

CHARACTERISTICS AND PECULIARITIES OF COLOSSIANS

Virgil Warren, PhD

1. Has the greatest number who send salutations of any New Testament writing. Philemon has a goodly number as well. Romans has by far the greatest number of saluted people.
2. Only book to refer to a Christian writing that is probably no longer (evidently) extant
3. Only book where a New Testament writer adopts the Gnostics' *pleroma*, *etc.*, as an image for understanding the role of Christ
4. Along with Ephesians (1:9; 3:3-9; 6:19) and Romans (16:25), Colossians uses the term *mystery* (μυστήριον, *mystērion*) to indicate the idea that the Gentiles as Gentiles had access to fellowship with God through Christ: 1:26-27; 2:2; 4:3.
5. “*Firstborn of all creation*” is a unique usage of *firstborn* (πρωτότοκος, *prōtotokos*) as a reference to Christ (1:15). He is elsewhere the firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5), firstborn among many brothers (Romans 8:29), and the firstborn coming into the world (Hebrews 1:6)