

COLOSSIANS

THE LETTER

WORD CENTER MINISTRIES
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COLOSSIANS - The LETTER

Chapter One

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to Jesus Christ in red. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to the Holy Spirit with a red cloud. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to the author with a green capital "P".

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to the recipients with an orange capital "C".

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to being in Christ with a red arrow overlaid with yellow above the word *in*.

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to the word of truth, or gospel, along with all synonyms and pronouns, with a blue box. Fill in the box with red. Example: In **verse 6** you would mark *which, it, it* (again), and *grace of God* because they are all referring to the word of truth.

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to faith, along with its synonyms and pronouns in blue.

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark each reference to the word all, along with its synonyms, with a green circle.

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to glory with purple. Put a yellow box around the purple highlighted area. Mark whole phrases if you like.

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to knowledge with lavender.

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to wisdom with light blue. Then put a lavender box around the word.

Read through **Colossians 1** and highlight every reference to being created, or creation, with a fancy blue capital "C". (Making it fancy reminds you of His Glory as Creator!)

Read through **Colossians 1** and underline *according to* or *so that* with a pink arrow pointed toward the right side of the phrase.

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every comparison or simile with a pink equal sign. (Look for phrases like just as, or even as)

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash.

Read through **Colossians 1** and mark any terms of conclusion with a pink capital "T".

Read through **Colossians 1** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Greeting to the saints
2. Faith of the saints
3. Prayer for the saints
4. Christ is ALL to the saints
5. Paul's ministry to the saints

READ AND OBSERVE

Colossians 1:1-2

Who is the author of the book of **Colossians**?

What does Paul say he is?

Whose apostle?

Who chose Paul to be an apostle of Jesus Christ?

Why did God choose Paul?

Who is alongside of the author?

Who does Paul say Timothy is?

Whose brother? Who is “our”?

If Paul, Timothy, and the saints are all brothers, who is their Father?

Does **verse 2** confirm your answer?

What does Paul say about his recipients? What does he call them?

1.

2.



**Paul added the requirement of being a faithful brother to the idea of saint.
Why?**

**Colossae was a heathen town!
Temples on every corner with tons of saints dedicated to their own gods.
Paul was not writing to the town of Colossae,
nor was he writing to all the “saints” in the town of Colossae.**

**The Greek word for “saints” is *hagio* and means holy or sacred.
“Set apart” or “called out” are terms we might use to describe a saint.
It has to do with religious dedication or consecration.
Saints were simply those persons who were dedicated to their own god.**

Paul, however, was only writing to those saints whose dedication belonged

**to the One and Only True God—the God of the Jews!
Those who were true believers and faithful brethren *in Christ Jesus*—
Yes! That was Paul's criteria of a true saint!**

Where do they live?

What makes them faithful brethren? (According to the text)

What does Paul extend to the saints and the faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae?

1.

2.

From Whom does this grace and peace come?

Besides being in Christ (which is huge!), what else do the saints have in common with Paul and Timothy?

Colossians 1:3-8

What do Paul and Timothy do on a regular basis?

To Whom do Paul and Timothy give thanks?

In the earlier two verses, Paul referenced God being the Father of the saints; in this verse, Whose Father is He?

Without going beyond the text, who else are brothers?

And yet, although Christ is our brother, what position does He have over us, according to the text?

How do Paul and Timothy give thanks to God, the Father, for the saints at Colossae?

How often do Paul and Timothy give thanks to God, the Father, for the saints at Colossae?

How long have Paul and Timothy been praying full-time for the saints at Colossae?

What exactly did they hear about the saints at Colossae?

1.

2.

Why do saints have faith in Christ Jesus and love for all the saints?

Of what had the Colossians heard?

Where had the Colossians heard of the hope laid up for saints in heaven?

What is the word of truth?

What is synonymous with the gospel?

Did the Colossians come to the gospel, or did the gospel come to the Colossians?

When the gospel came to the Colossians, what happened? What did it do?

1.

2.

What about the rest of the world? What happens when the gospel, or the word of truth, comes to those who are called?

1.

2.

How must those who are called respond if the gospel is going to bear fruit in them and increase?

1.

2.

What do you think Paul means by bearing fruit?

What do you think Paul means by increasing?

When did (and does) the word of truth begin bearing fruit and increasing in an individual?

1.

2.

How often does the word of truth bear fruit and increase in an individual?

What does it say the Colossians (saints) heard and understood?

Then what else is synonymous with word of truth and gospel?

Just to help you remember, write out the things that are synonymous from **verses 5 and 6**.

1.

2.

3.

Exactly how did the Colossians hear the word of truth? Exactly how did the Colossians understand the gospel? (Not how were they able to, but with what criteria.)

So then, is belief dependent upon hearing the word of truth in truth? (This is sort of a rhetorical question. Just read the verses over and over asking God to show you truth as you receive His truth in truth... I know, I know, that was another hint!)

How can we know the Colossians really did get saved when they heard the word of truth in truth? What were the two things that were happening to them?

1.

2.



What is this fruit that Paul talks about?

**Read the entire chapter of John 15 in order to hear Jesus expound on this idea.
Then read Galatians 5 to hear Paul give an in depth description of the fruit.**

Who delivered the gospel to the Colossians?

Did the Colossians only hear the gospel from Epaphras or was it more than that?

What is the difference between hearing and learning?

What is involved in learning?



**The Greek word for “learn” is *manthano*.
Manthano means to gain knowledge or skill by instruction.
In other words, Epaphras was not just a traveling preacher, but a gifted teacher.
We know, because they understood what he taught them!**

**As a teacher, he taught knowledge to the Colossians.
He taught them the knowledge of the truth...
the word of truth...
the grace of God...
the gospel!**

What does Paul say Epaphras' relationship is to Paul and Timothy?

1.

2.

How does Paul feel about Epaphras?

What position does Paul identify with himself and with Epaphras?

How does Paul feel about the way Epaphras is doing his job?

Although Paul knows Epaphras is a servant of Christ, and a faithful one, what other information does Paul give us regarding their relationship? (On whose behalf does Paul consider Epaphras' work?)

Could this be why Epaphras informs Paul and Timothy of his work with the Colossians and their response to the word of truth?

What did Epaphras tell Paul was the Colossians' response to the word of truth?

Do we know (at this point in the book) whether Paul had ever met the Colossians face to face when he wrote to them?

What does **Colossians 2:1-5** tell us regarding their relationship?



Considering the above information, don't you just love Paul!

**Paul greatly struggled on behalf of people he had never even met—
to encourage their hearts,
desiring them to have a true knowledge of God's mystery (Christ Himself).
He did everything he could to deter their being deluded with false arguments
about Christ and the word of truth.**

**Even though he was not present physically with them, he surely was in spirit!
He literally delighted to hear of their obedience to the word of truth
and made sure he let them know it.**

**It makes me think...
If Paul took such pains to encourage saints he had never even met,
then surely, surely, surely,
we must be responsible to do the same for those in our lives.**

**And take note, take very careful note,
the encouragement was not to *feel good about themselves*,
but encouragement to *walk obediently* according to the Word of God.**

I wish I could say that wasn't a far cry from what churches today seek to do...

Colossians 1:9-12

What is meant by "for this reason also"? (**Verse 4**)

From the time Paul and Timothy heard of the faith of the Colossians and their love for all the saints, they started to pray for them—and they continued to pray and pray and pray... What did they ask for? Write it out word for word for understanding and memorization's sake.

Let's break it apart a little just to help ourselves hear the request. What did Paul want the Colossians to be filled with?

What is God's will? It is that which He desires and takes pleasure in. So, how crucial is it for a Christian, a saint, to know, have real knowledge, of what God takes pleasure in? How important is it for us to know, *so that we can do*, what will please God?

Yes, they were to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, so *how much* of God's will did Paul desire them to have? (In the Greek, "filled" has the idea of being controlled or constrained by whatever is filling you.)

Yes, they were to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, but exactly *how well* were they to know His will?

Yes, they were to have spiritual wisdom and understanding of God's will, but *how much* spiritual wisdom were they to have regarding God's will?

How much spiritual understanding were they to have regarding God's will?



Do you know the difference between wisdom and understanding?

**Knowledge without understanding is dead.
Knowledge and understanding without wisdom is dangerous.**

Legos are amazing.

Our boys played with them more than any other toy they owned.
When they were babies, they had no knowledge of them.
We put them in front of each son as a baby.
The first response was to look, then touch, then examine, usually with the mouth.
They were gaining knowledge, facts, truth or information about Legos.
They discovered they were different colors,
had bumps on top, holes on the bottom, and smooth sides.
They also learned they came in many shapes and sizes.
They acquired some knowledge,
but had no understanding or wisdom regarding Legos.

As they grew, their ability to acquire knowledge grew.
It grew into an ability to understand the knowledge they had acquired.
They learned that the bumps on top of one Lego block
could fit into the holes on the bottom of another Lego block.
They learned the blocks would stay attached to one another.
They were learning the meaning of the knowledge
and the relationship between the facts.
They started to understand Legos,
where previously they had only known certain facts about Legos.

As they continued to grow, their ability to acquire knowledge grew
and their understanding of their knowledge grew.
Eventually their understanding grew into an ability to take certain Legos
and make certain shapes and figures out of them.
They were acquiring wisdom.
Wisdom is the ability to take facts, or knowledge,
and with understanding, accomplish a certain goal.

In the case of our sons' Legos, it was to take the facts about Legos,
along with the understanding of how to use them,
and create an inanimate object they desired in their play, like a car or train.

In the case of Paul's prayer, wisdom is to take the knowledge of God's will,
and using our understanding, accomplish our goal.
The goal is to obey God in a way that will please Him.
Paul calls it walking worthy.

If you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
(having been filled with the knowledge of His will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding),
you will please Him in all respects.

1. You will bear fruit in every good work.
2. You will increase in the knowledge of God.
3. You will be strengthened with all power, according to His Glorious might

**so that you will attain all steadfastness and patience.
4. You will joyously give thanks to the Father
for qualifying us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

**I thank God that Paul did not cease to pray for the Colossians
asking that they would be filled with the knowledge of His will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding!**

**The result of God answering his prayer
was saints walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.**

**Thank you, God, for teaching us to pray the same for one another!
May we walk worthy today, this hour, this moment!**

Why did Paul pray for the Colossian saints to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding?

If the Colossian saints walked in a manner worthy of the Lord, what would they do?

In what ways, or respects, would they please the Lord?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How would they be strengthened?

How much power was available to strengthen them? (According to means in direct proportion to.)

What was the purpose of strengthening each saint?

1.

2.

Do you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?

Do you please Him in all respects?

Do you bear fruit in every good work?



**The Greek word for “good” is *agathos*.
It has the idea of attaining to a relatively high standard of quality.
In God’s economy, the only works that may be considered good are—
those initiated by Him...
those accomplished by Him...
and those which bring Glory to Him.**

***For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things...
To Him be the Glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:36***

**I can decide to do something good for somebody,
but if it wasn’t *initiated* by God...
if it wasn’t God’s idea...
if God didn’t say to do it...
then it is not a good work.**

In fact, according to God’s Word, I can not even do a good work apart from Him.

**Think of a soldier.
What if he decided to do his own thing instead of his commander’s thing?
What would he be doing?
A good work?
No.**

Why not?

Because not only could he cause great harm,
while he was doing his own thing rather than his commander's,
he would also be missing the commander's order completely.
The commander's mission would not get done at all.

Surely the commander's mission is greater
than the mission of the inferior soldier.
Surely the commander has a greater vision of the overall needs of his troops.
Surely the commander would send back up and help to the soldier, as needed.
Surely it makes all sorts of sense
to let the one who is responsible for the war take charge,
rather than the one who only fights in the battles.

And yet, what do most Christians do?
They constantly think up good works to do.
Aughhh!

Think about it for a moment.
While I am on the battlefield doing my own thing
I am not even available to do what my commander-in-chief wants me to do!!!
Therefore all my *good* intentions are nothing more than disobedience!

If God wants me to do a good work for Him, I must be ready at all times.
...Doing the work He has already told me to do,
while listening to His every Word for my next assignment.
...Studying the Word—and obeying it,
while listening to His Spirit—ready to obey at a moment's notice.

*No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life
so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.*
2 Timothy 2:4

Oh, and by the way, God will do all the work so that He alone produces the fruit.
You will bear the fruit—hold it, but...
it will be from *His Life* that the fruit is produced because the *Life* is in the *Vine*.
He is the Vine, we are the branches.
Branches just hold on to, or bear, the fruit the Vine produces.

Abide in Me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine,
so neither can you unless you abide in Me.
I am the Vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:4-5

Do you increase in the knowledge of God?

Are you strengthened with all power?

Is the power from which you get your strength His glorious might?

Have you attained all steadfastness?

Have you attained all patience?

Do you joyously give thanks to the Father?

Do you thank Him for qualifying you to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light?

Are you His saint?

How do you know?

Colossians 1:13-23a

What is the inheritance of the saints in Light? (“In Light” qualifies the inheritance, not the saints.)

What would qualify us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light? (Hint: What qualifies you to share in someone else’s inheritance? A family relationship? Has God adopted us as His Own children?)

What has God done?

From what did He rescue us?

Who rules the domain of darkness?

Since God rescued us from the domain of darkness, and Satan rules that kingdom, who is greater?

Into what kingdom did God transfer us?

What do we have in His Son?

Where is our redemption found?

What is our redemption?

What does **verse 15** teach us about God?

What does **verse 15** teach us about God's Son?

1.

2.

Who does Jesus look like?

Think about it, if you get to know Jesus, Who else will you get to know?

If you get to know God, Who else will you get to know?

Why is God's Son the firstborn of all creation? (Firstborn means preeminence, a coming before.)

What was created by God's Son?

List the “all things” listed in **verse 16**.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

How have all things been created?

Why have all things been created?

Just to make sure you are keeping track of your pronouns (an absolutely necessary thing to do when you study God’s Word), who is “Him”? Track the pronoun “Him” back up through the “He” and the “Whom” until you get to **verse 13**.

And, just to be picky for truth’s sake, who is the “His” of “His beloved Son”? You will need to track it back to **verse 3** to know for certain.



Point of Connection

Isn't it interesting!

I have had so many students through the years tell me they did not know that
God's beloved Son was involved in creation;
they thought only God, the Father, had created.

We know from Genesis that God, the Spirit, also took part in creation.
One God, yet three persons...
One God created, yet, each created...
God, the Father
God, the Son
God, the Spirit

Whatever the Bible says is truth.
Whatever the Bible says is what we need to believe.

Genesis 1-2; Revelation 10:6; 14:7; John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:1-5, 8-12;
Psalm 102:25-27; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:26

In the beginning, God created the world.
It seems obvious, but let me say it anyway.
God created our entire universe.
At the beginning of a fixed period of time,
when nothing existed except God, God created.

God, the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit
were all three involved in creating what now exists.

The Holy Spirit hovered over the waters and said,
"Let Us make man in Our image."

Jesus very clearly had an enormous part in creation.
All things came into being by or through Him.
He laid the foundation of the earth.
The heavens are the work of His hands.
Nothing that has come into being has come into being apart from Jesus.
All things have been created *for* Jesus!
Through Him, God made the world.

And yet,
at the very same time it is true that all things have been created through God.
All things have been created *for* God!
He founded the earth.
The heavens are the works of His hands.

I had a student one year that had been in church for most of her life.
While we were studying what the Bible has to say on the subject of covenant,
God turned on a "light bulb" for her.

**She went home and joyously told her husband,
“I know why I was created!
I was created for God!!
I was created for His pleasure and His glory!!!”
Revelation 4:11**

**Wow!!! What a change has happened in my friend’s life.
She has grown and grown and grown in her walk with Jesus.
She knows the purpose of her existence
and lives her life seeking to bring pleasure to her Creator!**

Adapted from HIStory: From Event to Event the Bible is One Story —HIS Story!
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Moving on, Paul continues to list incredible information about God’s beloved Son. What is true of God’s Son, our Jesus, according to **verse 17**?

- 1.

- 2.

Because of the context, what does it mean that Jesus is before all things? Look closely at the rest of the verse and the verse prior to this one. The three choices would be position of time, position of place, or position of importance according to the Greek preposition *pro* that is used here. Although it is always going to be true that Jesus is first place in all things in every way, which position is specifically being referred to here?

If you said that being *before* all things means that God’s Son existed prior to creation’s existence, I think you would be correct. One way to help corroborate that choice is to continue reading the chapter. You will find that the very next verse is going to change ideas and starts with a term of contrast. It says, “*He is also...*” (also meaning a different idea than what was stated in **verse 17**.) What new idea concerning God’s Son is introduced in **verse 18**?

Before we leave **verse 17**, let’s look at the second half of it. What does it mean that in Him all things hold together?

First of all, what must the all things be referring to? What is the context of **verses 16 and 17**?

Verse 16 tells us that God's Son created all things, He existed prior to all things, and all things are held together in Him. In other words, what would happen to creation if God's Son were to suddenly let go of His control over them?



**According to Colossians 1:16, God's Son is the Creator of all things.
According to Colossians 1:17, God's Son is the Sustainer of all things.**

And guess what?

**According to the rest of God's Word,
His Son will also be the Destroyer of all things when the time comes.**

Hebrews 1:8-12 (which quotes Psalm 45:6-7 and Psalm 102:24-27)

***But of the Son He says,
"YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER,
AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.
YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;
THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD,
HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS."***

***And,
"YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH,
AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS;
THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;
AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT,
AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP.
LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED.
BUT YOU ARE THE SAME,
AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END."***

**What a great cross-reference for us!
Not only does it talk about the exact same thing—even calling Him the Son!
But it also refers to His existence after the destruction of the creation,
which parallels perfectly with His existence prior to the creation!**

**What a God to have written such a book!
And He wrote it for us to hear!**

Thank You, thank You, most wonderful Father God!

Now Paul goes on to a new idea—the idea of preeminence. What is the body and who is its head?

What else is the Son of God, according to Paul?

How does Paul define the Beginning?

What process began with Jesus as the firstborn? (What happens to each and every individual who becomes a part of the whole—the body of Christ?)

What is the repercussion, or reward, actually, of being the firstborn from the dead? In other words, why will Jesus have first place in everything?

When will this take place? When will Jesus come to have first place in everything? Can you think of a cross-reference? (In a way, He already has, but the grand finale is yet to come. And boy, oh boy, will it be grand!!!)

Just a thought... a glorious thought! Do we, too, have a reward for being born from the dead?

What has been the Father's plan, pleasure, and desire all along?

1.

2.

What is meant by *all the fullness*? (**Colossians 2:9; Ephesians 1:23; John 1:16**)

Where does all the fullness dwell?

Where do we, as members of the body of Christ, dwell?

What did God accomplish through His beloved Son?

What are all things in this case?

How are all things reconciled?

To Whom are the “all things” reconciled, the Son or the Father?

Who does the reconciling?

Who is used to accomplish reconciliation?

How is the Son used? What did the Son do for the Father?

Peace was made—but between whom? Was it between Jesus and man, or God and man? This is extremely important to understand! Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding if you are not sure about it.

What things are listed as having been made to be at peace with God?

1.

2.

Things or all things? In other words, are all things on earth reconciled to God in peace? Are all things in heaven reconciled to God in peace? This one is a bit sticky, so watch the text and keep your thoughts inside of the context.



Point of Depth

Colossians 1:20

...whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Now isn't that interesting?

**Somehow, when sin entered the picture, the universe—
all of creation, not just mankind—
was robbed of its peaceful state with its Creator.**

Romans 8:19-23

***For the anxious longing of the creation
waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.
For the creation was subjected to futility,
not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it,
in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption
into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
For we know that the whole creation
groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.
And not only this,
but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit,
even we ourselves groan within ourselves,
waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.***

Praise God!

**Through the work of the beloved Son of the Father,
reconciliation has been provided!**

To whom is Paul speaking? (Go back to the beginning of his letter if you need to clarify.)

What is true about the saints to whom he is writing? What were they like before they were saints, before they were saved?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

From Whom were the saints previously alienated?

To Whom have they been reconciled?

To Whom were they formerly hostile?

With Whom are they now at peace?

What did they use to engage in?

What follows that necessarily must have changed about their deeds? Check out **verse 22** to verify your answer if you are not sure.

The phrase “yet now” is a term of contrast. There is a list of three in **verse 21** and a list of three in **verse 22**. Yet now points to the fact that those two lists are in contrast to one another.

Let’s build the lists and compare them. First list the three things that were true of saints formerly—before they were saints. (I know, you have already seen this list, but build it again.)

1.

2.

3.

Next build the list that is true of saints now—and will remain true of them.

1.

2.

3.

Let’s compare the first descriptions in each list (in order to see the contrast). You built the lists, now let’s set them up side by side and see the spectacular difference between a saint and an unbeliever! And it is all due to the Father’s acceptance of what the beloved Son has done for Him!

1. Instead of being alienated or set apart *from* God, they are now holy, or set apart, *unto* God.
2. Instead of being hostile in mind *toward* God, they are now blameless *before* God.
3. Instead of being engaged in, and therefore guilty of, evil deeds *against* God, they are now beyond reproach *before* Him—God is not willing to bring a charge against them!

Whew! What a Savior!!!

Do you notice the “if” at the beginning of **verse 23**? It is very important. Not only does it connect the previous verses to itself, but it also determines and qualifies the point Paul is trying to make. He says that all saints were formerly alienated and hostile in their minds, engaged in evil deeds.

But, Paul asserts that a huge change takes place if you are reconciled to God because God desires to present each saint before Him as holy and blameless and beyond reproach. He states very simply that if you are saved, if you truly possess salvation, there will be a behavioral badge of your salvation—you know, a button on your chest that says, “I am saved!”

This badge is not a requirement *for achieving* something; rather, it is evidence of something that *has been achieved*—in this case, salvation. (Just to make sure there is no confusion—this salvation was achieved by Christ and Christ alone, not we ourselves).

This badge of salvation is a certification of your salvation, or reconciliation. If you are saved—then you have this badge. What is the badge Paul refers to?

If I truly have this badge of salvation, it shows I possess salvation. If I possess salvation, how will I someday be presented before Him?

If you continue in the faith, what does it show?

What kind of continuance in the faith will it be if you are truly saved?

- 1.

2.

3.

How established will you be?

How steadfast will you be?

If you are firmly established, will you waver?

If you are steadfast, will you waffle?

If you continue in the faith, will you walk away from the faith, the hope of the gospel?

What does Paul tell us about the gospel the saints of Colossae heard?

1.

2.

Compare what Paul says in these verses to what he said in **verses 4** through **8**. Do you see any similarities? If so, what?

What was proclaimed in all creation under heaven?

Colossians 1:23b-29

Paul is now going to segue from details about God's beloved Son to details about himself as minister *for* God and *to* the saints (God is the Master, Paul is the servant, and Paul is serving the saints for the Master). What was proclaimed in all creation under heaven?

Is Paul saying that everyone and everything in all creation had at that time heard the *verbal* proclamation of the gospel?

What is he saying? (Read **Romans 1:16-20** paying special attention to **verse 20**.)

Is this gospel the same word of truth that Paul speaks about earlier in the chapter?

Of what was Paul made a minister?

According to Paul, what was part of his job description? In other words, what came along with his position of minister of the gospel?

According to **verse 24**, what had happened to Paul?

Why had Paul experienced this suffering and affliction?

How did Paul feel about his position and its necessary job requirements?

Why did he rejoice about it? (The answer is in the text.)

For whose sake was he suffering?

Who is the “your”? (Don’t just use any synonym. Use the one from the context which keeps the illustration intact.)

What does Paul do in his flesh?

What is “His body”?

What is lacking?



**Did Christ suffer for preaching the gospel?
Did Paul suffer for preaching the gospel?
Do you suffer for preaching the gospel?**

**Is suffering and affliction a requirement for all ministers of the gospel of truth?
If it is, have you paid your dues?
If you have not, have you been a true minister of the gospel?**

**I don't want you to misunderstand Colossians 1:24.
Is it saying Christ should have suffered more?
No. Of course not!**

**When Christ was killed, His life, and therefore, His preaching, were curtailed.
If Christ had continued to live, He would have certainly continued to preach the
gospel until all the "called out ones" were called in to the body.**

**If He had continued to preach the gospel,
what would have been the continuing result?
Yes, some would be saved, but most would not.
He would have suffered and suffered at the hands of the unbelieving
because He would have continued to spread the gospel.**

**There is a certain amount of suffering that must take place
before all that are chosen are placed into the body of Christ, the church.**

**Is it true that giving the gospel brings on suffering?
Yes.**

**The gospel is a wonderful, wonderful aroma to those who are being called.
It is the stench of death to those who are not.
Few will receive the love of the Truth so as to be saved.
Most will reject the Gospel and its messengers.**

**Why?
Because the Gospel is the light that exposes the darkness in a person.**

**If the Gospel was simply, "God has something wonderful for you."
(or dare I say, "God has a wonderful plan for your life."),
there would be no persecution.**

**But the Gospel is not the simplistic heresy above.
The Word of Truth starts out with the facts.
It begins with, "God is holy and you are not.**

***You are in trouble because you have done wrong.
God will punish you for your sinfulness.”***

**People do not like that message—not at all!
People are offended at the truth of Gospel and will shoot its messenger
rather than listen all the way to the end.
(Where, by the way, is the place the good news comes in—
the good news that Jesus has taken your punishment
and procured God’s good favor toward you so that you may receive salvation.)**

**There will be suffering in giving the gospel
until every last chosen saint has been brought into the body of Christ
because the message will not change.**

**A certain amount of saints...
A certain amount of time...
A certain amount of suffering...**

**The Gospel has to go out to all those He has chosen.
As it is going out, believers and unbelievers alike will hear it.
There is a box of time in which the Gospel will be preached.
That time has already been determined by God,
and it is the perfect amount of time for all the chosen ones to be saved.**

**Jesus did His part for three years, but the Gospel was not fully given—
not all the saints had been brought into the body of Christ—
the box of time had not been completed.**

**Paul is saying that he did his part in sharing the Gospel
and sharing in the suffering that comes from giving the Gospel.
There is certain amount of suffering that is ordained, so to speak,
simply because there is a certain amount of people to whom the Gospel must go,
(those who have actually been ordained to receive the Gospel)
and necessarily the larger number of people who will not receive the Gospel
must hear it, as well, because the Gospel is often cast to crowds.**

**A few will receive the Gospel positively.
Most will receive the Gospel negatively.**

**A certain amount of suffering will take place until the entire mission is
accomplished—all those who are appointed will have the Gospel given to them.**

**We, following Paul’s example, are to take up where Christ left off.
We are to keep giving the gospel
and we are to continue to *joyfully endure suffering for doing so*
until the last member of the body is brought in to the body of Christ, the church.**

**Then, and only then, will suffering be filled, or completed,
because the whole of the suffering will have been accomplished,
because the whole of the body of Christ will have been saved.**

**That's why Paul says he is doing his share.
If each saint does his or her share, each will suffer.
Bringing saints into the body of Christ brings suffering.
Indeed, it costs much.**

The question is, are you paying your share?

1 Peter 5:9, 10
***But resist him, firm in your faith,
knowing that the same experiences of suffering
are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.
After you have suffered for a little while,
the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
will Himself perfect...
confirm...
strengthen...
and establish you.***



Point of Depth

**If we take up where Christ left off in preaching the Gospel,
what will our lives be like?
Affliction and suffering will be ours.**

**What directly brings on that affliction and suffering?
Giving the Gospel...
Giving the Truth...
Giving the Word of God...**

**Why aren't more church people suffering, then?
Because they are not giving the Word.**

**Jesus always spoke what He heard the Father say.
Most churches nowadays, and the individuals who are members of them,
have wrapped a false aroma around the aroma of the Gospel.**

**Why?
In order to make it pleasant so that people will listen to them.
They have taken out the stench of death.
They have rewritten God's Word!**

Why?
In order to obtain more members.
It's deadly...

What does the church-at-large look like?
Holy? Blameless? Beyond reproach?

Why not?
Because there are more unbelievers in the church-at-large than true believers.
Matthew 13 teaches us this,
but we can also see it clearly just by looking for ourselves.
The picture to the world is one full of hypocrisy, jealousy,
greediness, selfishness, stubbornness—
a far from holy, blameless, and beyond reproach...

How do you get around that problem? How can you fix it?
You speak the Word and let it do its job.
You remove the unbelievers who reveal themselves through their sin
(after giving them the proper chances to repent).

Will it clean the church to God's standards?
Not permanently, because more will come.
Unbelievers will be in the church until Christ comes.

Does that remove the responsibility from us?
No. May it never be!
God chooses to remove unbelievers from the church
through believers speaking His Word.

Will there be confrontations?
Sure, there will be plenty.

But do you have any other option?
No, not if you are a believer.
Not if you are obedient.

Colossians 1:23 clearly says that Paul was made a minister of the gospel. Does **Colossians 1:25** seem to be a contradiction?

The words “this church” have been added by translators. Paul did not write them. Therefore, context must be our source of help to understand what Paul is saying. He is certainly not going to contradict himself—the Word of God is Truth! So, what is **verse 25** telling us?

Who was made a minister?

Under, or according to, what guidelines or management plan was Paul made a minister?

Who made Paul a minister?

For whose benefit was Paul made a minister?

What was Paul to do with this responsibility?

What is the connection? How does fully carrying out the preaching of the Word of God benefit the body of Christ? (This is an easier answer than you might expect. Just look for the obvious.)

What is synonymous with the complete preaching of the Word of God?

What is true about the mystery?

1.

2.

Did the Old Testament saints understand the mystery of the gospel?

To whom has the mystery of Christ’s body been shown?

Who decided to hide it from past ages and generations?

Who decided to reveal the mystery in Paul's age?

How much of the mystery did God reveal to them (and to us)?

Were the Colossians mostly Jews or Gentiles?

