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A Practical Study of COLOSSIANS: How Christians Grow

“Christ is All and in All”

Key verse 3:11b — *“Christ is all and in all.”*

STAGE NUMBER ONE – CHRIST CHANGED MY LIFE – COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

KEY VERSES 1:4, 5

v. 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus through the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the saints in Colosse, even the faithful brethren in Christ.

v. 2 Grace to you and peace from God, our Father.

v. 3 I am giving thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you at all times,

v. 4 having heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you are having for all the saints.

v. 5 Because of the hope that is laid up for you in heaven, which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, that has come to you,

v. 6 even as it is also in all the world bearing fruit and increasing, just as also in you from the day you heard it and came to know completely the grace of God in truth;

v. 7 even as you learned from Epaphras, the beloved, our fellow bond-slave, who is faithful on your behalf as a servant of Christ,

v. 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 1:1-8 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What two things is Paul doing for these Christians in Colosse, according to verse 3?

3. How are these Colossian Christians described in verses 4 & 5?

4. What do you suppose Paul means by the phrase “the hope that is laid up for you in heaven” in verse 5?

5. What is this message about Jesus Christ doing in the rest of the world, according to verse 6?

6. Explain the phrase “bearing fruit and increasing” in verse 6.

7. How is Epaphras described in verse 7?

8. Explain what Paul means by the phrase “love in the Spirit” in verse 8.

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER TWO – THE WILL, WALK, AND WORK OF CHRIST
– COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

KEY VERSES 1:9, 10

v. 9 Because of this, we also from the day we heard are not ceasing in your behalf praying and asking (petitions and definite requests), in order that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

v.10 to live (walk) worthy of the Lord, to please Him in everything, in every good work, bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God;

v.11 equipped with all power, according to His glorious strength, unto every kind of patience and steadfastness with joy,

v.12 Giving thanks to the Father who qualified you for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

v.13 Who rescued us out of the domain of the darkness, and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

v.14 in whom we are having our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 1:9-14 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. After hearing about the changed lives in Colosse, what is the apostle's immediate response?

3. What does it mean to be "filled with the knowledge of His will?"

4. How would you characterize a worthy walk with the Lord, pleasing Him in everything?

5. How is the work of a Christian described in verse 10?

6. Why does the apostle pray for power in verse 11?

7. For what is the apostle giving thanks in verses 12 & 13?

8. What does the word "redemption" mean in verse 14?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER THREE – CHRIST IN FIRST PLACE – COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

KEY VERSE 1:18

v.15 Who is the image of the invisible God, first-born of all creation.

v.16 Because in Him were created all things in the heaven and upon the earth. Things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or bearers of the ruling power or rulers or authorities—all things through Him and for Him were created.

v.17 And He Himself is before all things, and all things in Him hold together.

v.18 And He Himself is the head of His body, the church. He is the beginning (creator, originator), the first-born out from the dead, in order that He Himself might come to have first place in all things.

v.19 Because in Him all the fullness willed (was pleased) to dwell.

v.20 And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him whether things upon the earth or things in the heavens.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What do you think Paul means in verse 15 when he says Christ is “the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation”?

3. According to verse 16, who is the Creator of all things?

4. What does verse 17 tell us about Jesus Christ?

5. What three things do we learn about God’s program for Jesus Christ in verse 18?

6. Does Jesus Christ have first place in your life? If not, what does?

7. What does the phrase “all the fullness” mean in verse 19?

8. How was peace accomplished, according to verse 20?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER FOUR – MATURING IN CHRIST – COLOSSIANS 1:21-2:3**KEY VERSE 1:28**

v.21 And you who were at one time estranged and hostile in attitude, evil in your deeds,

v.22 but He reconciled in the body of His flesh through His death, in order that He might present you holy and without blemish and blameless before Him [on the day of Judgment]—

v.23 if indeed you are continuing in the faith, having been founded and steadfast, and without shifting from the hope of the gospel which you heard, that gospel which was proclaimed in all creation which is under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

v.24 Now I am rejoicing in my sufferings on your behalf, and I am filling up the things lacking of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for the sake of His body, which is the church.

v.25 Of which I became a servant according to the stewardship of God which was given to me for you to fulfill the word of God,

v.26 the mystery which has been hidden from the ages and from the generations; but now made known to His saints,

v.27 to whom God desired to make known what is the wealth of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

v.28 Whom we are proclaiming, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, in order that we may present every man mature in Christ.

v.29 For which also I am toiling, striving according to (controlled by) His energy, which energy is operating in me in power.

2:v.1 For I am desiring you to know how great a struggle I am having in your behalf and those in Laodicea, and as many as have not seen my face,

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v. 2 in order that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and resulting in all wealth of the full assurance such as understanding brings, resulting in a thorough knowledge of the mystery of God,

v. 3 Christ, in whom are all the hidden treasures of the wisdom and knowledge.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 1:21-2:3 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How does Paul characterize the Colossians before they became Christians in verse 21?

