in Christ):
 - 1. His ongoing (underserved) favor.
 - 2. His continued power to transform us.
- B. The Father’s Peace (in Christ):

1. Full reconciliation with God.
 2. Wholeness of life (shalom).
- C. The Colossians, because of Jesus, already had complete access to the Father's grace and peace.
- D. In Christ, so do we.

IV. Further Application:

- A. In Christ, we are complete; in Christ, we are loved.
1. Don't let anyone (including ourselves) convince us otherwise.
 2. Don't let some passing earthly desire do the same.
- B. In Christ, our fellow Christians are complete; in Christ, they are loved.
1. God-forbid we do anything to make them feel otherwise.
 2. A believer's remaining immaturity is never a justification for us to treat them with judgment or disdain.