

Bible Teaching Resources

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A Practical Study of COLOSSIANS: How Christians Grow

“Christ is All and in All”

Part 1

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 We are 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.

NOTES

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?

LESSON #1: You don't realize that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have.

LESSON #2: Christ is all you need. It is Christ + nothing.

LESSON #3: The greatest argument for the validity of the Christian experience is that Jesus Christ changes lives. He changes hatred into love, isolation into fellowship, loneliness into communion, anxiety into trust, fear into faith, and selfishness into service.

LESSON #4: Spiritual growth is a progressive change into Christlikeness by the believer.

LESSON #5: Are you presently in the center of God's will?

LESSON #6: How would God characterize your life? Faithful or unfaithful?

LESSON #7: Truly the unhappiest people in the world are not unbelievers but Christians who are resisting the will of God for their lives.

LESSON #8: God's greatest desire is fruit and faithfulness that comes from fellowship.

LESSON #9: Thanksgiving is the expression of the submissive heart.

LESSON #10: When I came to know Jesus Christ three wonderful things happened: (1) I put my faith in the Lord Jesus; (2) I had a deep love for others; and (3) I now have a hope laid up for me in heaven.

LESSON #11: The true Gospel bears fruit in the lives of others and it grows. Or you could say that it is fruitful and it spreads.

LESSON #12: What is your love level at this time?

LESSON #13: The single condition of salvation is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSON #14: Are you growing in this relationship with the Lord Jesus?

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?

LESSON #1: The will, walk, and work of Christ will become the dominant concern in stage #2 of our spiritual development.

LESSON #2: Praying for new believers should encompass these three things: the will, the walk, and the work of this new Christian.

LESSON #3: Paul is praying for five things for these believers in Colosse. He is praying about God's plan, God's purpose, God's pleasure, God's product, and God's power.

LESSON #4: How much better we can cooperate with God when we understanding His way of doing things.

LESSON #5: It is vital to be filled with the knowledge of His will because our thoughts are not His thoughts and our ways are not His ways.

LESSON #6: To live or to walk worthy of the Lord, it is going to be necessary for us to be daily in His Word where we will find the definition of the worthy walk.

LESSON #7: The more we know Him the more we will love Him. The more we love Him the more we will want to please Him.

LESSON #8: We are making progress towards spiritual maturity when in every good work we are bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God.

LESSON #9: Are we making the mistake of trying to work FOR Him when He wants to work IN us?

LESSON #10: As a believer we are equipped with all power according to His glorious strength for the purpose of perseverance and steadfastness with joy.

LESSON #11: Paul is giving thanks to the Father for the fact that He qualified us for the share of the inheritance of the saints in the light. We certainly could not qualify ourselves.

LESSON #12: He not only qualified us, but He also rescued us out of the domain of darkness and then He transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

LESSON #13: Because he qualified, rescued and transferred us, we are now in the position of having redemption and also the forgiveness of sins.

LESSON #14: The only way the Father could qualify us, rescue us, and transfer us is by the death of His own Son.

LESSON #15: Salvation is all God's doing.

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.

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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.

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?

LESSON #1: Is Christ in first place in my life?

LESSON #2: Do you have enough confidence in the Lord to turn it all over to Him?

LESSON #3: John 1:14: "And the word [Jesus Christ] was made flesh and tabernacled (or dwelt) among us."

LESSON #4: The babe in Bethlehem's manger is the God who created the heavens and the earth.

LESSON #5: Jesus Christ created the world for Himself. It is His house. He drew up the plans and brought it into being.

LESSON #6: Christ is responsible for all of creation. His name appears on all of it. Just like the artist's name on a painting or the author's name upon a book.

LESSON #7: In Him, as the originating source, all things were created. And through Him all things were created. And for Him all things were created.

LESSON #8: The God of Genesis 1 is the babe of Matthew 1.

LESSON #9: The helm of the universe is held by the hands which were pierced for us.

LESSON #10: The Lord is not only the head of His creation, He is the head of His body (the church) and He wants to be the head in our lives as well.

LESSON #11: It is Jesus Christ who has made peace in His creation, in His church, and in the believer through the blood of His cross.

LESSON #12: The Lord has done everything necessary to bring about reconciliation. The empty cup, the empty cross, and the empty tomb bear witness to this.

LESSON #13: Does Jesus Christ occupy first place in your life? If not, why not? If not, what does?

LESSON #14: Do you have that peace of reconciliation?

LESSON #15: Does He have first place in your mind, your marriage, your business, your conduct, your attitudes, your rights, your responses, and your habits?

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.

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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, 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:

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

LESSON #1: Are you growing in your relationship to Jesus Christ, just like He did recorded in Luke 2:52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

LESSON #2: "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18 NASB).