3. What is God's purpose in reconciling us unto Himself, according to verse 22?

4. Explain the phrase "continuing in the faith" in verse 23.

5. What was Paul's attitude in his sufferings, according to verse 24?

6. How is the mystery described in verse 27?

7. What is Paul's purpose in proclaiming Christ, according to verse 28?

8. What is the purpose of knowing about the mystery of Christ, according to chapter 2:2?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER FIVE – LIVING IN CHRIST – COLOSSIANS 2:4-8

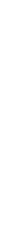
KEY VERSES 2:6, 7

v. 4 This I am saying, in order that no one may be deceiving you by plausible [but false] arguments.

v. 5 For though I am absent in my flesh, yet I am with you in my spirit, rejoicing and beholding your orderly manner and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

v. 6 In like manner, therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, be living (walking around) in Him,

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v. 7 having been rooted and continually being built up in Him, and being established in the faith, even as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
v. 8 Be on your guard lest there shall be someone who carries you off [from the truth] through his philosophy and empty deceit, which is according to the traditions of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 2:4-8 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. Why is he making the statement that he is making, according to verse 4?

3. What is the apostle doing, according to verse 5?

4. What are they commanded to do in verse 6?

5. Explain how a person is “rooted,” “built up,” and “established in the faith.”

6. How does one abound in thanksgiving?

7. What is the warning given in verse 8?

8. Can you cite an illustration of what is being described in verse 8?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER SIX – CHRIST LIVING IN ME – COLOSSIANS 2:9-15

KEY VERSES 2:9, 10

v. 9 Because in Him there is dwelling all the fullness of the divine nature bodily.

v.10 And you are in Him, having been filled full [in Him] who is the head of every ruler and authority;

v.11 in whom also you were circumcised, a circumcision made without hands, in the putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ;

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v.12 having been buried with Him in the baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through your faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

v.13 And you being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

v.14 having blotted out (cancelled) the bond that stood against us with its legal requirements, which was opposed to us; and He removed it out of the midst, having nailed it to the cross.

v.15 Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 2:9-15 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What does Paul say about Jesus Christ in verse 9?

3. Describe what Paul means in verse 10.

4. What do you think the phrase “circumcision of Christ” means in verse 11?

5. What does “buried with Him in the baptism” mean in verse 12?

6. To what is Paul referring in verse 14 when he talks about “the bond that stood against us”?

7. Can you explain what is meant by “disarming the rulers and authorities” in verse 15?

8. When did the triumph described in verse 15 take place?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER SEVEN – CHRIST NOT LEGALISM – COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

KEY VERSES 2:20, 21

v.16 Stop, therefore, allowing anyone to sit in judgment upon you in eating and in drinking or in the matter of a feast day or new moon or Sabbath—

v.17 which are a shadow of the things about to come; but the body belongs to Christ.

v.18 Let no one disqualify you, delighting in a self-imposed humility, and worship of the angels, entering at length upon the tale of what he has seen in a vision, being puffed up by the mind of the flesh and not holding fast the head,

v.19 from whom all the body, through the joints and ligaments, is being supported and held together, growing with the growth of God.

v.20 If you died with Christ from the elementary things of the world,

v.21 why, as living in the world, are you submitting yourselves to legal requirements, [such as], do not touch, neither to taste, nor to handle,

v.22 all of which are meant for destruction by being consumed, which are according to the precepts and teachings of men.

v.23 Which things, indeed, are having an appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-imposed humility and severe treatment of the body, [which are] not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 2:16-23 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What command is given in verse 16?

3. What command is given in verse 18?

4. What does the phrase “disqualify you” in verse 18 mean?

5. How is the body of Christ described in verse 19?

6. What should our attitude be as Christians towards legalistic standards, according to verses 20 & 21?

7. How does Paul characterize legalism, according to verse 22?

8. How is legalism described, according to verse 23?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER EIGHT – CHRIST IN MY MIND – COLOSSIANS 3:1-11

KEY VERSE 3:2

v. 1 Since, therefore, you were raised with Christ, be seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

v. 2 Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth.

v. 3 For you died and your life has been hidden with Christ in God.

v. 4 Whenever Christ, who is our life, is made visible, then also you with Him shall be made visible in glory.

v. 5 Put to death, therefore, your members which are upon the earth: fornication (immorality), impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

v. 6 Because of which things there is coming the wrath of God,

v. 7 in which things also you once ordered your behavior when you were living in them.

v. 8 But now put away also all these things: anger, wrath, wickedness, evil speaking, abusive language out of your mouth.

v. 9 Stop lying to one another, seeing you have put off the old man with his practices,

v.10 and having clothed yourselves with the new man who is being renewed in knowledge according to the pattern likeness of the One who created him,

v.11 where there cannot be Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, freeman, but Christ is all and in all.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 3:1-11 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How do we implement the command in verse 1 to be “seeking the things above?”

