



Colossians

In His death,
In His resurrection...
In Christ

3. Why do you think Paul takes so much time to address all his greetings at the end of the book?

4. Why does Paul end with the instruction to “remember my chains”?

For Discussion

My questions/discoveries about Colossians 4:2-18.

WEEK ONE

Overview

Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians during a time of imprisonment, probably in Rome. The church at Colossae was likely established during Paul’s third missionary journey as he ministered for three years in Ephesus. It appears that Paul did not personally establish the church there, but instead a Colossian named Epaphras. He traveled to Ephesus, responded to Paul’s gospel message, and returned to share the good news in Colossae.*

During his time in prison, Paul received word that some false teaching had entered into the church at Colossae. He wrote this letter to encourage the believers there, as well as to confront and correct the inaccurate doctrine that had infiltrated their community.

For Study

This week read through the entire letter to the Colossians in one sitting, each day. Try to read it as a single thought or unified letter rather than broken up into chapters and verses.

Before you read it each day, start with a short prayer time that God would lead you by the Spirit to know and understand His word better and that as you study His word, that He would write it on your heart.

*Taken from the ESV Study Bible

For Review

1. What are some of the main themes of Colossians?

2. Write a basic outline of the book using the guide below. Also, highlight specific verses that stand out to you and list them.

I. (1:1-1:8)

II. (1:9-1:12)

III. (1:13-23)

IV. (1:24-2:5)

V. (2:6-15)

VI. (2:16-23)

VII. (3:1-17)

VIII. (3:18-4:1)

IX. (4:2-5)

X. (4:7-18)

WEEK SIX

For Study

Just as Paul opens his letter with a prayer of thanksgiving, he starts chapter 4 on the same note speaking to the power of prayer, and how it shapes our witness. Paul concludes with encouragement and “shout outs” to leaders in the church and greetings from partners in the Gospel. It is a fitting conclusion to a letter that is as much encouragement as it is instructional. Read chapter 4 each day.

For Review

1. Paul, in verse 2, offers the starting point for bringing his prior instruction to fruition. What role *should* prayer play in the life of believers? How does this differ from what actually happens?

2. How are we to live toward outsiders? (v. 5-6) Can you give a practical example?

2. Several verses have very weighty expectations. How are you doing in these areas and where is there room for growth?

3:16

3:19

3:21

3:23

For Discussion

My questions/discoveries about Colossians 3:1-4:1.

WEEK TWO

For Study

This week, focus in on verses 1-12 of Chapter 1. Look at how Paul prays for the Colossians and how he describes: their faith, the Gospel, what the Gospel affords them, and how they should live in relationship and response to God for what He has done. Read Colossians 1:1-12 each day.

For Review

1. How does Paul describe the Colossians' faith and what does this say about their identity in Christ?

2. How does Paul describe the Gospel?

3. What does Paul pray for the believers at Colossae?

4. What is the significance of Paul leading off with the Gospel and their response to it?

For Discussion

My questions/discoveries about Colossians 1:1-12

WEEK FIVE

For Study

Why has Paul spent so much time on doctrine and theology? Because this knowledge should be the motivation for which we now live. Our knowledge and love of God for what He has done through Christ and is now revealing to us by His Spirit should move us to love Him out of the love and grace we experience. Our behavior changes because our motivation has changed. Only the Gospel can produce change in our lives.

In Colossians 3, Paul moves away from strictly theological discussion and moves into the practical realm. First, he focuses on personal behavior, then family relationships. He will go on to continue some of these thoughts in chapter 4. If we know these things, this is what our knowledge of the Gospel should be producing. Read Colossians 3:1-4:1 each day.

For Review

1. The first half of Colossians 3 is about putting on the new self and a new way of living. How can you practically expect to do this? How can we put our sin to death? (see Gal. 5:16-26)

For Review

1. Why do you think that Paul inserts verses 6-7 before launching into the statements in verses 8-15?

2. What is the significance of Paul placing the theological message of verses 8-15 before the behavioral message of verses 16-23?

3. In verses 16-23 Paul talks about not allowing our freedom to be restricted by false teachers. How do you balance finding freedom in Christ with “walk[ing] in a manner worthy of the Lord” (Colo. 1:10)? (see Romans 8 and 1 Cor. 8-9)

4. What is the true work of a minister? (v. 24-29, Eph 4:1-16)

For Discussion

My questions/discoveries about Colossians 1:24-2:23.

WEEK THREE

For Study

In Colossians 1:13-23, Paul lays out one of the most developed expositions on the person and work of Christ. As you read through this passage, let these words dwell deeply in your heart and mind. Notice the pre-eminence and omnipotence of Christ as well as our condition in relationship to Him. Read Colossians 1:13-23 each day.

For Review

1. How does Paul describe Christ’s person (who He is) in verse 15-20?

2. How does Paul describe Christ’s work (what He has done) in verse 15-20?

3. What is the affect of the work of Christ on the cross on the life of believers? (v 21-23)

4. How are we to respond to Christ' person and work?

For Discussion

My questions/discoveries about Colossians 1:13-23.

WEEK FOUR

For Study

Colossians 1:24-2:5 are a message of encouragement from Paul to the church telling them what he has been through and how much he cares for them. Paul clearly defines the job of the minister, which every believer is (Eph 4:12), and what a great privilege it is to know the mystery of the Gospel—Christ living and working in us. We minister to accomplish verse 28, which should be the goal of the body of the minister, the Church. Paul explains the importance of understanding and knowing God, which is to know Christ who is the keeper of all wisdom.

The remainder of chapter 2 is an appeal to be rooted in Christ. How? By knowing His Gospel, what He has done, what it does to us, and the response it calls us to: to walk in and with Christ. We are to stand firm in Christ and let no one shake us in our faith by adding to the person and work of Christ.

Verses 6-15 lay out a true doctrine, while verses 16-23 combat false teaching. Read Colossians 1:24-2:23 each day.