

A Study in Colossians



And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17

By Beth Dial



Jonesboro, Georgia

Fall, 2008

Lesson One
Greetings
Colossians 1:1, 2



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,
Colossians 1:9

Day
One

Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion are three mathematical laws that describe the motion of planets in the Solar System. The **first law** says: "The orbit of every planet is an ellipse with the sun at one of the foci."

The equation is

$$r = \frac{p}{1 + \epsilon \cdot \cos \nu}$$

The laws of science are compiled by man's observations of the constancy of nature. The study of Colossians tells us that Jesus Christ is the One Who holds all things together, thereby, being the Source and Power of every law. The book soars from the heavenlies into the home. Let's trace thoughts together. We are handling a supernatural book. Please stop to pray for the Holy Spirit's help in understanding.

1. Write out the memory verse twice below in beginning to memorize it.
2. Read Colossians in one sitting and write down your questions and impressions below.
3. Mark off the divisions of the book as entitled in our schedule or choose your own.

4. Who is the author?
 - a. What do we know of his circumstances?
 - b. How does that help us understand the man and the message of the book?
5. Try to find out when the book was written.
6. What places are mentioned in the book?
 - a. Locate those on the map included at the back of this lesson and highlight them. Look at them on the maps in the back of your own Bible for a larger perspective
 - b. Is there any way to speculate specifically where Paul was, then, when he wrote?
7. Now list the people mentioned, either individuals or groups.
 - a. What are some conclusions you can draw from having listed these?
 - b. Most think Epaphras was founder of the church, possibly disciplined by Paul during his third missionary journey. See Acts 19:8-10 for background.
8. What verse would you choose as the key verse?

Day Two

1. What is the message of the book? Is there a heresy being refuted? He doesn't say outright, but you may be able to tell by the things he emphasizes. What is he making very clear?

2. Read through the book and list on separate paper every reference to God. Include the phrase that alludes to Him. Thank Him, speak to Him, as you do this. How are you helped? Write out a specific circumstance and show how these references may be applied, contrasted, or strengthening after you have made your list.

3. List repeated words on separate sheets of paper. How do they help us understand the message of the book? Take some time on this assignment. Write them out if you guess they might be repeated.

4. Mark the pronouns ("you", "us", etc). What do they tell you about the book?

5. From your knowledge of Ephesians, compare the content of the two books.

6. There is another book that is closely related to Colossians. Read the passages below and record some conclusions.
 - a. Read the book of Philemon. Briefly summarize the content below.
 - 1) Note the man mentioned in Philemon 2 and what is said about him.

- 2) Who is mentioned in Philemon 10?
- b. Now read the references below and see if there are any likenesses and note any conclusions you may make.
- 1) Colossians 4:17

 - 2) Colossians 4:7 and 9

Day Three

1. In the greeting (1:1, 2), what does Paul call himself? What does he claim in Galatians 1:17? (Read Galatians 1:11-24 for background).
 - a. What was a New Testament apostle?

 - b. What is the reader's attitude (and ours) to be toward this letter in light of Paul calling himself "apostle"?

 - c. Paul says he is an apostle "by the will of God." Knowing his testimony of salvation (Acts 9:1-19), how would he especially connect with this truth and that of John 15:16?

2. Paul shows he is burdened for the Colossians in 1:24 and 2:5. Discuss both.

3. What are the implications of Timothy being called “our brother” in 1:1?
 - a. Should Timothy be offended at that? Was he an apostle? Why or why not?
 - b. What do we learn of Paul by the fact that he includes Timothy?
4. You have found Colossae on the map. What else can you find out about it?
5. What does Paul mean when he calls them “saints”? Can you find out the derivation (the Greek word from which it comes) of the word? How does that affect you?
6. Do you think the reference to “faithful brethren” may hint defection on the part of some, or is it just an encouragement?
7. Being “brethren” gives a sense of belonging, but what two words in v. 2 give their real source of confidence?
 - a. What does the phrase mean? See Acts 17:28 for part of your answer.
 - b. What does that phrase mean experientially to you?
8. What is the significance of greeting?
 - a. “Grace”
 - b. “Peace”
 - c. According to v. 2, from whom do they flow?