Were the past ages and generations Jew or Gentile?

In addition to the mystery of the gospel, the body of Christ, being revealed rather than being veiled, what else vastly changed?

What is synonymous with the mystery?

What is synonymous with Christ in you?

Then, does it stand to reason that the hope of Glory is the same thing as the mystery?



**Let's consider the people to whom Paul was writing.
They were believers, but probably more Gentiles than Jews.**

**Paul talks about a mystery that was not revealed until his present day.
That mystery was the church.**

**Why was that such a mystery?
Why was that such a big deal?**

**Actually, it was bigger than a big deal.
It was huger than huge and greater than great!**

But why?

Here's why.

Before Jesus came and the church was established, who had access to God?
Did the Gentiles? No, not at all.
Did the Jews? Although the answer seems like yes, let me qualify it.

The Jews were under the Mosaic Law,
the system God gave His people in order to worship Him.
In that system, God was present with His people as a nation, yet not individually.
God's presence hovered over the Mercy seat in the interior of His temple.
No one was allowed anywhere close to Him.
Women were not allowed very far into the temple.
Men were not allowed much farther.
Priests, too, had limits to where they were allowed inside the temple proper.
Even the high priest was only allowed into God's personal room once a year,
and that was with a great deal of criteria needing to be met.
If the priest failed in any of those requirements,
he would be instantly killed upon his entrance into the Holy of holies.

And, by the way, because of the people's continual sin against their God,
He finally, during the days of Ezekiel, left the Holy of holies and His temple
and even His beloved city, Jerusalem.
So God was no longer present even in their temple.
No, the Jews did not really have access to their God...

Being under that system for centuries,
the people had no idea of any other way of life.
Having personal access to their God was never even supposable
much less a possibility.
And certainly, to have their God, not only *available* to them, but *living within* them,
could never have been comprehensible!

And yet, that was God's plan!
The Glory of God would no longer be in the tabernacle, or the temple,
but in each believer individually!

The church, the body of Christ, His beloved Son, Jesus,
was the grandest design ever imagined!
It was a paradigm shift in the life of a Jew,
so much so, that it would have seemed blasphemous to consider it.
And yet, that is what Jesus offered the Jews.

Just as unseemly and impossible as it seemed for a Jew to have access to God,
much more, be indwelt by Him,
even more impossible, and utterly unimaginable,
was the possibility of a *Gentile* having access to the God of all creation,
the personal God of the Jews.
This was unthinkable!

**And yet, it was exactly what God thought, and planned, and brought into being.
And He kept it a mystery until the time of His beloved Son.**

Wow!!!

Who proclaims Christ?

Exactly how did Paul and his fellow servants proclaim Christ?

1.

2.

Did that verse say they proclaimed Christ by admonishing every man with all wisdom?

Did that verse say they proclaimed Christ by teaching every man with all wisdom?

What is synonymous with proclaiming Christ?

Then, what are we to do?

Why? What is the purpose of proclaiming Christ?

What is the purpose of admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom?

Does Paul believe that proclaiming Christ requires admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom?

How do you know?

Exactly how much does he believe it?

For what purpose does he labor?

How hard does he labor?

What help does he use in his laboring?

How well does God's power work?

What an author writes about is called the theme. Do you see the theme of **Colossians** in **verse 28**? What is it?

Why an author writes is called the purpose. Do you see the purpose of **Colossians** in **verses 28** and **29**? What is it?

There were no chapter divisions in the original writings. Therefore, there was no break between **Colossians 1** and **Colossians 2**. This is important to consider because Paul, in revealing his purpose is not finished. His entire thought concerning his purpose continues into the next chapter for several verses. Can you see it? What other verse outlines his purpose?

What about his theme? Paul also states the theme a second time. What is it?

Read **Colossians 1:28** through **Colossians 2:4** through as one thought. Do you see how these verses should not be separated in your understanding?

READ AND REASON

The riches of the glory of the mystery...

God has willed to make known to us what the *riches*, the *wealth*, the unsurpassable wealth of the *glory* of His mystery. The mystery itself has glory! The mystery itself is *glorious* and magnificent! God has willed and pleased to make known to us the *riches* of the glory of that mystery.

Wow! God was pleased to make His chosen ones (Gentiles too) know everything they needed to know in order to believe.

Believe what?

Colossians 1:27 says “*Christ in you*” and then it equates Christ in you with the “*hope of glory*”.

Hmmm... What does it mean that Christ in you is the hope of glory? Here are two hints: *Christ* in you and Christ *in you*

God created man for His Own Glory. God wanted the whole earth to be filled with His Glory. **Isaiah 43:7**

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal Glory in Christ will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you. 1 Peter 5:10

Glory is a great word! The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kabowd* and refers to the substance of something, its weight, splendor or reputation. The Greek word is “*doxa*”, which means to give a correct opinion of something or to show an accurate estimate of something.

God created man in His Own image. He intended—and intends—to fill the earth with men, women and children who are a picture of Himself. We are to represent Him as He is. It brings God pleasure to receive His due Glory. **Revelation 4:11**

His Glory is what creation is all about! He intends for His Glory to be shown in His church.

The actual word *doxa*’s simplest definition is simply “to seem”. To bring God Glory is *to seem* like Him.

In other words, it means to give a correct estimate or opinion to those watching of Who God really is. God wants His Glory to be seen in His creation. That’s why He created us. Those who call themselves Christians, and yet continually pick up the dust of this world without washing it off, look (seem) more and more like the world, and look (seem) less and less like God.

Sin in the life of a saint distorts the picture of Who God is—His Glory is distorted—it muddies the waters, which should be a clear reflection of God, Himself.

Jesus is the radiance of God’s Glory, and the exact representation of His nature. **Hebrews 1:3**

True believers are being conformed into the image of God’s Son. **Romans 8:29**

Being identified with the death and burial of Christ procures the guarantee of being identified with the life of Christ, a life which is lived unto God! **Romans 6:3-10**

Creation is all about God's Glory! **Isaiah 43:7**

Christ in you (which is true salvation), is the Hope, the surety and certainty, of Glory!
Colossians 1:27

How is it that we are able to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? Will it be from knowledge alone?

The prayer in **Colossians 1:9-12** is written to saints who have Christ in them, He alone is their the hope of Glory. Apart from the power of God—knowledge, understanding and wisdom will do them no good. It is Christ in them that will transform, conform, and change into the image of God's beloved Son, Who is the exact image and representation of God the Father.

Remember the two hints? One was that God would actually be in them, dwelling inside of them. How does that bring about the hope of Glory? Because it was Christ Who was inside of them! Christ, the One Who was the image of the invisible God. Christ, the One Who was the actual radiance of God. Christ, the One Who lived His life unto God. This was Who lived inside of them.

When Christ lives His life in a believer, he or she is united with Christ's life. Christ is the firstborn of the dead, He was raised to walk in newness of life. His life was, and is, always and only lived unto the Father. So too, will everyone live their life when Christ lives in them—because they are united with Him!

Christ brings glory to God because Christ is like God. We bring glory to God because we have been made like Christ who brings glory to God so we transversely bring glory to God.

How does it happen? How can it be assured that I will bring glory to God?

Because Christ is in me and He will change me. Even if I try to resist, He now rules me. I can't resist for a very long period of time because I have been taken captive according to Christ. Changes have taken place in me.

Do you see it?

Christ (God, Himself)... in you (united with Him)... the hope (the surety)... of Glory!

COLOSSIANS - The LETTER

Chapter Two

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 2** and highlight every reference to Jesus Christ in red. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to the Holy Spirit you may find with a red cloud. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to the author with a green capital "P".

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to the recipients with an orange capital "C".

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to being in Christ with a red arrow overlaid with yellow above the word *in*.

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to the word of truth, or gospel, along with all synonyms and pronouns, with a blue box. Fill in the box with red.

Read through **Colossians 2** and highlight every reference to faith, along with its synonyms and pronouns, in blue.

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark each reference to the word all with a green circle. Check for synonyms such as everything.

Read through **Colossians 2** and highlight every reference to knowledge with lavender.

Read through **Colossians 2** and highlight every reference to wisdom with light blue. Then put a lavender box around the word.

Read through **Colossians 2** and underline *according to* or *so that* with a pink arrow pointed toward the right side of the phrase.

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every comparison or simile with a pink equal sign. (Look for phrases like just as, or even as)

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash.

Read through **Colossians 2** and mark any terms of conclusion with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Colossians 2** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Paul’s struggle on Colossians’ behalf
2. As you received Christ—so walk in Christ
3. Be taken captive according to Christ
4. Don’t obey the teachings of men

READ AND ANSWER

Colossians 2:1-5

With what word does the first verse of the second chapter begin?

What does that tell the student of the Bible to do?

Since the word for is a connection phrase here, which direction must we go in order to find the connection?

Yes, we need to reread the last few verses of **chapter 1** in order to keep our context intact. Paul has just declared himself to be a minister, for the sake of the saints, of the mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of Glory.

He then maintained that he proclaimed Christ by admonishing and teaching every man with all wisdom for a definite purpose. The purpose? It was in order for him to present every man complete in Christ, which is the theme of the book of **Colossians**.

Finally he states that he labors, even strives according to the power of God, which works mightily within him, in order to accomplish that purpose. Why did he tell the Colossians what he does on their behalf? Because he wants them to know something. What is it?

How exactly has Paul been striving? What has he been doing?

Why has his striving been through prayer?

Why has his striving not been in person?

Could this be why he is trying so hard to let them know what he has done on their behalf?

By reading this verse, along with **Colossians 4:15, 16**, (and without looking at a map), what can you guess about Laodicea's location? Check out your guess on a map, along with Hieropolis.

What has Paul been praying for the Colossians and the Laodiceans.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Are these four completely separate things or do these things work together?

Put these four components into the order they happen chronologically.

- 1.

2.

3.

4.

 **Point of Connection**

The saints in Colossae and Laodicea had never even seen Paul, but their hearts were knit together in love with him and one another and all the saints. Having been knit together in love, their hearts could then be encouraged when they heard that Paul was agonizing over them in prayer.

**Having the full assurance of understanding, they could attain to all the wealth that comes with that understanding.
What understanding?
The understanding of the mystery—Christ in them, the hope of glory.**

**To what wealth were they able to attain?
The wealth is the riches of the glory of the mystery.
The result is a true knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ.**

**Do you see the connection between this prayer and Paul’s prayer in chapter one?
Don’t just see the similarity of words and say, “Yes.”
Agonize, yes, agonize in prayer, that God would open your eyes to see why Paul prayed (agonized) what he did.**

 **Point of Depth**

**Christ is the mystery which was hidden from the past ages and generations.
Christ is the mystery which was made manifest to His saints.
Who was Christ? Christ was Jesus.
But here, Christ and Jesus are not interchangeable.
Yes, they are one and the same, but yet, they are not...**

**Why do I say Christ and Jesus are not interchangeable in these verses?
Because God used the word Christ for a reason.**

**“Christ” is the Greek word *christos*.
This word was the Jewish expectation of their Messiah, the Anointed One of God.
Christ was the Arm of the Lord, their Savior, their Deliverer,**

**the Promised One, the Coming One, the Expected One
Who would take Israel out of her sin.**

**After God cursed Adam and Eve with death (along with all mankind),
He promised He would send The Seed to bring life**

**The Israelites waited and watched for their Christ century after century,
yet, in all reality they didn't understand what having a Christ would mean.
When their Christ finally came, they did not even recognize Him.
He, although fully God, came to earth in the flesh and was born in Nazareth.
His parents named Him Jesus.
His parents did not name Him Christ.
They didn't even know He was the Christ.
His disciples asked Jesus if He was the Christ—
He was, and they followed Him to His Own, and to their own, death.**

**When the Christ came, He brought New Covenant that changed everything.
The Abrahamic Covenant was a Promise of the New Covenant.
The Mosaic Covenant was a picture of the New Covenant.
The Christ was the New Covenant.**

It was Jesus of Nazareth Who was the Christ.

Where are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge found?

Why does it say they are hidden?

What are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

If all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ... and Christ is in you... then where are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge found?

By the way, in case you missed it, this verse gives us the theme of **Colossians**. What is it?

How does that compare with the other verse we found that gives the theme of **Colossians**? (**Colossians 1:28**)

What is it that Paul is telling the Colossians in his letter to them?

Why is Paul telling the Colossians about the mystery of Christ in them, their hope of Glory? Why is Paul telling the Colossians what is found in Christ?

Colossians 2:4 gives the purpose of the book of **Colossians**—the reason Paul wrote to them. What is his purpose? Don't worry if you already have answered this. Answer it again in hopes of understanding it more and remembering it longer!

If you haven't read a commentary on the whole book of **Colossians** yet (and I hope you haven't because it would be premature to do so), feel free to find one that gives you the historical background of what was happening in their region during Paul's time, but read only that portion. While the historical information gives us the information to understand Paul's intense letter to those at Colossae and Laodicea, do you see how this doctrine about Christ stands alone without any historical context, being absolutely essential to each and every saint—saints during the days of Paul, those in the centuries since, and those of us who are saints in this present day and age?

Why does Paul tell them where the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found?

What seems to have been going on in Colossae and Laodicea?



The Greek word for “persuasive argument” is *pithanologia*.

It doesn't mean that two sides were necessarily yelling as in a verbal argument.

Rather it was an art form, the prowess of persuasion.

The Greeks idolized knowledge and were so very driven by it they actually practiced this art of persuasion so as to develop greater skill.

Who would have brought these persuasive arguments to the saints in Colossae?

What would have been the purpose of these persuasive arguments? In other words, of what would these persuasive arguments been trying to convince the saints?

What does **Colossians 2:8** tell us about these convincing arguments?

What has Paul heard regarding the outcome of at least some of these persuasive arguments? Have the saints been won over to a false doctrine?

Why is he rejoicing? What does he see in their reaction to the persuasive arguments?

1.

2.

How is your discipline?

How stable is your faith?

What does Paul say is going to help them during an onslaught of a persuasive argument? What does he want them to have?

Do you have what Paul wanted the Colossians to have?

How do you become filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding?

How do you gain the full assurance of understanding?

How do you obtain the true knowledge of God's mystery?

What is good discipline?

How does your faith become stable?

How can you make the stable base of your faith even more big and broad?

Remember though, that for all the studying and believing of His Word, what power is also needed?

What do you think Paul would have done had he been with them when these persuasive arguments were coming at the saints?

What would you have done?

Have you ever had someone present a persuasive argument to you?

Were you won over?

Why not?

What was it that caused you to not believe the persuasive argument?

Even though Paul is not present with them (his body is absent because he is physically in another location), is he in their presence?

In what way?

Colossians 2:6-7

Paul says, *“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...”*. Which direction in the text must you go in order to understand his full thought?

How many verses should you go backward?

Start at **verse 4** and read through **verse 6**. Does that help to make better sense of **verse 6**?

Therefore... because of what? Why are they (and we) to walk in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way that they have received Him?

In what way did they receive Christ Jesus the Lord? Your answer will mainly come from **Colossians 2:5**, but you can also review what Paul said about the Colossians' salvation back in **Colossians 1:3-8** to gain further clarity on what Paul means by "the way they received Christ Jesus the Lord".



***Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...
Colossians 2:6***

When the Colossians heard the gospel, the word of truth, they believed it by faith. Once they believed they began immediately and constantly bearing fruit.

Paul had not ceased to pray (from the moment he heard of their salvation) that they would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Do you think Paul knew that the Colossians and the Laodiceans would be up against skillful deceivers?

He prayed this so they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (the same Christ Jesus the Lord that Paul speaks of in Colossians 2:6).

**Do you see Scripture interpreting Scripture for us?
Watch and praise the Lord with me for His marvelous book!**

Paul prayed they would walk worthy so they would please the Lord in all respects
—bearing fruit in every good work (Paul rejoiced over their good discipline.)
—increasing in the knowledge of God (This would be important if they were going to undergo people skillfully trying to persuade them to leave the word of truth.)
—strengthened with all power according to His glorious might (This would be the power they needed to remain true to the word of truth and not walk away from the word of truth.)
—for the attaining of all steadfastness (Paul rejoiced over the stability of their faith; they were steadfast in the faith as others tried to persuade them to leave it.)
—joyously giving thanks to the Father (Surely they must have rejoiced at their own steadfastness and stability in the faith, knowing it was all the Father's doing, not their own! Paul says they were overflowing with gratitude!)

**Colossians 1:9-12
*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it,
we have not ceased to pray for you***

***and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will
in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,
bearing fruit in every good work
and increasing in the knowledge of God;
strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,
for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;
joyously giving thanks to the Father,
Who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.***

Colossians 2:4-7

***I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.
For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit,
rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.
Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
having been firmly rooted
and now being built up in Him
and established in your faith,
just as you were instructed,
and overflowing with gratitude.***

**Besides showing us exactly what Paul means by,
“Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him...”
Scripture has spoken to us in its singular position
as the best and only real interpreter of itself.**

How cool is that!!!

When the Colossians received Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior, did they receive any teaching?

How do you know?

What sort of teaching did they receive?

Was it in depth or just a small gospel track?

Who must have taught them? (Be careful. Think through the whole book so far.)

What were the Colossians to continue to do that they did when they were first saved?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



**When Epaphras preached the gospel to the Colossians,
he took great pains to firmly root them
in order to build them up in Christ and establish them in their faith.
They were carefully and tediously instructed and they were grateful for it.**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord through faith—hearing and believing.
They were to continue hearing and believing.
Do you?**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord and were firmly rooted.
They were to continue hearing and believing.
Do you?**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord and were built up in Him.
They were to continue hearing and believing.
Do you?**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord and were established in their faith.
They were to continue hearing and believing.
Do you?**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord and they were instructed.
They were to continue hearing and believing.
Do you?**

**They received Christ Jesus the Lord and they overflowed with gratitude.
They were to continue to joyously thank their God.
Do you?**

**I just had a very sad thought...
Isn't that extraordinarily different from what happens today in "gospel giving"?**

**I just had a very encouraging thought...
No matter what today's false churches do or don't do, what about you?
Is that what you do for the ones to whom you give the word of truth?**

The Greek word for "walk" is *peripateo* and means to walk around, to conduct yourself, to lead your life in a certain way. In other words, this is not talking about an action here or there, or once in awhile, but all of their actions all of the time—the sustained, incessant way or style of their life. How were the Colossians to lead their life? How were they to continually conduct themselves?

Colossians 2:8-15

What are the saints at Colossae to see to?



The saints at Colossae are told to see to it that no one takes them captive.

**Our English idiom, "See to it!" has lost the original import of its derivation.
Today it means to make sure something takes place or doesn't take place
and it means to stay on duty until the task is accomplished.**

The Greek word for "see to it" is *blepo* and actually means to see.

**The command given to them includes the how to.
In order not to be taken captive, what must they do?**

**They must look and see and perceive the situation.
They must look and watch and beware of the situation.
They must recognize the situation as hazardous and wrong.
and they must see, or make sure, that it does not actually take place.**

**Our English idiom has the force of a command in its wording.
When we say, "See to it" we mean, "See to it!!!"**

The Greek word *blepo* in this verse is plural, present, active, imperative.

**It is plural and is addressed to each and every saint.
It is present tense and means to never stop, but continue to see to it.
It is active voice and means it is the responsibility of the believer to see to it.
It is imperative mood and means it is a command.**

See to it!

**Paul's use of the word *blepo* is ingenious within the context of his letter.
(Of course it is a given that all of Paul's words were chosen by God.)**

Why?

**Just look at what he has said so far.
Paul repeatedly talked about true knowledge and understanding and wisdom.
Here it is again.**

**The Greeks were cunning in the use of their skillful art of persuasion,
coming at them from every angle with their convincing fallacies.**

**See to it—watch, beware, be on guard. (Knowledge)
See to it—perceive and identify what you see. (Understanding)
See to it—don't be taken captive. (Wisdom)**

What would possibly, or probably, take them captive if they weren't on guard?

- 1.
- 2.

From where did these men get their philosophy and empty deception?

- 1.
- 2.

From where should these men, and all men, get their beliefs?

Is being taken captive a bad thing?

When is it bad?

When is it good?

By Whom were they to be taken captive?



**So many people love to talk about freedom in Christ and well they should.
But they should talk just as much about their captivity to Christ.
And they should talk accurately about their freedom in Christ.**

**Freedom in Christ is not freedom to do as you please.
Freedom in Christ is freedom to do as He pleases.**

**Before salvation, everyone is a slave to unrighteousness.
After salvation, each saint is a slave to righteousness.**

**Whereas sin was once our master, it no longer is.
Under Grace, our new Master is the Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from
the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.***
Romans 6:17-18

***But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God,
you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification,
and the outcome, eternal life.***
Romans 6:22

**See to it that you do not miss the whole import of Colossians 2:8.
We are *not* to be taken captive through philosophy.
We are *not* to be taken captive through empty deception.
We are to be taken captive according to Christ!**

**What a Master!
What a life!
Free from sin—I no longer have to sin.
Slave of righteousness—I *have* to obey God.
What a Master!
What a life!**



There were very real false philosophies and empty deceptions thrown at the Colossians and there is no less danger today. The dissident beliefs skillfully used against the Colossians are still used against Christians today. They are taken from the traditions of men and the basic principles of this world.

Gnosticism, later to become a huge heresy against the Word of Truth, was still in its infancy during Paul's day. Many scholars believe he was addressing its advance in his Colossian letter.

Gnostics believed that salvation came through a higher knowledge (*gnosis*) to which only certain individuals could attain, in other words, by spiritual enlightenment. They also emphasized an opposition between the spiritual world and the material world, which they considered evil, in and of itself, and therefore, something to be escaped.

Yet Paul never mentioned Gnosticism by name (not that it had an actual name at that time). Nevertheless, don't you think it is strange that Paul did not identify the heresy? Why didn't he call it out and nail it for his readers?

Perhaps one reason was that his warning, although certainly a weapon against Gnosticism along with all heretical beliefs, was actually focused on the cure, not the ill.

**The cure was the Word of Truth about Christ!
The cure was true for all heresies—back then, through the ages, and today.
The cure will always be Christ!
No matter the lie, the truth is Christ.**

**The antidote for being persuaded by any persuasive argument is to know the truth about Christ, because Christ is all and in all.
And all the wisdom and all the fullness of knowledge...
all of that comes from Him.**

Today, the world and the visible church are both filled with lies. It is fairly easy to delineate the lies of the world from the truth of the Word: higher education, public school education, television shows, movies, books, etc.

However, the lies of the visible church are less obvious to many saints. Are all things taught in a Bible college truth? What about Bible bookstores? Is everything completely true that comes from the pulpit

or someone on staff at your church?
What about Christian leaders from TV, radio, blogs, etc.? Are they all accurate?
Many of the lies coming at the Colossians were coming from false believers!
So too, the lies that pose the greatest danger to saints
are those that come from so-called brethren.

Gnosticim is still alive and healthy in the visible church,
in fact, it is making a giant comeback in our time,
but it has never been the only lie against the Word of Truth.

Be on guard and line up everything you hear with His Word of Truth.
Believe His Word alone!
Toss everything else out!
Walk in Christ, by faith, according to the Truth of God's Word!

See to it!

*To the law and to the testimony!
If they do not speak according to this word,
it is because they have no dawn.
Isaiah 8:20*

Why should they follow Paul's command and see to it that they are not taken captive through philosophy and empty deception?

Where does all of the fullness of Deity dwell?

Wow! It makes sense to me! If all the fullness of Deity dwells in Christ, why should I be taking orders from anything or anyone else!!! Christ is the head over all rule and authority, so why would I follow any other! List the reasons Paul gives for not being taken captive, except according to Christ, that is!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Why does all the fullness of Deity dwell in Christ? (**Colossians 1:19**)

All the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form (in Christ Jesus). What does “Deity” mean? (If you don’t know what the word means, look it up in a theological dictionary.)

What does bodily form mean or infer?

Do you see the two opposing conditions? What are they.

1.

2.

Is Christ Jesus truly and fully God?

Is Christ Jesus truly and fully human?

Is Christ Jesus both fully God and fully human at the same time?



**Was this true of Christ Jesus *only* while He was on earth
or is He *still* both God and man?**

**That is a really good question.
Where will you find the really true answer?**

**Luke 24:30-31
Luke 24:36-40
2 Corinthians 8:9
Hebrews 2:14-18
Philippians 2:5-11
Revelation 5:6**

If you are in Him, what is true about you?

What does it mean that you are made complete? (The Greek word is *pleroo* and means to fill, or to make full.)

What is Christ's position to all rule and authority?

What does being the head entail?

Besides being made complete in Him, what else happened to you (in Him)?

With what type of circumcision were you circumcised?

If the circumcision was not made by hands, how were you circumcised?

What was removed in this circumcised?

How was the body of the flesh removed (by what)?



***For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death,
certainly we shall also be in in the likeness of His resurrection,
knowing this, that our body of sin might be done away with,
so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
for he who has died is freed from sin.
Romans 6:5-7***

**Christ's burial showed us that He truly died.
When we truly believe in Him and are saved,
something supernatural happens to us—
the "old man," who was our slave driver causing us to sin, is done away with!**

**When we are saved, the Holy Spirit supernaturally identifies us
with Christ's death, burial and resurrection.
As Christ truly died, so our old man truly dies.**

He no longer has *any* power over us whatsoever!

**Did you hear that? He no longer has ANY power over us whatsoever!!!
The old man forced us to sin. We were slaves to him.**

**But once the old man dies,
he is just like leaven in that he has no place in our lives anymore.
We are new creatures when we are in Christ!**

**Romans 6; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 4:22-24;
Colossians 3:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17**

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What is the circumcision of Christ? (The word “of” is dative, and in this case, means how or with what something is done, instrument or means of an action.)

When did this circumcision take place?

Describe the circumcision. Describe the “operation”.

If you are buried with Christ in baptism, what else is true?

How are you raised up with Him?

Who raised Christ from the dead?

Who raised you, if you are saved, from the dead?

If you are saved, when were you raised from the dead? (Try to find the answer in the text. It is there.)

Before being circumcised, what is true of you?

1.

2.

When is a (dead) unbeliever made alive? (Use the same wording as the text.)

Who makes a dead person alive?

What has God done for the dead unbeliever that provides justice in giving him life?

What would be true if a person's transgressions were not forgiven? What state would he necessarily have to remain in?

When God forgave the sinner all his transgressions, what did He cancel out?

What is the certificate of debt?

Who held the certificate of debt?

Who was the debtor?

What did the certificate of debt consist of?

What type of decrees were against us?

What did God do when He forgave us all our transgressions and canceled out the certificate of debt?

How did God take the certificate of debt out of the way?

What did God nail to the cross?

Just in case you haven't seen it yet, I'll ask a second time. What did God nail to the cross? (It wasn't our sins...)

Wow, oh wow, oh wow, oh wow, oh wow!!! Do you see it? Do you understand what you are reading? What did God nail to the cross?



Tetelestai!!!

***Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"
And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
John 19:30***

The Greek word for "It is finished!" is *tetelestai*.

Tetelestai!!! Tetelestai!!!

Jesus came to pay our Debt!!! He Paid it in Full!!! It is Finished!!!

***Tetelestai* was a legal term that was printed across a certificate of debt
when it was paid off.**

**The certificate was then nailed to the doorpost of the debtor's home
to show everyone that his debt was finished, paid in full.**

**We owed a debt we couldn't pay. Christ paid it for us!
Christ cried out, "Tetelestai!!!" just as He was ready to die!
God nailed the parchment of Christ's flesh to the cross to show everyone,
Satan included, that your debt and mine had been paid in full!**

Thank You, Thank You, Jesus!!!

**I get so excited every time I read and study this passage I can hardly stand it!
I just have to lift my voice and shout to the heavenly Majesty!**

Hallelujah!!!

Praise God!

Thank You, Jesus!

What a Savior!

My debt has been paid in full!

Paid in full by my Savior, Jesus!

My God gave His beloved Son to die instead of me!

God loves me!

God saved me!

I now belong to Him!

What did God do to the rulers and authorities?

Was it the Father or the Son who disarmed the rulers and authorities?

What did God, the Father, do once He had disarmed the rulers and authorities?

How did God, the Father, triumph over the rulers and authorities?

What is Christ's position to the rulers and the authorities? (**Verse 10**)

Colossians 2:16-23

Who is to act as your judge in regard to food, or drink, or in respect to a festival, or a new moon, or a Sabbath day, etc.?

Who must have been acting as their judges?

Is Paul starting a new subject, or is he still writing about those who were trying to delude the Colossian saints with persuasive argument?

If he is not starting a new subject (and he is not), and the context is still the empty deceptive beliefs others were trying to inoculate into the Colossians, then what do **verses 16** and **17** give us?

List those things which the persuasive arguers were teaching was necessary in salvation.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

As you look at your list, what do you see? Jewish or Gentile customs?

Does this give us any information about the arguers?

Were food and drink restricted for the Jews?

Were food and drink restricted for the Gentiles?

What about festivals, new moon, and Sabbath days? Were they of Jewish or Gentile origin?

Where did all these things come from?

What was the Old Covenant (Mosaic Law)?

If the Old Covenant was a shadow of what was to come (and it was), of what exactly was it a shadow?



The Greek word for “shadow” is *skia* and means the mere representation of something real, or the shape cast by an object as it blocks rays of light.

The Greek word for “substance” is *soma* and means the body, or substantive reality, i.e. the thing itself or the reality. Usually when I see a shadow, I see the real object at the same time.

When light comes into my living room through our bay window and casts a shadow of one of my chairs onto the floor, I know right away that the shadow is a picture, or representation, of a chair because I can see the chair it is imitating.

But have you ever been sitting somewhere and seen a shadow approaching, yet were unable to see the source of the shadow? If you couldn’t see where that shadow was coming from you would probably pay close attention to it, either from curiosity or from fear. Finally, as it approached, it would come into view and you would see the reality, no longer just its shadow.

What you would have seen is called a foreshadow— a *shadow* that goes *before* the real thing. In other words, the real thing cannot be seen yet, only its shadow is in view.

That is what God does— *His Light casts shadows of The Seed for us in the Old Testament.* He doesn’t necessarily allow people to see the substance of His shadows. People only see an imperfect form of the real thing.

The Old Covenant was a foreshadow of the New Covenant to come, a picture of the Christ. In fact, everything in the Tabernacle was a picture of Christ Jesus. If His people would look intently at the shadow though, they would be able to see the Christ.

**The Old Covenant was a picture of the New Covenant!
Everything in its rituals was a picture of Christ Jesus!**

**Food and drink
Christ Jesus is our sustenance!**

Festivals

**Christ Jesus is the One Who fulfills God's prophetic timeline of history!
(HIS Story!)**

Festival of Passover—

**Christ Jesus is the One Who provides that God's wrath passes over us!
Christ Jesus was our Passover Lamb (offering for sin)!
Christ Jesus takes away our leaven (sin)!
Christ Jesus was raised firstborn of the dead (first fruits)!**

Festival of Pentecost—

**Christ Jesus is Christ in you, the hope of Glory!
Christ Jesus is the mystery of the church: Jews and Gentiles in one body!**

Festival of Tabernacles—

**Israel is gathering in her land for the day of Christ Jesus' return when she will
enter the New Covenant!
Christ Jesus (New Covenant) ensures Israel will never leave the land again!
(Feast of Trumpets)!
Christ Jesus is Israel's Messiah!
(Israel will repent and recognize Him on the day of their Atonement)!
Christ Jesus will reign in Jerusalem.
(Nations will worship Him during His Millennial Reign at the Feast of Booths or
Tabernacles)!**

New moons and Sabbath days

**Christ Jesus is our rest!
Christ Jesus makes us holy unto God!
Christ Jesus is the One Who Sanctifies us!**

***If you have never studied the New Covenant, you need to!!!
It is the understanding of God's plan of salvation, both Jew and Gentile,
and that includes your own!!!***

**Study the Old Testament and pay attention to the shadows.
God did not put them there in order to hide the Messiah—
God put foreshadows in the Old Testament in order for His people
to see their Messiah more clearly!
The foreshadows announced the Coming One—the Christ!**

**Study the New Testament and recognize the source of the shadows of old—
Christ Jesus, Who is the reality of the shadow.
Christ Jesus *was*, and *is*, and *is to come*.**

**Lay down your life before this One
Who laid His life down for the saints of the Most High!**

Colossians 2:18 is an interesting verse to interpret. At first glance it may seem that the Colossian saints were delighting in self-abasement, etc., but read it through slowly, keeping the context in mind, and ask yourself, “*Who is doing the delighting in self-abasement, etc.?*”

The sentence starts out with, “*Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement...*”. What is the command to the saint?

What had the saint been doing, delighting in self-abasement or letting someone continue to defraud him of his prize? (“Defrauding you of your prize” is all one word in the Greek—*katabrabeuo* and means to give an unfavorable decision with respect to a prize, in other words, to decide against you.)

Who is the “one” of “*let no one*”?

To whom do the “his” pronouns refer?

Are you starting to see what the sentence is saying? How is this person (one of the persuasive arguers) defrauding the saint (deciding against him or her)?

Could it be that the persuasive arguments included subjects like self-abasement, worship of angels, visions, wisdom, not holding fast to the head, etc.?

What, then, were some of the teachings of these persuasive arguers?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

5.

What is self-abasement? (The Greek word is *apeinophrosune*; and means humility.)

What was wrong with the humility referred to? Was it sincere or false?

Are we to worship angels? Is anyone or anything to worship angels? Why not?



**What does the Bible tell us about visions, especially taking our stand on visions?
What place do visions have in contrast to the Word?**

Jeremiah 23:25-32

***I have heard what the prophets have said
who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, "I had a dream, I had a dream!"***

How long?

***Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood,
even these prophets of the deception of their own heart,
who intend to make My people forget My name
by their dreams which they relate to one another,
just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?***

***"The prophet who has a dream may relate his dream,
but let him who has My word speak My word in truth.
What does straw have in common with grain?"
declares the LORD.***

"Is not My word like fire?"

***declares the LORD,
"and like a hammer which shatters a rock?"***

"Therefore behold, I am against the prophets,"

declares the LORD,

"who steal My words from each other."

"Behold, I am against the prophets,"

declares the LORD,

"who use their tongues and declare, 'The Lord declares.'"

"Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams,"

*declares the LORD,
“and related them and led My people astray
by their falsehoods and reckless boasting;
yet I did not send them or command them,
nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit,”
declares the LORD.*

What about conceit and arrogance? Do we have any cause to boast?

What does it entail to hold fast to the head?

Remember Who is the head. Remember all that Paul has been preaching to us about the Christ in **chapter one**. Remember the preeminence and authority of Christ. Remember what the body's relationship is to the Head. What then, must it mean to “not hold fast to the head”?

How does one hold fast to the head? (Keep the context of the book of **Colossians** in view and consider the key words: Word of Truth and gospel.)

How does the entire body grow?

From Whom is the growth?

What is supplied to the body?

What is held together by the joints and ligaments?

What are the joints and ligaments?

When you read **Colossians 2:20**, try to remember all that we have seen from **Romans 6**, or better yet, go back and read **Romans 6**! Now read **Colossians 2:20** once again. If you have died with Christ, what have you died to?

What were the saints at Colossae doing, it seems?

To what sort of decrees were they submitting themselves?

1.

2.

3.

Skimming through the next few verses for your answer, what was supposed to be the purpose of not handling, tasting, or touching?

Appearance of what type of wisdom? (We are almost to the end of Paul's doctrinal segment of **Colossians**—the first two chapters—so we need to keep everything he has said in our minds as we examine these last few verses. What has he been teaching the saints about wisdom?)

If you have died with Christ, where are you *not* “living”?

If you haven't died with Christ, where are you living?

What will happen to these things to which the decrees referred—the things which they were ordered to not handle, taste, or touch?

How will those things perish?

So... what exactly are these things?

Who decreed that the saints were not to handle, taste, and touch certain foods?

What is in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

Verses 20 through 23 are all part of one long Pauline sentence.
He has two parenthetical inserts in its interior.

Let's visually look at the sentence in order to see the main point
apart from the parenthetical inserts.
(The following is not structuring, but it comes from the same approach.)

Why...
*if you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world,
as if you were living in the world,
...do you submit yourself to decrees...
such as "Do not handle. do not taste, do not touch!"
which all refer to things destined to perish with use
...in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?*

Do you see Paul's true question sticking out in bold?
By unpacking his sentence we have isolated Paul's question which is:
***"Why...do you submit yourself to decrees...in accordance with
the commandments and teachings of men?"***

Do you see the connection between this sentence
and what Paul says in Colossians 2:9?

Do you see how all of Colossians 1 and 2 are driving home the same point?
***"Saints, listen! You, apart from Christ, have no hope much less hope of Glory!
Saints, listen! Christ in you is the hope of Glory!
So stop listening to anything or anyone that says otherwise!!!"***

What does Paul say is true about these decrees?

- 1.
- 2.

In what arenas do these decrees, or matters, have the appearance of wisdom?

- 1.

2.

3.

What is the purpose of these decrees?

Although these decrees have an appearance of wisdom, are they wise? Do they accomplish the purpose they are intended for?

READ AND REASON

Have you noticed how much we have learned by simply observing the text? (Simply, but thoroughly and thoughtfully!)

We have not had to resort to commentaries or other writings because we are committed to hearing, understanding, and believing the whole of God's Own Word first. I am not saying that commentaries don't have a place in Bible study (because they do), but I will say that students tend to turn to commentaries way too quickly in their studies.

Stay in His Word *longer*...

Sit at His feet *longer*...

You will reap rewards from doing what Jesus said was the *only necessary thing*.

***Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village;
and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.
She had a sister called Mary,
who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.
But Martha was distracted with all her preparations;
and she came up to Him and said,
"Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone?
Then tell her to help me."
But the Lord answered and said to her,
"Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;
but only one thing is necessary,
for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."***
Luke 10:38-42

***Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God
and of Jesus our Lord;
seeing that His divine power has granted to us
everything pertaining to life and godliness,***

***through the true knowledge of Him
Who called us by His own glory and excellence.
2 Peter 1:2-3***

Stay in His Word *longer*...

Sit at His feet *longer*...

Jesus says it is necessary...

COLOSSIANS - The LETTER

Chapter Three

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 3** and highlight every reference to Jesus Christ in red. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to the Holy Spirit you may find with a red cloud. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to the author with a green capital "P".

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to the recipients with an orange capital "C".

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to being in Christ with a red arrow overlaid with yellow above the word *in*.

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to the word of truth, or gospel, along with all synonyms and pronouns, with a blue box. Fill in the box with red.

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark each reference to the word all with a green circle. Check for synonyms such as everything.

Read through **Colossians 3** and highlight every reference to knowledge with lavender.

Read through **Colossians 3** and highlight every reference to wisdom with light blue. Then put a lavender box around the word.

Read through **Colossians 3** and underline *according to* or *so that* with a pink arrow pointed toward the right side of the phrase.

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every comparison or simile with a pink equal sign. (Look for phrases like just as, or even as)

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash.

Read through **Colossians 3** and mark any terms of conclusion, such as therefore, with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Colossians 3** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Conduct—seek the heavenly
2. Conduct—old self - put aside its practices
3. Conduct—new self - put on true knowledge
4. Conduct—wives
5. Conduct—husbands
6. Conduct—children
7. Conduct—fathers
8. Conduct—slaves
9. Conduct—masters (**Colossians 4:1**)

READ AND ANSWER



Did you notice that one of the key words from the first two chapters is not present in chapter three?

Paul has been talking a lot about the truth and our faith in it. He has listed in detail a grand summary of Christ’s authority, position, and power. He has outlined what is true of those who are truly in Christ.

Why does he drop the word faith?

Because he is starting a new segment in his letter. This is typical of Pauline letters—first the doctrine, then the application. He has taught doctrine in the first two chapters.

**Now he will teach application in the last two chapters.
Even though he drops the word faith, does he actually stop speaking about faith?**

**No, in fact he starts talking about the facet of faith that continues forever.
Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; Galatians 2:20;
Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38; James 2:14-26.**

**If the saints of Colossae are in Christ,
they will obediently walk out their salvation in the light of all that is true of Christ.**

**If we are in Christ,
we will do the same...
We will live (present tense—as a way of life) by faith,
by believing, and therefore walking out, what God has said.**

Colossians 3:1-4

With what word does this chapter begin?

Which direction do you need to read? Forward or backward?

Does going backward give you needed context?

Does **Colossians 3:1** give you a summary of what Paul has been writing to them?
What is it? (Take your answer directly from the verse.)

If you have been raised up with Christ, what are you to do?

1.

2.

Where is Christ?

What things are you to be seeking?

What is your mind to be thinking?

What are you not to set your mind on?

Why not?

If I have been raised up with Christ, where is my life?

Where is Christ, according to this verse?

Does that contradict the first verse where it says that Christ is seated at the right hand of God?

Why not? How can Christ be in God and yet be seated at His right hand at the same time?

Let's connect **verse 1** and **3**. How can I know I have died and that my life is hidden with Christ in God? (Hint: Remember **Romans 6**.)



Point of Depth

It's all Greek to us!

Looking a little deeper into the Greek can help colorize these verses for us!

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ...

Colossians 3:1

...you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:3

**“With Christ”, in both verses, is the Dative Case of Means.
“In God”, in the second verse, is the Dative Case of Sphere.**

**Dative of Means, or Instrumental,
shows the means or instrument by which something is accomplished.**

Dative of Sphere, or Locative Dative,

shows the sphere or location of an item,
or the sphere or location in which an action takes place.

Let's take this information back to the verses and see what we have found.
There is much more which can be unpacked from these verses,
but even this much is enough to help better understand what Paul is saying.

“Therefore, if you have been raised up by the means of Christ...”
If I am saved, it was through the means, or instrument of Christ, Himself.

“...you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”
If I am saved, I am now in the sphere, or realm, of God,
and I was safely hidden there by the means, or instrument, of Christ, Himself.

What will eventually happen to the saint who is hidden with Christ in God?

When?

Do you see that our life is united with Christ's life? (Only, that is, *if our* death, burial, and resurrection were *united* with *Christ's* death, burial, and resurrection as **Romans 6** teaches.)

Do you see that our glory is united with Christ's Glory?



**Do not be confused—
no one will ever have the Glory of Christ except the Son, Himself.
Our own eternal glory, though, is only possible
through our being united with Him in His death and His burial,
and therefore, His resurrection.
Our new life is united with Christ's life—a life lived unto God.
Christ's life is one that is lived unto God,
and so, too, will our life be if we are united with Christ.
In Christ—this is where we obtain an eternal weight of glory.
As we live our life unto God, we go from glory to glory
(looking more and more like Christ)
until we have obtained our eternal weight of glory.)**

Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 3-4

When will Christ be revealed?

When will we be revealed?



When we are revealed, what will be seen in us?

“...but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
2 Corinthians 3:16-17

“Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”
2 Corinthians 4:16–18

“Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.”
1 John 3:2

Who is our life?

What does that mean?

Now, considering the overall theme Paul has presented in the book of **Colossians**, and looking at these first four verses of **chapter 3**, what is Paul telling you (if you are a believer) to do? Ask God to open your eyes to behold wonderful things from His Word; there is nothing hidden here, but Satan would like to blind those eyes!



Are you seeking and setting?

Whatever it is that Paul is telling all saints to do, it is not hit and miss behavior.

**The Greek words for “keep seeking” and “set” are both in present tense,
which means they are to be done as a way of life,
not just once in awhile, or now and then.**

**They both are in the active voice which means it is the responsibility of the saint
to keep seeking the things above and to set his mind on the things above.**

**So, it is not okay to just seek and set your mind on things above when you are
reminded of heavenly things.**

**Rather, it is something you must discipline yourself to do.
After all, God says it is your responsibility!**

**Finally, both verbs are in the imperative mood, which makes them commands—
you may not shirk this responsibility or you will be disobedient to your God!**

**I can still remember the first time I taught Colossians.
I was still young enough as a teacher to believe that all, or most,
so-called Christians were, indeed, Christians
And I most definitely thought that all minister/pastor wives were saved.
And, since Christians should obviously be sensitive to God’s Word,
and respond rightly to Him when He speaks,
I assumed that a minister’s wife would never question a command from the Bible.
Boy, was I wrong!
Boy, have I learned differently!**

**I can recall teaching a Precept’s course on Colossians and when we got to
Colossians 3:1-2 I personally was very blessed to hear the commands of
seeking things above and setting your mind on things above.
I told my students how great it was
to know that I was actually commanded to do so.
I explained to them the tense, mood, and voice of the two verbs in the commands.
I thought they would be excited to hear of God’s standard
and the fact that it was possible to do exactly what He commanded.
They were!**

**Except one student—a minister’s wife.
She doubted the verses meant what they said.
Her reasoning?
She knew lots of Christians and other ministers and their wives
(you know, intimating they were a little bit above the rest)**

who most certainly did not spend all their time thinking about God and His ways.
“And”, she went on, “they are all very, godly people.”

According to her—case closed!
There was no need to check out what God might have to say
because her “experience” was her “truth”.

The whole thing really upset me.
I knew she was dead wrong, but I didn’t know how to convince her.
The class was looking to me for help.
I prayed silently, pleading with God to give me my next words...

When she was done speaking, I hoped I would have some marvelous thing to say,
but all I could think of was to repeat what God’s Word said.
And that is what I did.

When I was done reteaching the verses, I looked at the class and said this,
*“Ladies, God’s Word is true.
He says what He means and He means what He says.
We do not get to pick and choose which commands we want to believe.
We must believe what truth is by the Word of God alone.
We must never filter God’s Word through our own experiences.
When our experiences contradict, or are in conflict with, God’s Word,
then we know our experiences are not truth.
When that happens, we absolutely must lay down (and destroy)
those beliefs which are based on our experiences
and take up (and embrace)
what God says it true.
We must.”*

The woman in the class never returned.
When the Word of God collided with her own beliefs,
she embraced her own beliefs even more tightly,
and in doing so, she let loose of the pages of Scripture.

How I pray that you, who are reading this,
will embrace the Word of God with all your strength,
clutching it, clenching it, clinging to it... being unwilling to ever let it go.

His words are words of Life.

Colossians 3:5-11

What are the members of your earthly body?

How are you to consider the members of your earthly body?

What are you to consider the members of your earthly body dead to?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How is greed defined?

Therefore... because of what? (Go backward.)

Why are you to consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed/idolatry? (Go forward.)

Upon whom will the wrath of God come?

Because of what?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

4.

5.

Who are the sons of disobedience?

Can they be Christians? This is different than asking if a Christian can commit any of the sins listed; the question here is, "Can a Christian be a son of disobedience?"

Why not? (**Colossians 3:3**)

In what did Christians walk before they died and their lives were hidden with Christ in God? (Do you get the idea that this list might be a good thing to memorize?)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

In what did Christians live before they died and their lives were hidden with Christ in God?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Can a Christian live in immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed?

Why not? (**Colossians 3:3**)

What is the Christian to put aside from his or her mouth?

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

The Greek word for “put aside” is *apotithemi* and means to take off. In other words, just like you would take off an old set of clothes and throw them in the garbage never to be worn again, so too, a Christian must take off and lay down, i.e. rid himself of, these sins.

Look at the two lists of things that bring on the wrath of God. Do you notice a difference between them? What is it?

What is the final sin listed which must be taken out of their lives?

You will be greatly benefitted if you do a word study on each of the sins listed. I will give you the Greek word and the Strong’s number to make it easier for you, but you will need to look up the word in a concordance for yourself. Write the definitions below:

Immorality - *porneia* - 4202

Impurity - *akatharsian* - 0167

Passion - *pathos* - 3806

Evil - *kakos* - 2556

Desire - *epithumia* - 1939

Greed - *pleonexia* - 4124

Idolatry - *eidololatria* - 1459

Anger - *orge* - 3709

Wrath - *thumos* - 2372

Malice - *kakia* - 2549

Slander - *blasphemia* - 0988

Abusive speech - *aischologia* - 0148

Lying - *pseudomai* - 5574

To whom, specifically, are they not to lie? Who is “one another”?

What does Paul say has been done according to **Colossians 3:9**?

What has been laid aside?

In addition to the old self, what has been laid aside?

What is the old self?

What has been put on?

What is the new self?



“Laid aside” is the Greek word *apekduomai* and means to figuratively strip off clothes.

“Put on” is the Greek word *endusameno* and means to clothe or be clothed. It has the idea of literally sinking into a garment.

**What a difference!
Our old life was clothed in evil practices.
Our new life is swathed with garments of righteousness.**

**We are new creations and we need to adorn ourselves properly.
Evil practices befit those in the domain of darkness perfectly.
Evil practices such as immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed, idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, and lying no longer have *any* place in the garment of a believer.**

**Rather, our apparel should be hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, long-suffering, forgiveness, and love.
Such is the attire of the perfect Christian ensemble.**

What is happening to the new self?

To what is the new self being renewed?

After what is that renewal of the new self patterned?

What is true about this renewal of the new self?

Once you are a Christian, what is your identification? Is it Greek or Jew? Is it circumcised or uncircumcised? Is it barbarian? Is it Scythian? Is it slave or freeman?



The words “*a renewal*” and “*distinction between*” are not God’s original words and have been added by translators. You can know this because they are in italics. Without the added words, Colossians 3:11 reads, “*in which there is no Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*”

Let’s back up and catch the beginning of Paul’s sentence. Starting in Colossians 3:9, the verses read, “*Do not lie to one another since you laid aside the old self with its practices, and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him in which there is no Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.*”

According to the true knowledge (not the false knowledge of the persuasive Colossian arguers), if you are a saint you are no longer who you once were. You have put on the new self and it is neither Greek nor Jew. You are no longer identified by circumcision nor uncircumcision. It doesn’t matter whether you were a barbarian, or even the wildest of the barbarous peoples, the Scythians; it doesn’t matter whether you were a slave or a freeman.

The truth is that Christ is all, and in all!

**So keep seeking the things above, where Christ is!
Set your mind on the things above, not on who you once were!
You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God!
When Christ, who is your life, is revealed,
then you also will be revealed with Him in Glory!
Christ in you is the hope of Glory!**

Now that's true knowledge!

Colossians 3:12-17

What is true of saints?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Chosen, holy, and beloved... Staggering! Stupendous! Jaw-dropping! As those who are chosen by God, set apart to Him, and beloved by Him, what are we to “put on”?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Beyond all these things, what are we to put on?

If you are a saint, then you were (and are) chosen by God, set apart to Him, and beloved by Him. Did He have a heart of compassion toward you?

Did He show kindness to you?

Did He humble Himself to save you?

Did He show you great gentleness?

Did He show you great patience?

Did He bear, or put up, with you?

Did He forgive you?

Then is it right for you to do the same?

What if you have a complaint against another Christian?

Did God have a complaint against you?

What is the perfect bond of unity?

What is the union referred to?

Does this define the union of the church or a union with the world?

Are saints to be in union with one another?

Are we to be in union, in any way at all, with the world? (**James 4:4**)

What is to rule in your heart? In other words, what is to sit as umpire that decides how you respond in any certain situation as part of the body of Christ?

Why is it that peace is necessary among Christians?

Who is to be thankful (kind-hearted and agreeable)?

Why?

What is to dwell richly within the saints?

What is the difference between dwelling and visiting or passing through?

What is the difference between dwelling and richly dwelling?

Where is the word of Christ to dwell richly?

Does the word of Christ dwell richly in you?

What is to be the outpouring of the word of Christ dwelling richly within you?

1.

2.

How are Christians to teach one another? (Now, before you answer this question or the next one, I am not asking the method of teaching or admonishing; rather, I am asking what one saint is supposed to use to teach another saint. I am asking what one saint is supposed to use to admonish another saint. In other words, where does the saint get the doctrine he needs to teach or admonish another saint.)

How are Christians to admonish one another?

Can you see why it is so important that the word of Christ must dwell richly within you?

I will ask it one more time. Does the word of Christ dwell richly within you?

Obviously the doctrine needs to come from the word of Christ dwelling richly within the saint. But what must always be used when dispensing that doctrine?

With how much wisdom?

Where is this wisdom found?

Where is the wisdom to dwell?

What will flow out of you if the word of Christ dwells richly within you?

1.

2.

3.

Where will the words to those psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs come from?

What will be the point of your singing?

Thankfulness to Whom?

Thankfulness for what? (Paul is not bringing up a new subject. Just keep the theme and purpose of **Colossians** in mind as you answer.)

What paramount command does Paul give in **Colossians 3:17**?

What is to be done in the Name of the Lord Jesus?

1.

2.

Does that mean *everything* you do in word or deed, or just *most* things, or just *some* things?

What is the criteria of doing anything, whether it be in word or in deed?

What does it mean to do whatever you do in the Name of the Lord Jesus?

If it means that whatever you do or say is only done or said because your Lord Jesus told you to do or say it, how are you doing?

If it means that whatever you do or say is representative of the Lord Jesus having done or said it, how are you doing?

While we are doing and saying everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, what additional criteria is to be met?

Who are we to thank?

How are we to thank God, the Father? (Through Whom?)

Isn't that interesting? Everything we say or do... All in the Name of the Lord Jesus... Giving thanks to God the Father, through the Lord Jesus... What, therefore, are you thanking the Father for?



**If I were to tell you, “Do everything God tells you to do.”
What would be your reply?**

Mine would have been, *“Yes, of course!”*

But then if I were to tell you, *“Don’t do anything unless God tells you to do it.”*

What would be your reply?

Mine would have been, *“Isn’t that the same thing?”*

I can answer, *“No, friend! Those two things are entirely different.”*

We need to learn to do *always and only* what we hear the Father say!

We need to offer Him the fire He has asked for and none other!!!

(Leviticus 10:1-3)

One night we went to a local Chili’s Restaurant for dinner.

When the meal was over, a waiter sent us a dessert of his own choice.

What the waiter did not know was that I was only at Chili’s for one reason—
their Chocolate Volcano Dessert Cake.

I didn’t really want anything else,

I hadn’t tasted one for a couple of years and I was looking forward to it.

The waiter sent us a dessert different than what I had anticipated and he said,

“I thought you would like this.”

Rather than being pleased, I was very disappointed.

While I appreciated his effort to please us,

the truth was, he did not have the position, nor the authority,

nor the ability to choose what I wanted.

He did so on his own and he made a mistake.

*If you are going to do all that you do, whether word or deed,
in the Name of the Lord Jesus,*

you must always do what He tells you to do,

and you must only do what He tells you to do.

Otherwise the Glory of the Lord will not be seen in you.

People will see you instead of God!

Where can we find wisdom? In Christ Jesus, the Son of God.

In the time of Moses,

God spoke to His people in many and various ways through His prophets.

In these last days, God has spoken to us in His Son.

God has appointed Jesus heir of all things.

God made all things through His Son.

Jesus is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of God’s nature.

Jesus, God’s Son, upholds all things by the Word of His power.

Once Jesus had purified our sins,

He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, God, Himself,

being better than any and all who had gone before Him,

and none would come after Him.

(Hebrews 1:1-4)

So...

Jesus ought to be where we find our instructions on how to walk before our God!
And He is!

If we take a quick perusal through the book of John,
where Jesus is revealed as the Son of God,
we can see the pattern which all true sons must follow.

First of all, the child of God must realize it is not about him or her—
it is all about God, the Father.
The son must realize and accept his place in the family of God,
which is under the rule of the Father.

*Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them,
“Truly, truly, I say to you,
the Son can do nothing of Himself,
unless it is something He sees the Father doing...”*
John 5:19a

And the child must realize that whatever He does,
it must be what the Father does.

Why?

Well, for starters, because whatever the child does reflects upon the parent.
The child is supposed to be the image of the Father—
that is how the Father derives His Glory from His children.

...for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.
John 5:19b

I can do nothing on My Own initiative.
*As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My Own will,
but the will of Him Who sent Me.*
John 5:30

How can the child know what the Father wants done?
By listening to the Father for His will.

Where do we find the Father's will?
In His Word.

So, the key is to remember to listen before acting—
make sure the Father is initiating the event, not the child!
In the beginning, in the middle, in the end, it must be the will of the Father,
not of the child!

***For I have come down from heaven, not to do My Own will,
but the will of Him Who sent Me.***
John 6:38

**Can the son do anything on his own;
i.e. something which the Father has not initiated?**

So Jesus said, ...I do nothing on My Own initiative...
John 8:28a

**How is the son to know what things the Father initiates?
Simply by listening to the Father.
I am not talking about some nebulous idea of hearing the Father out of the air
or in our own minds, but instead, this is listening to God in His Word.
The child of God is taught doctrine from the Word of God.**

...but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. John 8:28b

**What things did Jesus speak?
He spoke the things He had seen with His Father.**

**How about you?
Do you spend time with the Father—in His Word, watching His every move?**

**Then speak those things.
If you are studying His Word, more and more things will become familiar to you,
things which you will see with your Father...speak these things.
Don't speak things you do not understand,
instead spend more time with the Father in His Word in order to understand.**

I speak the things which I have seen with My Father...
John 8:38

**Where does your truth come from?
From a book about God, from a book about the Bible, from a friend who 'knows',
from a pastor, a teacher, a relative...?
Where did Jesus' truth come from?**

***...you are seeking to kill Me,
a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God...***
John 8:40

**Make sure you are speaking the truth!
Unless you received it from Him in His Word,
you won't know for sure whether you have truth or not!
I wouldn't take any chances on this one!**

Not only does the Father need to be the one Who initiates your moves,
He needs to actually send you, or commission you, to go for Him.
How many times I have thought of soldiers who decided to save the day
by acting on their own and instead reaped disastrous results.
So, too, we are only to act when He actually sends us—
actually gives us our marching orders.

March for Him, sure!
Onward Christian soldiers, for sure!
But only at His command.
Otherwise, don't move forward on your own!

*Jesus said to them,...
for I have not even come on My Own initiative, but He sent me.
John 8:42*

And once He gives me my marching orders, I must follow them to the letter!
I cannot skip any part, I cannot change any part,
I cannot add a thing to what He has said.

Speak in the Name of the Lord, just as the Father tells you from His Word.

*For I did not speak on My Own initiative,
but the Father Himself Who sent Me has given Me a commandment
as to what to say and what to speak.
I know that His commandment is eternal life;
therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.
John 12:49-50*

Adapted from WORD Center Ministries' [Zealous for HIS Glory!](http://www.wordcenterministries.org) blog—"Always and Only". [wordcenterministries.org](http://www.wordcenterministries.org)

Colossians 3:18

Making a break from speaking to all the saints, who does Paul address individually?

What command does Paul give to wives?

Does this include all wives, or just wives who are saints? (Get your answer from the text.)

How do you know?

When you are in Christ, the Lord, what is fitting, or appropriate, for wives to do?

Who is the head of all things, according to **Colossians 1:18** and **Colossians 2:10**?

Does it make sense to you that God would have a hierarchy of authority in the body and in the households of the saints?

Jesus' example of equality with God, yet submission to Him, is the perfect model for every wife to follow. Do you?

Colossians 3:19

Who does Paul address next?

Does this include all husbands, or just husbands who are saints?

How do you know?

What commands are given to Christian husbands regarding their wives?

1.

2.

If the husband does not love his wife, and is embittered against her, is the wife still required to subject herself to him?

If the wife does not subject herself to her husband, is he still required to love her and not be embittered against her?

Colossians 3:20

Who does Paul address next?

What are children commanded to do?

In what things are children commanded to obey their parents?

What reasoning is given for the necessity for children to obey their parents in all things?

Why would this be a pleasing thing to our Lord?

What example did our Lord give to us? (**Philippians 2:5-8**)

Given that everything here on earth was created to bring Glory to God, and given that so many things were additionally designed to be a picture of the “real” in heaven, why is the obedience of children to their parents so important to the Lord?

Colossians 3:21

Who does Paul address next?

Does this include all fathers, or is Paul speaking to those who are part of the body of Christ?

What are fathers commanded to do, or in this case, not to do?

What will happen if a father exasperates (arouses, provokes, irritates) his child?

If God requires human fathers in the body of Christ to act this way, do you think He, Himself, would do this very thing to His children? Why or why not?

Colossians 3:22

So far, we have seen a pair of pairs: first, wives and husbands, and next, children and fathers. Now we will see slaves and masters. In each case, which part of the pair is spoken to first, the position of authority or the submissive party? Can you think of a reason?

In each set of pairs there is a check given to the position of authority. Why do you think this is?

What are slaves commanded to do?

1.

2.

Is Paul speaking to all slaves, or just to those who are part of the body of Christ?

How do you know?

In what things are slaves to obey their earthly masters?

Does it matter whether their earthly master is a believer or not?

With what is the Christian slave to obey his master?

What are they not to use?

What is the result of external service?

What is the necessary ingredient for serving with sincerity of heart?

Paul sort of repeats the previous verse by way of emphasis. What is synonymous with sincerity of heart?

Who are slaves (and employees nowadays) really serving: their masters (employers) or the Lord?

How can you keep your heart clean and clear in this matter? What can you know?

Paul intimated it in **verse 22**, restated it in **verse 23**, but declares it emphatically in **verse 24**—no matter who your boss, employer, master, etc. is, who are you really serving?

We are not exactly slaves to those who are our employers, and yet, this section is extremely applicable to us in daily situations. Do you really believe you are serving the Lord rather than an earthly person when you work?

What about the one who does wrong, what will happen to him?

What does it mean that he will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done without partiality?

In context, what is the wrong doing? (Hint: The sentence starts out with the word for which connects back to the previous verse or verses.)

Colossians 4:1 says, “***Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.***” There is no doubt this verse belongs with the verses in **Colossians 3:18-25** so I will address it here. Who is Paul addressing?

Is Paul speaking to all masters, or just to those who are part of the body of Christ? (I am not asking whether Paul’s command would be good advise to all masters, whether they are part of the body of Christ or not. I am asking to whom Paul is speaking.)

What commands does Paul give to Christian masters?

- 1.
- 2.

What information does Paul remind the Christian masters of which will help them to obey God’s command in this?

What is the intended implication?

Do you remind yourself that you, too, have a Master, One Who is in heaven and capable of rendering true justice to you? Should you remind yourself more often?

READ AND REASON

Chapter 3 of Colossians most definitely talks about the conduct of those who are raised up with Christ.

But that conduct comes from one place—knowing the truth about Christ—which, in turn, comes from one place—the Word of God.

Paul’s whole letter has been written with an intense purpose—that every saint may be complete in Christ in order that they may not be deluded with persuasive arguments. (**Colossians 1:28, 2:4**)

Exactly how does Paul go about accomplishing his lofty goal? What is going to keep the saints at Colossae (and all saints) from being persuaded, convinced, or deluded by false teaching and false doctrine?

He needs to convince them, and us, that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Christ—that they are found no place else.

How does he do that? By proclaiming Christ, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom.

God, through Paul, emphatically orders saints to set their mind on things above and keep seeking things above. Do we do that? Do we really do that?

You may have heard this saying, “*Some people are so heavenly minded that they are of no earthly good.*” May I ask you how you react to that thought? Are you in agreement, or do you stand up, firm and established in God’s Word, against the notion that a saint can think too much about the things of the Lord?

The above saying goes against the Word of God; it contradicts the Word of God; it calls the very Word of God a lie! May it never be!

And yet, the phrase itself is often spoken from the loftiness of a lectern in an average community church. It is given as an axiom to modify behavior—purposely indoctrinating the pew people to believe that the best way to behave is to hide the passion and zeal and, yes, obsession with the Word of God and the ways of God which naturally exude from true believers.

Why? Because they won't be received if they bear the wounds and wonders of the Lord Jesus Christ on their sleeves.

My point is this: the above saying pretends to have wisdom available to those who will listen to it. But it is false; it is folly to follow because it would require believing what man says rather than what God says. That saying is the epitome of deception within the church. Disregard it, along with all other manmade wisdoms. They are false, and will lead to death. **Proverbs 14:12; Proverbs 16:25**

Wisdom is found in Christ alone.

A respected commentary on Colossians I once read said something like this, *"If I could give a principle of what Paul is trying to say here, that principle would be a rule. That rule would be this—it is unlawful for any Christian to ever seek knowledge other than in Jesus Christ."*

Does that sound *too* extreme? Is that principle actually true? Is that what Paul is saying? Is it unlawful for a Christian to seek wisdom and knowledge other than in Christ?

2 Peter 1:2 tells us that everything, absolutely everything we need for life and godliness are found through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His Own Glory and excellence. His divine power grants us this in Christ Jesus.

Do I believe it?

Do you believe it?

Belief determines our conduct...

COLOSSIANS - The LETTER

Chapter Four

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to God, the Father, with a red triangle. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 4** and highlight every reference to Jesus Christ in red. Mark all references to Him, including pronouns. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to the Holy Spirit you may find with a red cloud. (If you are not sure which person of the godhead is referred to, leave it blank until you know.)

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to the author with a green capital "P".

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to the recipients with an orange capital "C".

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to being in Christ with a red arrow overlaid with yellow above the word *in*.

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to the word of truth, or gospel, along with all synonyms and pronouns, with a blue box. Fill in the box with red.

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark each reference to the word all with a green circle. Check for synonyms such as everything.

Read through **Colossians 4** and highlight every reference to knowledge with lavender.

Read through **Colossians 4** and highlight every reference to wisdom with light blue. Then put a lavender box around the word.

Read through **Colossians 4** and underline *according to* or *so that* with a pink arrow pointed toward the right side of the phrase.

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every reference to time with a blue box.

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every comparison or simile with a pink equal sign. (Look for phrases like just as, or even as)

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal slash.

Read through **Colossians 4** and mark any terms of conclusion, such as therefore, with a pink capital “T”.

Read through **Colossians 4** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Conduct—masters (continued from **Colossians 3:18-25**)
2. Prayer instructions
3. Conduct—outsiders
4. Information—Brothers
5. Greetings—sent
6. Greetings—to give

READ AND ANSWER

Colossians 4:1

See chapter 3 in **COLOSSIANS—The LETTER** to find observation questions regarding this verse.

Colossians 4:2-4

Who is Paul speaking to in **verse 2**?

Who has Paul been speaking to since **Colossians 3:18**?

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Who was Paul speaking to before he started addressing individual segments of the body of Christ?

If I back up to **Colossians 3:12**, I will find Paul's audience addressed as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved. **Colossians 1:2** informed me from the onset that Paul was writing to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who were at Colossae. Who then, does Paul continue to speak to in **Colossians 4:2**?

Paul now begins to draw his letter to a close. What is the first thing he tells the saints at Colossae to do?



The Hebrew word for “devote” is *proskartereo* and means to attend constantly. Constantly... continually... steadfastly enduring in prayer.

The Hebrew word for “keeping alert” is *gregoreo* and means to be in constant readiness. Always... ever... alert, ready, and watchful in prayer.

The Hebrew word for “an attitude of thanksgiving” is *eucharistia* and means to be grateful and give appropriate thanks. Thankful... grateful... appreciative... our moral imperative in prayer.

In their devotion to prayer, what type of approach were they to have?

When was it necessary for them to be alert while devoting themselves to prayer?

What attitude were they to have while they were continually watchful in their prayers?

Who were they to pray for?

The verse reads, “praying at the same time for us as well”. What then, or who, were they to be praying for in their devotion to prayer other than Paul and his companions?

What were they to be praying for regarding Paul? (Read through **verse 4** in order to get both parts of the answer.)

1.

2.

If God answered the Colossians prayer for Paul and opened a door for the Word, what would Paul automatically do?

What is the mystery of Christ? (Pull your answer from the entire text of **Colossians**.)

What had been the result for Paul from speaking forth the mystery of Christ?

Does Paul give you an idea of why he wanted the Colossians to pray that God would open the door for the Word?



**The phrase, “that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak”
may be confusing to understand.**

**Paul is not asking for wisdom in what he should say
so that he does not land himself in prison as much,
but rather, He is asking that God would grant clarity to the hearers
as he speaks forth the mystery of Christ.**

In other words, he wants the Colossians to ask that God would unveil, or reveal, the mystery of Christ as Paul proclaims it.

The phrase, “the way I ought to speak” can also be confusing.

Once again, it is not referring to Paul’s choice of words, but is simply identifying the words he speaks forth as those which are necessary for him to proclaim. Paul wants the Colossians to pray that God would open the door for Paul to proclaim the mystery of Christ, and that God would reveal that mystery to Paul’s listeners. He identifies his ministry as something that is necessary for him to do.

Paul has said the same thing before.
Colossians 1:25-29

Colossians 4:5-6

Who are outsiders?

How are saints to walk (conduct themselves) toward outsiders?

Why?

What is the goal of wisdom in this case?



Ephesians 5:15-16 is an excellent cross-reference for Colossians 4:5.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:15–16

The phrase, “making the most” is the word *exagorazo*. It means to redeem, to buy back, to deliver from loss.

As you walk your life as a saint you should be walking in the footsteps that Jesus has preordained for you to walk in. There are many reasons for this including bringing God the Glory He deserves.

**Another reason (which is still encompassed by bringing God His Glory)
is to accomplish a goal through wisdom.
What is the goal? It is to proclaim the mystery of Christ to the world.**

**You have a choice for the use of each and every second of your life.
You have a choice for the use of each and every opportunity of your life.
Will you squander it, (in which case Satan gets to retain it for his use)
or will you buy that time back from the powers of darkness and give it to God?**

**Every moment of our lives are worth something.
They can be used for God's Glory—
or they can be carelessly tossed on the ground.**

**One thing you need to be sure you understand—
this is not talking about simply *not* doing anything evil during a moment in time.
It is not saying that as long as you don't sin the time, or the opportunity,
has been redeemed for God.**

**If you use any time or opportunity for Satan,
obviously you are not redeeming it for God.
However, if you use that time or opportunity for *yourself*,
you are *also not* redeeming it for God—
instead, you are redeeming it for yourself!**

**To buy back the time is to actively use it for God's purposes alone.
To buy back the opportunity is to actively use it for God's purposes alone.
...Not for Satan's purposes,
and not for your own...**

Paul gives an excellent example of wisdom. What is it?

What does Paul mean by letting your speech always be with grace?

What does it mean that your speech should be as though it is seasoned with salt?



**Grace can have two ideas: God's grace as well as the gracious behavior of men.
Salt had two main purposes in ancient times: to preserve and to flavor.**

So what does Paul mean when he says to let our speech always be with grace,

as though seasoned with salt?

Does he mean to make sure our speech is without corruption?
Does he mean to make sure our speech seems appealing to those listening?
In using the grace, does he simply mean our own human allure?
Surely he could not exclude God's grace in any of our speech toward others?

I have read many, many commentaries over the years
which disagree on Paul's meaning
when he said our speech is to always be with grace,
as though seasoned with salt.

Perhaps we need to use wisdom in our understanding,
as Paul has been teaching us in Colossians.

We are told that our speech is to always be with grace.
Then we are given the explanation of "with grace" which is "seasoned with salt".
Are grace and salt synonymous?
Or is "with grace" defined at least as much by the word *seasoned* as it is by salt?
In other words, is your speech supposed to be like salt—
or is it to be like it was seasoned with salt?

The Greek word for "salt" is *halas* and means salt
It comes from the primitive Greek word *hals*, which means salt.
Not a lot of help there.

"To be seasoned" is the Greek word *artuo*
and means to make ready, or to season.
Artuo comes from the word *aresko* which means to please.
Aresko probably comes from the primitive verb *airo*
which means to raise, take up, or lift, but we don't know for sure.
Since we don't know for sure that *aresko* came from *airo*,
we must not depend on help from *airo*.

Now, do not ever forget—context is king!
And, do not ever forget—Scripture is always the interpreter of Scripture!
Looking to a word's derivation
can only help point us to a path that is already in the Word—
it can never put us on a different path than is found in the passage!

When you put salt on food, it automatically does both of its functions—
it begins to stop corruption and it flavors the food itself.
Since seasoning with salt is to prepare the food for eating,
or as the Greek word shows, it means to make ready,
perhaps we have found a fuller understanding.

God's grace enables us to do that which He commands us to do.
Seasoning our speech with salt (letting our speech always be with grace)
enables us to speak what we must speak—the mystery of Christ!
We must not wait to season our speech, it must be seasoned beforehand—
it must be made ready to please our Master.
Then, when the opportunity is provided by God,
we will know how we must respond to each person!

The question changes—
rather than asking which property of salt Paul is speaking about,
we now become occupied with a new question.
How do I let my speech always be with grace?
How do I season my speech with salt?

We just purchased a pellet grill which is also a smoker.
We are going to use it to smoke our first turkey in a couple of days.
However, we have already begun to prepare for the “smoke”
(we found out that’s smoker language for cooking your food).
It wouldn’t do to wait until it was time to simply heat the turkey,
we had to start our preparations earlier because we needed to put it in a brine.
A brine consists of water and salt, plus any spices you want to put in for flavor.
(I couldn’t help but draw an analogy or two from our preparations which seem to
aptly apply to what Paul wants us to do with our speech.)

When we put our turkey in the brine, the salt penetrates into the turkey.
(Perhaps the Word of God is supposed to penetrate into our speech?)

As the salt goes in,
it stops the aging, decaying, or corruption process of the meat.
*(It reminds me how the Word of God
stops any falsehoods or corruption in my thinking—my faith.)*

The very act of brining the turkey, letting the salt penetrate the meat,
allows for more moisture to penetrate
because the water follows the salt into the meat.
*(Perhaps the more I listen to God and respond in belief and obedience,
the more He will speak to me in His Word, washing my mind with it,
as I am continually conformed more and more into His image?)*

When the meat is cut for consumption, the moisture literally drips from it.
*(In this analogy, the saint is the turkey.
What the turkey has to give is consumed by another.
Perhaps what is given to another, in the form of the Word of God,
the moisture or water, in this case,
is there because the time and effort were taken beforehand to brine the turkey.
Do saints “brine” themselves so they are ready,*

***at a moment's notice, at every opportunity,
to provide the water of the Word to those who might listen or consume
what is being told to them?)***

**Once you understand the command
(to brine your mind with the water of the Word),
the only question that remains is this—
Have you obeyed?**

**Is your speech seasoned with the Grace from God's Word?
Are you prepared and ready to speak forth the intricacies of the kingdom of God?**

**Unless your answer is "No." you are free to continue your walk of obedience.
If your answer is "No." you must change your ways and begin to obey.
You must change your speech and season it—make sure it is ready!
You may be called upon at any time to speak on behalf of the God of the universe!**

When or how often should your speech be seasoned with salt?

Why?

The word for seasoned is in the perfect tense which means it is a past completed action. What does this show you?

How often are you to be making the most of every opportunity?

If you are making the most of every opportunity to proclaim the mystery of Christ, what will happen? Will people ask you questions in response?

When they do, with what are you to respond?

What must you know thoroughly in order to respond to each person?

Where are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge found? (Remember the whole of **Colossians!**)

Colossians 4:7-9

As Paul continues the closure of his letter, he gives the Colossians information about other saints. Who does he mention?

Did the Colossians know Tychicus or Onesimus?

Who was Tychicus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



**Notice Tychicus' relationship and responsibility to Paul in these cross-references.
Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12**

What did Paul promise that Tychicus would do?

Who sent Tychicus?

Why did Paul send him?

What was Tychicus' primary, even sole, purpose?

What was the intended purpose of the Colossians receiving information through Tychicus about Paul and Timothy?

Who else did Paul send to the Colossians?

**Read about Onesimus in Philemon 10-16.
Note what Paul said Onesimus became when he became a Christian.**

What does Paul say about Onesimus?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Colossians 4:10-14

After Paul informs the Colossians that dear brothers would be coming to them with information about Paul and Timothy, Paul sends greetings from specific individuals who have been with him. List those who have been with Paul who are sending their greetings to the Colossian saints.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Apart from sending his greetings, what do we know about Aristarchus from Paul's letter?

- 1.
- 2.



**Check out these cross-references on Aristarchus. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
Acts 19:29; Acts 20:4; Philemon 24**

Who is Mark?

Had the Colossians heard of Mark before? How do you know?

What might Mark be going to do?

If Mark comes to Colossae, what are they to do?



**Check out these cross-references on Mark. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
Acts 12:12; Acts 12:25; Acts 15:37; Acts 15:39;
2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1 Peter 5:13**

Which Jesus is Paul referring to?

What is true about all of these men?

- 1.

2.

3.

What has been their “work”?

Are they Jew or Gentile?

What have they meant to Paul?

Who else sends his greetings to the Colossians through Paul’s letter?

What do we know about Epaphras?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Do the Colossians know Epaphras personally?

How does Epaphras serve the Colossians?

How often does he pray for them?

What specifically does he pray for them?

1.

2.

Has Paul prayed this very same thing for the Colossians? Find Paul's prayers in the book of **Colossians** and compare them to Epaphras' prayers. Note the chapter and verse in which you find your answer.

Does this make you wonder whether Paul and Epaphras ever prayed *together* for the Colossians? Why would this be a very real possibility?

Why does he labor earnestly for the Colossians in his prayers?

How do you know he has this deep concern for the Colossians?

Who else does Epaphras have a deep concern for?

1.

2.

Do you remember looking up Laodicea and Hierapolis on a map? Does what you found give you an idea of why Epaphras also labors earnestly for the Laodiceans and those in Hierapolis?

Do you think he knew them personally? According to **Colossians 4:15-16** what are the possibilities?



**Check out these cross-references on Epaphras. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
Colossians 1:7; Philemon 23**

Who are the last two men to send greetings to the Colossians through Paul?

- 1.
- 2.

What do we know about Luke?



**Check out these cross-references on Luke. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24**

Does Paul give us any information about Demas?



**Check out these cross-references on Demas. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
2 Timothy 4:10; Philemon 24**

Colossians 4:15-17

Now Paul sends his own special greetings to certain individuals in Colossae. Who are they?

- 1.
- 2.

What do we know about Nympha?

What does Paul expect to be done with his letter to the Colossians?

Why doesn't Paul write to the Laodiceans personally—or does he?

What does Paul expect the Colossians to do?

Why?

If it was so important then to read Paul's letters—is it now?

Do you? (And do you read the rest of the counsel of God in His Word? By the way, I am not asking if you *have* read God's Word, I am asking if you read it over and over and over.)

What message is sent to Archippus?

What can we learn about Archippus?



**Check out this cross-reference on Archippus. What do you learn?
(I have only included the verse which mentions his name.
Check out as many verses before and after as necessary.)
Philemon 2**

Who gave Archippus his ministry?

Who is supposed to give Archippus Paul's message?

Do we have any idea why the Colossians were supposed to deliver the message to Archippus? In other words, why didn't Paul tell Archippus directly through his letter? (The answer to this question is not in the text, but it is still something you need to notice.)

Colossians 4:18

Paul has three closing points. What are they?

1.

2.

3.

Did Paul write the whole of the letter, or just these final thoughts?

Who do you think wrote the actual letter? (Do you have a possible list given in the letter itself?)

Why would Paul write these last few lines himself?

What last request did Paul make of the Colossians?

What is Paul asking the Colossians to do?

This is different from what Paul asked the Colossians to pray for earlier in the book. What previous request did he make?

What last blessing did Paul impart to the Colossians?

How did Paul begin his letter? Notice anything?

READ AND REASON

Well, we are done observing **Colossians**—at least the first time through!

Have you seen how important it is to understand Who Christ really is?

Do you understand Who Christ really is?

Do you understand what is true of you if you are in Christ?

Do you understand what those who are in Christ are to do?

Do you understand that those who are in Christ can do what is expected of them because of what is true about Christ and what is true about them because they are in Christ?

By the way, I have prayed—

that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will...

in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...

so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord...

to please Him in all respects...

bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might...

for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience...

joyously giving thanks to the Father...

Who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

Colossians is a hard book to put down.

So don't even think about it!

Why don't you do an actual study on the points Paul makes about Christ? List them one by one and then do word studies when appropriate. Cross-reference the attributes of Christ to see what else the Bible will tell you.

I have provided below three lists for you to use in your study. (I don't usually provide lists like this in OBSG's (Observation Bible Study Guides) but the information is just so powerful and faith building that I couldn't resist!)

Find the Scripture in **Colossians** where I found each truth about Christ and mark the reference down beside each fact. Another beneficial task would be to change each fact I list to a full comprehensive sentence. The truth is, just reading through them should increase your faith—if you believe!

The lists are:

1. What is true of Christ (found in **Colossians**)
2. What is true of those who are in Christ (found in **Colossians**)
3. What those who are in Christ are to do (found in **Colossians**)

WHAT IS TRUE OF CHRIST

Has apostles (those sent by Him)
Has saints (those set apart to Him)
Brethren and saints are IN Him
Lord
Christ
Jesus
Has servants
Image of the invisible God
First-born of all creation
All things were created by Him
All things were created for Him
Before all things
All things hold together in Him
Head of the body (church)
The beginning
First-born from the dead
Has first place in everything
Father's good pleasure for these things to be true
All the fullness dwells in Him
God reconciled all things to Himself through Christ.
We have peace through the blood of His cross
We have peace through Him
We are reconciled in His fleshly body through death
His body = the church
He suffered
Afflictions are appointed for the church (as part of His body)
He is the Word of God
He is the Mystery
He has been hidden from the past ages and generations
He has now been manifested to God's saints
He has been offered to the Gentiles
Christ is *In* Believers
Christ is the hope of glory
Christ is God's mystery
All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ
He is to be believed in
He is to be received by faith
We are to be taken captive by Christ
All the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form in Him
We have been made complete *In* Him
He is the head over all rule and authority
We are circumcised *In* Him
We are buried with Him in baptism
We are raised up with Him through faith
God raised Him from the dead
We are made alive together with Him
God triumphed over the rulers and authorities through Him
The substance belongs to Christ
Christ is the head
The entire body is supplied by Christ
The entire body is held together by Christ
The entire body grows from Christ
We have died with Christ
We have been raised up with Christ
Christ is above, seated at the right hand of God
Christ is our life
Christ will be revealed in glory

Christ is All
Christ is *In* All
Lord forgives sin
Peace of Christ
We are to do all things in the Name of the Lord Jesus
We give thanks through Him to God the Father
We are to fear Him
We are to work for Him heartily
We will receive the reward of the inheritance from Him
We serve Him – He is Lord
He is our Master
He is in heaven
Receive ministry in the Lord
We are to serve the Lord

WHAT IS TRUE OF THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST

Saints
Brethren (family of God)
Grace from God
Peace from God
God is your Father
Jesus is your Lord
You have love for all the other saints
There is a hope laid up for you in heaven
You heard the Word of Truth
The Gospel came to you (you heard it – it was sent to you)
The Word is constantly bearing fruit in you
The Word is constantly increasing fruit in you
The Word started bearing fruit in you on the very day you heard & understood it
You heard the grace of God in Truth
You understood the grace of God in Truth
You learned the grace of God in Truth (you were taught)
You have love in the Spirit
You can be filled with the knowledge of His will
You can be filled with spiritual wisdom about His will
You can be filled with understanding about His will
You can be strengthened with all power according to His Glorious might
You can attain all steadfastness
You can attain all patience
You are qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light
You have been delivered from the domain of darkness
You have been transferred to the kingdom of His Beloved Son
You have redemption in His Beloved Son
You have forgiveness of sins in His Beloved Son
You are part of Christ's body, the church
Christ is your head
You are no longer alienated from God
You are no longer hostile in mind
You are no longer engaged in evil deeds
You are reconciled with God
You are reconciled in His fleshly body
You are reconciled through death
You will be presented before God as holy
You will be presented before God as blameless
You will be presented before God as beyond reproach
You will continue in the faith
You are firmly established
You are steadfast

You will not move away from the hope of the Gospel that you have heard
God's mystery was manifested to you
God willed to make known the riches of the Glory of His mystery among the Gentiles to you
Christ is in you
You have the hope of glory in you
You are complete in Christ
His power works mightily within you
Your heart may be encouraged
You are knit together in love to the other saints
You can attain to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery
You have wealth
You have the full assurance of understanding
You have the True Knowledge of God's mystery (Christ, Himself)
You have all the treasures of wisdom
You have all the treasures of knowledge
You don't have to be deluded
You have received Christ Jesus the Lord
YOU HAVE CHRIST!!!
You are firmly rooted
You have been taken captive to Christ – He holds you prisoner!
You are IN HIM
You have been made complete
You have been circumcised (made without hands)
The body of your flesh has been removed
You have been buried with Him in baptism
You have been raised up with Him in baptism
You have faith
God made you alive together with Christ
God forgave all our transgressions
God canceled out the certificate of debt (consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us)
God has taken the certificate of debt out of the way (nailed it to the cross)
The rulers and authorities are disarmed – they can't control us any longer!!!
Christ is our head
You are part of His body
You are being supplied with growth from God
You are held together (to His body) by God
You have died with Christ
You are dead to the elementary principles of the world
You are not living in the world any longer
You have been raised up with Christ
You have died
Your life is hidden with Christ in God
CHRIST IS YOUR LIFE!!!
You will be revealed with Christ in glory when He is revealed
You laid aside the old self
You have put on the new self
Your new self is being renewed to a True Knowledge
Your new self is being renewed to the image of God
Your new self was created by God
Your new self is the same of the new self of all saints
You are chosen of God
You are holy
You are beloved
The Lord forgave you
You have the peace of Christ
You were called to peace in Christ's body
You will receive the reward of the inheritance from the Lord

You serve the Lord Christ
You have a Master in heaven
You can stand perfect in the will of God
You can stand fully assured in all the will of God
You receive a ministry in the Lord
You have Grace with you

WHAT THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST ARE TO DO

(They *can* because of what is *true* about Christ and what is *true* about them in Christ.)

Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
Please Him in all respects
Bear fruit in every good work
Increase in the knowledge of God
Joyously give thanks to the Father
You are not to be engaged in evil deeds
Continue in the Faith
Be firmly established in the Faith
Be steadfast
Do not move away from the hope of the Gospel
Remember the Gospel you have heard
You should not listen to persuasive argument – but think on the Truth
Good discipline
Be stable in your Faith
Walk in Him
Be built up in Him
Be established in your Faith
Overflow with gratitude
Do not let anyone take you captive through philosophy
Do not let anyone take you captive through empty deception
Do not let anyone take you captive through the tradition of men
Do not let anyone take you captive through the elementary principles of the world
Stay a slave to Christ
You are not to transgress God's will
You are not to let anyone act as your judge in regard to food, drink, festival, new moon, Sabbath day (things from the Old Covenant) God is your judge!
You are to stop letting people defraud you of your prize
You are not to delight in self-abasement
You are not to worship angels
You are not to take your stand on visions you have seen
You are not to be inflated by your fleshly mind
You are to hold fast to the Head
Do not submit to decrees such as "Do not handle, taste, touch"
Do not submit to decrees in accordance with the commandments of men
Do not submit to decrees in accordance with the teachings of men
You are not to participate in self-made religion
You are not to practice self-abasement
You are not to severely treat your body
You are not to indulge in your flesh
Keep seeking the things above
Set your mind on the things above
Do not set your mind on the things that are on the earth
Consider the members of your earthly body as dead (to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed = idolatry)
Separate yourself from immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed = idolatry
You are to be a Son of Obedience
You are not to walk in disobedience
You are not to live in disobedience
Put all those things aside (anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech from your mouth)

Do not lie to one another
 Don't listen to your old self or do its evil practices
 Put on a heart of compassion
 Put on a heart of kindness
 Put on a heart of gentleness
 Put on a heart of patience
 Bear with one another
 Forgive each other (whoever has a complaint against anyone – let it go)
 Put on love (perfect bond of unity)
 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts
 Be thankful
 Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you with all wisdom
 Teach one another with the Word through psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
 Admonish one another with the Word through psalms, hymns, spiritual songs
 Sing with thankfulness in your hearts to God
 Whatever you do in word - do it in the name of the Lord Jesus
 Whatever you do in deed – do it in the name of the Lord Jesus
 Give thanks through Jesus to God the Father
 Wives – be subject to your husbands
 Husbands – love your wives
 Husbands – do not be embittered against your wives
 Children – be obedient to your parents in all things
 Fathers – do not exasperate your children
 Slaves – obey your masters on earth in all things
 Slaves – obey your masters on earth with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord
 Slaves – do all your work heartily for the Lord, not for man
 Slaves – know that you will receive the reward of the inheritance from the Lord
 Slaves – serve the Lord
 Don't do wrong
 Masters – grant justice to your slaves
 Masters – grant fairness to your slaves
 Masters – know that you have a Master in heaven
 Devote yourselves to prayer
 Keep alert in prayer
 Have an attitude of thanksgiving in prayer
 Pray for your shepherds at the same time
 Pray that God will open door for your shepherds and leaders and teachers
 Conduct yourself with wisdom toward outsiders
 Make the most of the opportunity with outsiders
 Let your speech always be with grace
 Let your speech always be as if seasoned with salt so you know how to respond to each person
 Work for the kingdom of God
 Work with other saints for the kingdom of God
 Be an encouragement to your shepherds and leaders
 Read the Word of God to one another
 Read the Word of God to others
 Take heed to the ministry God has given you (Do it! Be Faithful to it!)
 Remember the distresses of your shepherd and leaders