LESSON #3: "Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord" (1 Peter 2:2-3 NASB).

LESSON #4: The goal for growth is so that He might present you holy and without blemish and blameless before Him on that day of judgment.

LESSON #5: "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen" (Jude 24, 25 NASB).

LESSON #6: The instrument of reconciliation for us is the body of His flesh. That's why on that final night in the upper room he said "This is my body which is broken for you. This cup is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me."

LESSON #7: Paul's joy was not dependent upon outward circumstances. Outward pressures only crushed him closer to the heart of God. This can only be true if we are abiding in Him.

LESSON #8: These sufferings that Paul is enduring are also endured by Christ because of their relationship.

LESSON #9: "... 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'" In verse 5 he said: "And he said, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting'" (Acts 9:4 NASB).

LESSON #10: Paul describes his ministry in three ways: (1) suffering; (2) serving; and (3) speaking.

LESSON #11: Christ in us, the hope of glory, is the mystery that Paul is telling us about.

LESSON #12: Paul describes his public ministry around the words: proclaiming, admonishing, and teaching. The ultimate purpose is to present every man mature in Christ.

LESSON #13: Paul concludes with that glorious verse: "It is Christ in whom all the hidden treasures of the wisdom and knowledge are found" (Colossians 2:3 DAV). You can focus on Jesus Christ for all of God's dealings with us.

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,

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.

NOTES

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?

LESSON #1: Because in Christ there are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the apostle Paul recognizes Christ was everything. He was truly the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

LESSON #2: The challenge of the Christian life is just the same as it is in marriage. And that is, to develop an in-depth relationship that will change our lives.

LESSON #3: In Christ, in Christ alone, are all the hidden treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Don't get fooled by those who would say that it resides somewhere else.

LESSON #4: Paul commands the Philippian saints in Philippians 2:12-13: "So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (NASB).

LESSON #5: One of the toughest assignments in the Christian life, as you begin to move toward maturity, is to remain faithful and to go on living in Christ and to separate truth from error.

LESSON #6: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15 NASB).

LESSON #7: Paul challenges the Colossians in Colossians 2:6: "In like manner, therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord be living (walking around) in Him" (DAV).

LESSON #8: "God give us men, who have learned to walk with Christ a step at a time, a moment at a time and who never faint." (Richard Halverson)

LESSON #9: Every thought, every word, every deed, not my will but yours be done. Not my life, but your life, being lived out in me.

LESSON #10: Paul gives three pictures here in what it means to be remaining steadfast in the faith: (1) walking; (2) rooted; and (3) built up.

LESSON #11: Psalm 92:12: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

LESSON #12: A tree has to grow down before it can grow up. The roots must go deep so the tree can stand the storms.

LESSON #13: Are you living, rooted, and being built up in Jesus Christ?

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;
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.

NOTES

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?

LESSON #1: The Lord is patiently waiting for the time when He can take over.

LESSON #2: The Christian life was never intended to be a cooperative venture.

LESSON #3: Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My load is light" (NASB).

LESSON #4: Galatians 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me" (NASB).

LESSON #5: John Calvin said: "Now in Christ there is a perfection to which nothing can be added. God has manifested Himself to us fully and perfectly in Christ."

LESSON #6: It is God who is living within me and waiting to live out His life through me, just as He patiently waits at the door of my heart for entrance in order that I might be born again by the Spirit into His family.

LESSON #7: Jesus Christ is alive, adequate, and available to meet each need as it arises.

LESSON #8: So much is missed simply because we are unwilling to take God at His word and to trust the indwelling and inliving Christ to prove Himself adequate in all of life's situations.

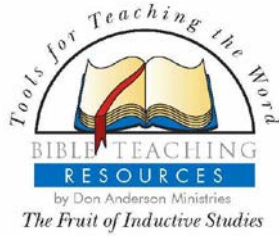
LESSON #9: All the resources for victory in our personal lives reside in Jesus Christ.

LESSON #10: When Christ was crucified, God nailed the law to His cross.

LESSON #11: In the hour of seeming victory for the forces of evil, Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross won for us the victory.

LESSON #12: 1 Corinthians 15:57: "How we thank God for all of this. It is he who has made us victorious through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

ADDITIONAL NOTES:



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A Practical Study of COLOSSIANS: How Christians Grow

“Christ is All and in All”

Part 2

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

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.

NOTES

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?

LESSON #1: One of the real temptations of a young Christian is to endeavor to produce righteousness in the flesh or as a result of one's own effort.

LESSON #2: This involves certain legalistic requirements by which we grade ourselves as spiritual or unspiritual, depending upon how well we are performing.