BIBLE MAP 5. Pisidia, Galatia

Lesson Two
Hope Laid Up for You
Colossians 1:3-8



...so that you may 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;
Colossians 1:10

Day
One

Scientists See Star Explode

Washington-AP *In a stroke of cosmic luck, astronomers for the first time witnessed the start of one of the universe's most fiery events: the end of a star's life as it exploded into a supernova.*

On Jan. 9, (2008), astronomers used a NASA X-ray satellite to spy on a star already well into its death throes, when another star in the same galaxy started to explode. The outburst was 100 billion times brighter than Earth's sun... "A star exploded right before my eyes," lead author Alicia Soderberg, an astrophysics researcher at Princeton University, said Wednesday. She likened it to "winning the astronomy lottery. We caught the whole thing from start-to-finish on tape."

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Thursday, May22, 2008

From what we know of Jesus Christ, Who allowed this to happen before a watching world? *...Less than 1 percent of the stars in the universe will die this way...* Was it luck that we recorded that historical moment? If not, what was it? How does that help you in the challenges He sends to you? Stop now and ask Him for insight into your study time.

1. Write out Colossians 1:9 below from last week and begin working on v. 10. If you are memorizing the book, you should be working on Colossians 1:7-9 this week.

2. Read Colossians 1:3-8 and summarize it below. Write out any questions you may have, things you may not understand and your observations.

3. Where is the author?
 - a. So how is he using his time?

 - b. Who was Paul's and our example in Mark 1:35? Look over the chapter and see what He had been doing. Do we often use an excuse that Jesus blows away by His example in Mark 1:35?

 - c. Do you "shut down" often enough to do the same? How can you make steps to improve?

4. Two kinds of prayer are mentioned in v. 3. What are they?
 - a. See what you can find out about the two words and how they differ.

 - b. Both of these words are in the present tense in the Greek, signifying continual action, ongoing constancy. Mark this in your text (I use a squiggly line over the word). How does this help you understand the nature of prayer?

 - c. Do you consistently use both these forms of prayer? Try riding to the grocery store this week and thanking God out loud for believers you know the whole way there. Chuck Swindoll suggests writing a letter, like the apostle Paul, to a fellow-believer who has encouraged you. Every one is an ongoing story of grace.

- Someone has said that the entire epistle rests in the phrase “Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”. Discuss this in light of Gnosticism that apparently was affecting the church at Colossae.

Lest we think this theological system is extinct, think of the prominence of the New Age perspective in our culture. Peter Jones in his book, The Gnostic Empire Strikes Back, shows the likenesses.

The Kingdom of God Is Inside of You. Though caught in matter, humanity can once again become part of the universal whole by a process of self-knowledge and self-realization...In this system Christ does not deal with sin by His vicarious atonement. He comes, rather, with a revealer of “GNOSIS”, the knowledge of one’s own divinity.
p. 24.

Where are you likely to encounter this kind of language?



- Notice the presence of the Trinity in 1:3-8. Note the three in your margin. What significance do they have in this section?
- The word “for” in v. 3 is “PERI, *around*” in Greek, the word from which our word “perimeter” comes. Mark your text with that word and write out the phrase below. How does that affect the meaning of Paul’s prayer? And yours?
- Faith, love, and hope are referred to in verses 4 and 5. Look up the following verses and write in what you learn about each characteristic. I Corinthians 13:13; Romans 5:1-5; Ephesians 4:2-5; I Thessalonians 1:3; I Peter 1:3-8; Hebrews 6:10-12, 19.

<p>“Your faith in Christ”</p>	
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<p>“The <u>love</u> you have for all the saints”</p>	
<p>“The <u>hope</u> laid up for you in heaven.”</p>	

4. In verse 4, Paul gives thanks for two things. What are they again?
- Discuss the balance of these two. What imbalances occur when one or the other is missing.
 - Someone has said that believers have a “double loyalty.” Discuss the validity of that idea in light of these two ideas, or if you disagree.
 - How would these two qualities show up in your life, or what do you look for in individuals that might make you say this about them?

Lesson Three
A Prisoner's Prayer
Colossians 1:9-14



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 1:11, 12

Day
One

Our Immune System Has A Steel Trap Memory

History's most lethal flu epidemic occurred in 1918. It killed about 50 million people worldwide. Scientists have recently completed testing the blood of 32 people aged 92-102 who were exposed to the 1918 pandemic flu. Antibodies were still found roaming the body looking to strangle that particular flu strain.

This is the longest that specific disease-fighting cells have lasted in people, said study lead author, Dr. James Crowe, a professor of microbiology and immunology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

There is no pressing need for a 1918 flu vaccine because the virus has long since mutated out of its deadly form and is extremely unlikely to be a threat anymore, experts said. What is more important in this research, they said, is that it confirms theories that **our immune system has a steel trap memory.**

Fox News, AP, August 17, 2008

In our review today, we will list specific people who lived in time and space by God's design. Who held their bodies together, making organs and sinews, skeletal framework, muscles, brain waves work in symphony? Jesus Christ. And ours? Jesus Christ. Is He capable of holding us together in times of difficulty? Stop and ask Him now for help.

REVIEW:

1. What is the setting of Colossians?
 - * Author?
 - * Circumstances of the author?
 - * Recipients?
 - * Spiritual heritage of recipients?

2. List the people or groups of people in v. 1-8 and tell why they are significant.

TODAY'S LESSON

1. From memory, write out Colossians 1:10 below from last week and begin working on v. 11-12. If you are memorizing the book, you should be working on Colossians 1:10-12 this week.

2. Read Colossians 1:9-14 in one sitting, and write out any questions you may have, things you may not understand and other observations. Today's lesson will cover verses 9 and 10.

3. Paul begins his prayer for the Colossian believers in verse 9. It begins with the phrase "For this reason also". What reason is Paul speaking about?

4. Verse 9 continues "since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you." What does this imply about his prayer? (See Romans 1:9, Ephesians 1:16, Philippians 1:4 and I Thessalonians 1:2 for other examples). What is the *it* Paul is talking about?

5. What is unusual about his praying so intensely for these *particular* believers?

6. What specifically does Paul pray for the Colossians in verse 9? What, if any, is the significance in his using the words *pray* and *ask*?

7. Look up the following words in the Greek for a better understanding of the depth of his prayer. Be prepared to discuss the significance of each in class.
 - a. Knowledge (epignosis)

 - b. Wisdom (sophia)

 - c. Understanding (sunesis)

8. According to verse 10, what was the purpose of Paul's praying that the Colossians "may be filled" (verse 9)?

9. What does he mean by "walk"? Explain how this "walk" manifests itself.

10. What kind of fruit would be evident? Do you see this fruit in your life?

11. As you reflect on your Christian walk, how do you think you measure up?
Meditate on the truths learned in today's lesson and ask God for growth in the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

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Today's lesson will concentrate on Colossians 1:11-12. Read these verses over several times before answering the following questions.

1. According to verse 11, what enables the believer to persevere, even in the midst of hard trials?
 - a. Strengthened (dunamao)

 - b. Power (dunamis)

 - c. Might (kratos)

3. What is the goal of his prayer as stated at the end of verse 11?

4. What is the difference between the two words used here: *steadfastness* (endurance) (*hypomone*) and *patience* (*makrothumia*)? Look these words up in the Greek for a better understanding.

5. The last word in verse 11 is “joyously.” Look this verse up in several translations and be prepared to discuss what exactly this word refers to.

6. What should be our attitude toward trials as we go through them, as seen in verse 12? (Refer also to Col. 3:15-17; 4:2)

7. What benefit has God provided that should help believers to endure? How is this encouraging?

8. What is our inheritance, and how did we get it? See Col. 3:24; Ephesians 1:3-11, 18 for further insight.

9. Reflect on any trials you are currently going through. How could meditating on your inheritance and your hope of heaven bring you comfort? Be prepared to share in class.

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**Day
Three**

Read Colossians 1:13-14 over several times and ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart to understand the truths of today's lesson.

1. Who is doing the work in verse 13, and what is the work being done?

2. Verse 13 uses terms of warfare, referring to God's redemptive activity. Look up the following words for more clarity. Be prepared to discuss the word picture shown here.
 - a. delivered (rhuomai)

 - b. domain (exousia)

 - c. transferred (methistemi)

 - d. kingdom (basileia)

3. What parallels do you see here? (Refer back to verse 12).

4. What is the "domain of darkness"?

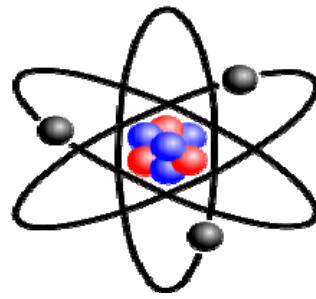
5. Where else in Colossians does Paul refer to supernatural powers of Satan?

Lesson Four The Incomparable Christ Colossians 1:15-18



For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:13,14



A stylised representation of the Rutherford model of a [lithium](#) atom ([nuclear structure](#) anachronistic)

Dr. John D. Morris writes, “We have discovered that atoms themselves are held together by mysterious forces. These forces keep each atomic nucleus, which contains particles of like electrical charge, from flying apart. They also keep the electrons in proximity to the nucleus, allowing atoms to bond to form more complex molecules, including all organic compounds which make up every cell in every living thing. These forces can be manipulated by man, in some cases with the release of great energy, but their ultimate nature is not understood, and they cannot be replaced by something of our own creation.”

This was taken from an article, “How Will the Present Earth Pass Away?” What is the answer to that question? Before you begin your study, speak to the One who created atoms and holds all together, asking for insight and change of heart where necessary.

**Day
One**

1. Write out Colossians 1:11, 12 from memory below, and begin working on 1:13, 14.

2. **Review:** See what you can find out about “contemplative prayer” and compare it with Paul’s prayer in 1:9-12.
3. Before studying our wonderful passage today, fill in the chart below. The information came from www.wikipedia.com. Do a search for the title on our chart, “Religious Perspectives on Jesus”. If you are not able to access that, find as many as you can from your sources, and we will do some in class. This assignment will help us remember the Evil One’s fear of the truth about our Lord.

<i>Religious Perspectives on Jesus</i>	
Hellenistic Paganism	
Gnosticism	
Jehovah’s Witnesses, Unitarians, and Christian Scientists	
Islam	
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	
Baha’i	
Buddhism	
Scientology	

4. See if you can find examples of some of these in current publications.

5. Read 1:15-18. Do you understand all the phrases? Write out your questions. What is the purpose of the passage?

6. What is the first word in v. 15? What purpose does it serve?

7. What is being discussed in v. 13, 14? What is the connection with v. 15?

8. Read Colossians 1:15. We have two descriptions of Jesus which have been used to strip Him of His deity, "image" and "firstborn". We must study them carefully.
 - a. How is the word "image" used in the following?
 - 1) Matthew 22:20

 - 2) I Corinthians 11:7

 - 3) Revelation 13:14

 - b. What is its use here?

 - c. How does John 14:9 help us interpret this verse?

 - d. List some characteristics of the incarnate Christ. In Him we have seen the Father multiplied by billions.

7. Now let's consider the second claim of v. 15, "He is the ***first-born*** of all creation."

What do we know for sure that this does NOT mean? (See v. 16).

8. See if you can find out what the meaning of “first-born” is, (Gr. PROTOKOS). “First-born” is used of the Messiah in Psalm 89:27. What is the word “first-born” referring to in the following passages?
 - a. Job 18:13
 - b. Exodus 4:22

Do these have to do with sequence in time?

9. So what does the phrase “the first-born of all creation” say about Jesus Christ? What can we be sure that it does not mean?



1. Read v. 15 again. What is the first word in v. 16? What does it do with v. 15?
 - a. What is the first statement made in v. 16 to end all arguments about the creation? Is anything left out?
 - b. List the combinations that are used to describe the opening statement, just in case there are still doubters. What does each imply?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)

- c. The last sentence in the verse creates an inclusio, a restatement of the first line. What is it?
 - d. What are the last two words in v. 16? Discuss the life-changing nature of those words.
2. Look up the following verses referring to God the Creator and note the significance of the truth in each case.
 - a. Isaiah 37:16
 - b. Matthew 8:28, 32
 - c. Isaiah 44:24
 - d. Mark 5:35b, 41
 - e. Isaiah 42:5
 - f. Luke 8:24
 - g. Job 26:27
 - h. John 6:11
 - i. Isaiah 45:9

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1. What are the first three words in v. 17?
What is the significance? See John 8:58 for help.
2. What is His relationship to time according to v. 17?
3. “He is before all things...” What next is said of Him?
So what are the “things” referred to twice?
4. Note the parallel passage in Hebrews 1:3.
5. Verse 18 says He is the head of the church. The previous statements show why He is qualified to be that. Summarize them again in your own words as you think of Him as our Head.
6. Discuss the figure of speech Paul uses several times in saying that Christ is the head of the church.
7. Jesus is also called, “the firstborn from the dead.” How was His resurrection different from that of Lazarus?
8. Read 1:15-18 again. It is said to be a creed, a formal statement of faith. Discuss how we may live by this creed.

Lesson Five
Reconciled
Colossians 1:19-23



And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.

Colossians 1:15

Day
One

1. Work on memorizing _____ . Write it out below for practice.

2. Read the text. Starting with verse 15 in your text, identify the pronouns (i.e. him, he) and to whom each is referring. (i.e. Paul, Christ, etc.) You should be able to determine this from the context.

3. The word for fullness in verse 19 is the Greek word pleroma. It means that which has been filled, that which fills or with which a thing is filled. The related verb form of this word is pleroo and it means to make full, to complete, to fill to the brim, to carry into effect or carry through to the end. One example of its use in Colossians is Col 1:25 where it says “to make the word of God fully known.”

With the above in mind, what does it mean for all the fullness to dwell in Christ? (See also Col. 2:9) Why is this so significant and what impact does this have on the gospel?

4. Complete the following chart by reading the verses indicating the attribute of God and then listing brief phrases describing how these attributes are attributed to Christ.

Attribute of God		Attributed to Christ	
Gen. 1:1	Creator	Col. 1:16-17	
		Jn. 1:3	
Job 34:14-15	Sustainer	Col. 1:17	
Nehemiah 9:6		Heb. 1:3	
Psalm 90:2		Col. 1:17	
		John 1:1-2	
I Sam 2:2		Heb. 7:26	
Job 34:10		Heb. 4:15	
I Chron. 29:11		Col. 2:10	
		Col. 1:18	
		Matt 28:18	
		Matt 9:6	
		Luke 8:25b	
Rom. 11:33-35		Col. 2:3	
		I Cor. 1:24	

Mal. 3:6a		Heb. 13:8	
John 5:26a		John 5:26b	
Acts 17:25b		John 11:25	

5. Not only are these types of attributes found in Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ has the character qualities of God. He is the perfect demonstration of all of the fruits of the Spirit. In Exodus 34:6 when God was with Moses this is how he described himself: "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth." Choose two of these qualities or two fruits of the spirit and list a scripture verse that describes Christ in this way.



Day
Two

- Colossians 1:19 says that it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Christ. Look up the meaning for the Greek word eudokeo, which is translated good pleasure. *(If you do not own a lexicon, you can use crosswalk.com or studylight.org. Search for the desired text, selecting one of the versions with Strong's numbers. You can then click on the words for a definition.)*
- God's good pleasure is also to reconcile. The word translated reconciled is apokatallasso which means to reconcile completely, to bring back to a former state of harmony. This suggests a broken relationship that is restored. What is reconciled according to Colossians 1:20?

See also II Cor. 5:18-19 and Rom. 8:20-21.

3. How is reconciliation accomplished? See Col. 1:20 and 1:22. See also Romans 5:10.

4. What is the significance of the phrase “the blood of his cross” and the phrase “in his fleshly body?”

Lev. 17:11

Heb. 9:22, 26

Heb. 10:19-20

5. Colossians 1:21 is the testimony of all unbelievers. Romans 5:8-10 says “but God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Complete the chart below by listing descriptions of mankind before reconciliation.

Alienated		Description of Alienation
<p>Apallotrioo</p> <p>Definition: <i>Estranged, separated, shut out from fellowship and intimacy, cut off, not having a close relationship</i></p>	<p>Isaiah 59:2</p> <p>Eph. 2:12-13</p> <p>Eph. 5:17-18</p>	

Hostile in Mind		Description of Hostile in Mind
Echthros - hostile Definition: <i>Enemies, hateful, opposing</i> Dianoia – mind Definition: <i>Understanding, thought, attitude, way of thinking or feeling</i>	Romans 8:6-7 James 4:4 Col. 3:2	
Engaged in Evil Deeds		Description of Engaged in Evil Deeds
<i>(the expression of our hostile minds)</i> poneros – evil Definition: <i>Bad, wicked, causing toil/trouble</i> Ergon – deeds Definition: <i>That with which one is occupied, deeds, acts, labor</i>	Eph. 2:3 Eph. 2:1 Titus 3:3	



**Day
Three**

“Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son . . . Romans 5:9-10a

1. For what purpose are we reconciled?

Col. 1:22

Eph 1:4

Holy (hagios): separated from sin or set apart for a sacred purpose, a saint.

Blameless (amomos): without blemish like a sacrifice or morally without blemish, faultless.

Beyond reproach (anegkletos): unaccused, blameless, cannot be called into account, free from legal charge.

