

Handout #1

Apostolicity/Authenticity

Author? _____ How do you know? _____

Pseudonymous = anonymous writer falsely claiming to be Paul

Why? (1) style; (2) no future eschatology; “now” but no “not yet” (but cf. 1: 5, 27)

Most recent excellent defense of Pauline authorship: Maria Pascuzzi, “Reconsidering the Authorship of Colossians.” *Bulletin for Biblical Research* 23/2 (2013): 223-46.

Canonicity/Authority

Evidence from the heretical ‘church’: Marcion (ca. 140 A.D.)

Evidence from the orthodox church: Muratorian Fragment (170 A.D.); cf. our discussion and the text here: <http://nwts.edu/media/pdf/jtd/Jude/Jude%2002.pdf> (p. 3).

Brief commentary for laypersons: H. M. Carson, *Colossians and Philemon*

Narrative Approach

Narrative of the church

We know something about this church. How? <http://nwts.edu/audio/JTD/Philemon.htm>.

Where did the church meet?

Who were some of the members?

Which letter was written first? How do you know?

Colossians was written where?

Was the church begun by Paul? How do you know? Who launched it?

When was the church started? ca. 52-56 A.D.

When was this letter written? ca. 60-62 A.D.

Narrative of the city

Location: <http://dkiel.com/GreeceTurkey/Colossae/Colossae.html>.

<https://ferrelljenkins.wordpress.com/2015/10/05/a-nostalgic-remembrance/>.

Cf. Cadwallader review here: <http://kerux.com/doc/3102R2.asp>.

Phrygia (Map—any Bible Atlas showing Roman Provinces of Asia Minor)

Colossae (Map—E. Yamauchi, *New Testament Cities in Western Asia Minor*, p. 136)

Industry

Commerce

Route of Ephesus to Euphrates/Melitene (Map—*Atlas of the Roman World* [1982], pp. 150-51)

Religion: Greco-Roman pantheon

River god (Lycus River) Cult of Cybele

Artemis/Diana (“of the Ephesians,” Acts 19:28ff)

Military presence

Culture