LESSON #3: Satan will do anything to get us concentrating on our performance rather than our relationship with the Father. Concentrating on our conduct rather than on Christ. Working on the outward and neglecting the inward.

LESSON #4: The reality is in Jesus Christ. As the shadow foretells the coming presence, so the law points us to Christ.

LESSON #5: Don't go chasing after the shadow when you already have the reality in Christ.

LESSON #6: We each need to be aware of how we can be disqualified from rewards at the judgment seat of Christ.

LESSON #7: According to Paul, there are five ways we can be disqualified: (1) "delighting in a self-imposed humility"—this kind of humility is a cover-up for excessive pride—no real brokenness; (2) "[the] worship of angels"; (3) "entering at length upon the tale of what he has seen in a vision; (4) "being puffed up by the mind of the flesh"; and (5) "not holding fast [to] the head"—who is Christ.

LESSON #8: We must not look elsewhere to find growth, strength, knowledge, and joy. For all of these are found in Jesus Christ.

LESSON #9: Paul is saying here that it is our responsibility to concentrate on the relationship to Jesus Christ and our fellowship with the Father. Once the life of Christ is flowing through us, the fruit will take care of itself.

LESSON #10: All the flesh needs is a law to break before it leaps into action.

LESSON #11: What a glorious freedom is ours in a relationship with an adequate Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

NOTES**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:

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

LESSON #1: The mind is the citadel of all that has to do with Christian growth and development.

LESSON #2: Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1:13 to gird up the loins of our mind (DAV).

LESSON #3: Paul tells the Philippians to “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (2:5).

LESSON #4: “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he” (Phil. 4:8).

LESSON #5: The mental discipline of allowing Christ to control our minds is the key to victory and spiritual growth.

LESSON #6: Becoming a Christian involves a new mind-set. 2 Corinthians 10:5: “we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (DAV).

LESSON #7: “Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth” (verse 2).

LESSON #8: Have you been concerned about your thought life? The impure thoughts, the thoughts of this world? These are the things that Satan uses to distract us from being victorious in our thought-life.

LESSON #9: Philippians 4:8: “And now finally, brothers, as I close this letter, let me say one more thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that pure and lovely and on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about” (TLB).

LESSON #10: We are joined with Christ, where He is, we also shall be. Christ, who is our life.

LESSON #11: Our bodies can be the instruments of sin or the temples of the Holy Spirit.

LESSON #12: “Be setting your mind upon things above, not the things on the earth” (verse 2). “Put to death, therefore, your members . . . upon the earth” (verse 5).

LESSON #13: Colossians 3:11 is the key verse to the whole epistle. Christ is all that a man needs and he is in all that a man does. He meets all of my needs no matter what they are. He is in all that I do.

LESSON #14: “*Jesus Christ is made to me, All I need, all I need. He alone is all my plea, He is all I need.*” Living water, bread of life. White robe of righteousness Christ be all for us. We ought to be all for Him.

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.

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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?

LESSON #1: We begin to make real progress toward Christlikeness when we focus our attention upon the consistent daily reading of the Word of God.

LESSON #2: Ezra 7:10: "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel . . ." (KJV).

LESSON #3: In order for us to obey God's Word we must know it—which means we must read it often, and then begin to implement it in our lives.

LESSON #4: Jeremiah 15:16: "When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight, for I bear your name, O Lord God Almighty" (NIV).

LESSON #5: Psalms 1:2 tells us of the blessed man, whose "delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night" (NIV).

LESSON #6: Joshua 1:8: “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful” (NIV).

LESSON #7: One of the things the Word does is to show us what to wear: “a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience” (verse 12).

LESSON #8: The ability of God to forgive is seen in the way Jesus Christ handles Peter after the denial, in the parable of the Prodigal Son, and also with the woman caught in the act of adultery (John 8).

LESSON #9: It is the garment of love that holds everything else together. This is the garment that goes over all of the rest. This is the garment that shows. This is the one that people see.

LESSON #10: It is the peace of Christ that acts as an umpire in our hearts. The absence of peace—there is something resisting or wrong.

LESSON #11: In verse 15 we are to “let the peace of Christ” rule. In verse 16 we are to “Let the word of Christ be at home” in us.

LESSON #12: The key to growth is to be submissive to His Spirit and obedient to His Word.

LESSON #13: “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” (verse 17).

LESSON #14: Everything we do and say, we do and say as though we are in His presence and He is hearing and seeing.

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.

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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.

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?

LESSON #1: God has designed the family for the preparation of the child for adult life.
Let us accept as good our Heavenly Father’s design for our lives.

LESSON #2: A submissive Spirit is the one that has the freedom to be creative under the protection of divinely appointed authority.