3. How does one change the set of his mind?

4. What is our source of security, according to verse 3?

5. What are we asked to “put to death,” according to verse 5?

6. What is God's attitude about these things, according to verse 6?

7. What other things are we asked to do in verses 8 & 9?

8. What does it mean to clothe ourselves with the “new man?”

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER NINE – CHRIST IN THE WORD – COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**KEY VERSE 3:16**

v.12 Put on, therefore, as chosen ones of God, saints and beloved ones: a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience.

v.13 Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone should have a complaint against anyone, even as also the Lord forgave you, in the same manner also you forgive.

v.14 And upon all these put on love, which is the bond of completeness.

v.15 And let the peace of Christ be ruling in your hearts, into which also you were called in one body; and keep on being thankful.

v.16 Let the word of Christ be at home (dwell) in you abundantly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing each other with psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

v.17 And all whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

NOTES**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are we asked to put on in verse 12?

3. Explain what is involved in “bearing with one another and forgiving one another” in verse 13.

4. What are we supposed to put on over all of the other things mentioned in verse 12, according to verse 14?

5. What are we commanded to do in verse 15?

6. What is the command in verse 16 and how can we implement it?

7. How would you characterize a Christian's words and works in light of the command in verse 17?

8. Define the meaning of "doing all things in the name of the Lord Jesus."

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER TEN – CHRIST IN MY FAMILY – COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1

KEY VERSE 3:23

v.18 Wives, be submitting yourselves to your husbands, as it is fitting in the Lord.

v.19 Husbands, be loving your wives, and do not have the habit of being bitter against them.

v.20 Children, be obeying your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord.

v.21 Fathers, do not be irritating your children, in order that they may not lose heart (become discouraged).

v.22 Servants, be obeying in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice as men pleasers, but with a sincere heart, fearing the Lord.

v.23 Whatever you are doing, be working from the heart, as to the Lord and not to men;

v.24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as a reward.

v.25 The Master, Christ, you are serving; for the one doing wrong shall receive back that which he did wrong, and there is no partiality.

4:v.1 Masters, be displaying justice and fairness to your slaves, knowing that you also are having a Master in heaven.

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QUESTIONS:

1. Read Colossians 3:18-4:1 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What do you think Paul means by the phrase “as it is fitting in the Lord” in verse 18?

3. How would it be possible for a husband to have “the habit of being bitter” against his wife?

4. Why are children commanded to “be obeying their parents” in verse 20?

5. How can a father irritate his children?

6. What are we commanded to do in verse 23?

7. What does Paul mean by the phrase “receive the inheritance as a reward” in verse 24?

8. What are “masters” asked to do in verse 1?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER ELEVEN – CHRIST IN MY WITNESS – COLOSSIANS 4:2-6**KEY VERSE 4:5**

v. 2 Be busily engaged in prayer, being wide awake about it with thanksgiving;

v. 3 praying at the same time also for us, that God would open for us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, because of which I also have been bound;

v. 4 in order that I may make it plain as I ought to speak.

v. 5 In wisdom be ordering your behavior towards those outside, buying up for yourselves the time (making the most of the time).

v. 6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, to the end that you know how you ought to answer everyone.

NOTES**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Colossians 4:2-6 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. What are we commanded to do in verse 2?

3. How are we supposed to go about praying in verse 2?

4. What is Paul's prayer request in verse 3?

5. Why does he ask them to pray for him in verse 4?

6. What are we commanded to do in verse 5?

7. How is it possible to order our “behavior towards those outside” in such a way that would be pleasing to the Lord?

8. How is it possible for one’s speech to be “seasoned with salt?”

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

STAGE NUMBER TWELVE – CHRIST IN OTHER PEOPLE – COLOSSIANS 4:7-18**KEY VERSE 4:7**

v. 7 All the things concerning me Tychicus will make known to you, the beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bonds slave in the Lord;

v. 8 whom I am sending to you for this purpose, in order that you may know the things concerning us and he may encourage your hearts;

v. 9 with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. All things here they will make known to you.

v.10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you; and Mark, a cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you received orders. If he should come to you, receive him.

v.11 And Jesus, the one called Justus, who are of the circumcision; these only are my fellow workers in the kingdom of God; those who have been a comfort to me.

v.12 Epaphras greets you, who is one of you, a bonds slave of Christ Jesus, always wrestling for you in his prayers, in order that you might stand full grown and fully assured in all the will of God.

v.13 For I am bearing witness of him that he had toiled (worked hard) for you and those in Laodicea and those in Hierapolis.

v.14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas greet you.

v.15 Greet the brethren in Laodicea and Nymphas and the church in her house.

v.16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and the letter from Laodicea you should also read.

v.17 And say to Archippus, take heed of the ministry (pay attention to your duty) which you received in the Lord, in order that you may perform it (discharge it fully).

v.18 The greeting by my own hand, Paul, be remembering my bonds. Grace be with you.

NOTES**QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Colossians 4:7-18 and in your own words pull out the main thought of this passage.

2. How is Tychicus characterized in verse 7?

3. Why is Tychicus being sent to them, according to verse 8?

4. Who is Onesimus in verse 9? (The answer is found in the book of Philemon.)

5. How are all these people characterized in verse 11?

6. What is the concern of Epaphras for the Colossian saints recorded in verse 12?

7. What is Archippus commanded to do in verse 17?

8. From what source did his ministry come, according to verse 17?

9. What verse in the study has meant the most to you?

10. What lesson have you learned from this study?

LESSONS FROM THE PASSAGE:

What are some of the lessons we can learn from this particular study?

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
