

III. Particular studies in the Book of Colossians

A. The Introductory Segment 1:1-8

1. General concepts of salutation

- express understanding
- explain purpose and ideal
- indicate rapport
- set a framework for the truth to be given.

2. Division of Material 1 - 2  
3 - 4

3. Emerging questions:

(The use of questions is one of my favorite study devices, one I have often recommended to students. The idea is that of closely reading a passage and trying to think of all the things you would like to

know about the passage but don't know. So you raise a question and in researching and finding material to answer the question you often discover what it is you wanted to know..or at least think you have done that. The important thing is to ask questions that make one study the text. There is always the danger that some will seem irrelevant but that is a calculated risk. The likelihood is that the more questions asked the more likely one is to come to a fuller understanding. They can range from the meaning of words (less often used in modern translations where the vocabulary is the lingua franca of our time) to the identification of people and their deeds. Following are some that occur to me in thinking through this passage. Others will or may occur to the student. There is no list of just the right or the correct amount of questions. The idea is a spirit of inquiry that asks about anything seeming to be meaningful and then studies text and context in that light.)

- v. 1 How does Paul make his apostleship emphatic?  
Why does he do this?  
What does the mention of Timothy tell you about the dating of the letter?  
Why is Paul writing to the people of Colosse anyway?