LESSON #3: Longfellow said: “Submission is the footprint of faith in the pathway of sorrow.”

LESSON #4: This submission in Ephesians 5 is a visible manifestation of a Spirit-filled life.

LESSON #5: In the presence of sacrificial servant leadership, there is no problem in the area of submission.

LESSON #6: The husband’s responsibility in loving his wife is to focus on security, self-image, and servant issues. The husband’s place is not to rule in a cold dictatorship, but to be loving his wife. It is loving leadership.

LESSON #7: If I am loving my wife I am living by the four C’s: (1) Care; (2) Communication; (3) Concern; and (4) Consideration.

LESSON #8: Listen to Shulamith as she lectures Solomon: “Let us catch the foxes that ruin the vineyard” (SOS 2:15). Those foxes are bitterness, resentment, jealousy, an unforgiving spirit, failure to yield one’s rights in the relationship, selfishness, distance, and coldness.

LESSON #9: If I’m loving my wife and this love is a growing thing, it will move from selfishness to sacrifice, from getting to giving.

LESSON #10: Thomas á Kempis said: “No man doth faithfully rule but he that hath learned gladly to obey.”

LESSON #11: Notice carefully that obedience is pleasing to the Lord.

LESSON #12: Overcorrection leads to discouragement. Commendation and correction go hand in hand.

LESSON #13: Whatever you are doing, be working from the heart as to the Lord and not to men.

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.

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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?

LESSON #1: A good witness is (1) concerned enough to pray; (2) careful with his conduct; and (3) communicates with compassion.

LESSON #2: Paul is a great example of a person who prays. In Colossians 1:3 he says: “[I am] giving thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying for you at all times” (DAV).

LESSON #3: To be “busily engaged in prayer” means that we work at it. It is a top priority. We give it our best shot.

LESSON #4: In the little snippets of Christ’s words from the cross, out of the seven sayings three of them are prayers to the Father: (1) “Father, forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.” (4) “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (7) “Father, into your hands I am commending my spirit.”

LESSON #5: 1 Thessalonians 5:17: “Pray without ceasing” (NASB).

LESSON #6: How unprepared we are for life’s great moments simply because we have slept instead of praying.

LESSON #7: Paul is asking the Colossians to pray for open doors of opportunity for ministry.

LESSON #8: Paul is praying for clarity in his communication to folks who need to know the Savior.

LESSON #9: It is Paul’s hope that as they pray for him he will be able to make plain the message to those who need to hear about the Lord Jesus.

LESSON #10: “Lead me to some soul today. Oh teach me, Lord, just what to say. Friends of mine are lost in sin, and cannot find their way. Few there are who seem to care and few there are who pray. Melt my heart and fill my life, give me one soul today.” (Will Houghton)

LESSON #11: Paul says two things about our speech here: (1) “with grace” and (2) that it is “seasoned with salt” (verse 6).

LESSON #12: The end result of this instruction is seen in that last phrase in verse 6: “You know how you ought to answer everyone.”

LESSON #13: Jesus' last words before He ascended into glory are recorded in Acts 1:8:
 "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (NASB).

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 has 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.

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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?

LESSON #1: I believe it is a part of spiritual development for the Christian to recognize the fact that God uses people in our lives in so many different ways to mature us spiritually and teach us how to walk.

LESSON #2: There is safety in a multitude of counselors.

LESSON #3: All these people in Paul's photograph album have Jesus Christ living in their lives. Just like the Apostle, they too become examples to help us know how we ought to live.

LESSON #4: Philippians 3:17: "Dear brothers, pattern your lives after mine and notice who else lives up to my example" (TLB).

LESSON #5: Every person has a contribution to make to our lives.

LESSON #6: "Onesimus the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you" (verse 9). What an illustration he is of the dramatic change that took place in his life when he received Christ as Savior.

LESSON #7: Onesimus is on his way back to make things right for the past wrongs which he has committed.

LESSON #8: Epaphras, the pastor in Colossae, is praying that they "might stand full grown and fully assured in all the will of God" (verse 12).

LESSON #9: Luke is the beloved, faithful doctor who stood by Paul's side until death. Demas left him because he had a greater love for this present world. You win some and you lose some.

LESSON #10: Archippus was probably the son of Philemon and Apphia and was serving as interim pastor while Epaphras was in Rome. He seems to manifest a lazy, unmotivated, put-off getting after it mentality. Paul has to challenge him.

LESSON #11: The purpose of this admonishment is in that last phrase: "in order that you might fully discharge your responsibilities" (verse 17).

LESSON #12: John 9:4: "I must work the works of him that sent me while it is day, for the night is coming when no man can work."

LESSON #13: "Christ is all and in all" (Col. 3:11b). He is totally adequate for every situation.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:
