### Col. 1:1-2Apostolic Authority

Intro

Note the issue of authority begins this epistle. Webster - authority is "power to influence or command thought, opinion, or behavior."

In the realm of morality and the religious, spiritual side of man, the issue of authority is in crisis today. In fact, the character of ancient Israel in Judges 17:6 is still current today, *"every one did what was right in his own eyes."*

**I. OPENING GREETINGS**

A. Identifying the author.

B. Identifying the recipients.

C. A word of greeting.

The role of Timothy

**II. PAUL?S AUTHORITY**

A. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ."

Definition of an apostle -

1) **Generally** - faithful men sent out by a local church for ministry - Andronicus and Junias (Rom. 16:7), Barnabas (Acts 14:14).

2) **Specifically** - those men chosen directly by Christ and sent out with special authority to represent and speak for Him.

a) **Authorized representative**.

b) **Infallible knowledge of the gospel**.

c) **"Apostle" is one of the spiritual gifts.** (Eph. 4:11).

d) **Qualifications**: 1) men who had seen the resurrected Christ (Acts 1:22; 1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8); 2) also had the gift of miracles (2Cor. 12:12).

e) **Inerrant writings**.

B. "By the will of God."

- SALVATION - Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:15; 2 Tim. 1:9.

- APOSTLESHIP *-*

1Cor. 1:1 Paul, **called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God**

2Cor. 1:1 ? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God**

Gal. 1:1 ? Paul, an **apostle (not sent from men, nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ, and God the Father**, who raised Him from the dead),

**Gal. 1:15** But when He who had set me apart, even from my mother?s womb, and called me through His grace

Eph. 1:1 ? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God**

1Tim. 1:1 ? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope**

2Tim. 1:1 ? Paul, an **apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God**

- MESSAGE - *his message was given him by Christ* - Gal. 1:11-12, 16-17; 2:6; 2 Cor. 12:3-7; Eph. 3:3.

- MINISTRY - *his apostolic ministry was directed by God?s will* - Acts 9:15; 13:2;18:21; 16:6-10; 1 Cor. 4:19; 16:7; Rom. 1:10; 15:32.

- LABOR - *even the strength by which Paul labored in his ministry was by God?s power*, Col. 1:29.

**III. WHAT IS OUR AUTHORITY?**

A. Satan?s attack. Gen. 3:1-4. *Doubt and denial.*

Satan has never stopped this attack and he is relentless. He employs **two major assaults**:

1)

2)

B. Is the Bible our authority?

**SOLA SCRIPTURA** is vital today.

C. What must we do?