2. When does this presentation take place, now or in the future (see 1:23a)?

3. What does continuing in the faith involve according to Col. 1: 23?

4. The context indicates that Paul is using the truth of reconciliation to motivate us to maturity. In your text, read through Paul's prayer in Chapter 1, verses 10-12. Mark the words or phrases referring to or describing maturity in Christ. Also look ahead to Colossians 1:28. Paul's goal or motivation for laboring hard matches up with God's purpose in reconciliation.

5. Colossians 1:23 refers to the hope of the gospel that you heard. According to Colossians, when did they hear the gospel?

6. What is the gospel that they heard?

7. Where is the gospel proclaimed and why might Paul have said this? In your text, note the occurrences of the phrases all creation and all things in Colossians 1:15-23.

Do I know this gospel well? Is there movement toward maturity in my life?

Lesson Six The Mystery Colossians 1:24-29



For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created by Him and for Him.
Colossians 1:16

Day One

Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion are three mathematical laws that describe the motion of planets in the Solar System. Starting from a heliocentric viewpoint, Kepler was able to formulate laws of planetary motion which accurately described the orbits of the planets for the first time. (Keep in mind that Kepler lived from 1571-1630).

Kepler's second law: "A line joining a planet and the sun sweeps out equal areas during equal intervals of time."

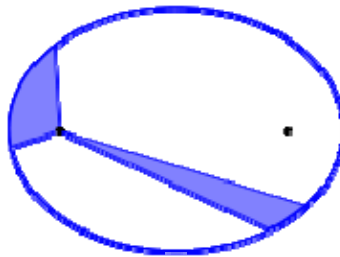


Illustration of Kepler's second law.

Heliocentricity views the sun as motionless at the center of the solar system with all the planets, including the earth, in motion around it. Kepler observed and defined order in the universe. Ours is a small galaxy, one of approximately 100 thousand million galaxies, and God asks in Job 38:31-33.

- 31 Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades, Or loose the cords of Orion?
- 32 Can you lead forth a constellation in its season, And guide the Bear with her satellites?
- 33 Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, Or fix their rule over the earth?

Who can? So can He "*fix His rule*" over the complications of your life and keep you? Has He let you slip through His fingers? Speak to Him now before you work in His word.

6. The phrase, "...in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions" has been misused by the Catholic Church to teach that Christ's cross work was incomplete and thereby implying, defective. Believers, then, are told that they must make themselves suffer, do penance, to procure remission of the penalty for sin. How do we know for sure that Paul is not saying that?
 - a. Hebrews 9:28

 - b. I Peter 3:18

7. Paul speaks often of suffering **for** Christ. Can you think of any place he even hints of vicarious merit?

8. What is the church called in 1:24? How does that figure of speech help us understand the "filling up" phrase?

9. To Whom do the afflictions belong according to the phrase?
 - a. What had He said to Saul on the road to Damascus that Paul never forgot?
Acts 9:4

 - b. Note the same idea in the following.
 - 1) II Corinthians 1:5

 - 2) Hebrews 13:13

10. In what ways may our suffering be like Christ's?

11. In what ways can we **never** duplicate His sufferings?

The logo for "Day Two" is a rectangular box with a vertical gradient from light to dark. The words "Day" and "Two" are stacked vertically in a bold, orange, sans-serif font.

1. List the phrases of God's sovereignty in v. 25, also repeated in v. 23. Mark them with a circled "S" to remind you of God's sovereignty.

2. What two purposes are mentioned in v. 25?
 - a. What does the adverb "fully" add to the rest of the clause?

 - b. How are each of these practically worked out?

3. Trace the words "fully", "full", and "completely" through the book. Why was the truth significant in refuting the Gnostics?
 - a. 1:9

 - b. 1:19

 - c. 1:28

 - d. 2:2

 - d. 2:9

 - e. 2:10

 - f. 4:12

 - g. 4:17

4. Mark the word “mystery with a large blue “M” in vss. 26, 27.
5. What two references to revelation are in v. 26, 27?
6. List below what is stated about the “mystery” in v. 25-27.

Mystery Doctrine	
1:25	
1:26	
1:26	
1:27	
1:27	

7. What contrast is in v. 26? Write it out in your margin.
8. What does the word “mystery” mean in Scripture?
9. Read Ephesians 3:1-7 for help in understanding the “mystery” as is used here. The word translated “Gentiles” in 1:27 is ETHNOS. The same word, ETHNOS, is used in Ephesians 3:1, 6, translated “Gentiles”. It is at other times translated “nations”, (e.g. Romans 16:25, 26). What does the name “Gentiles” mean, and how is it significant to the “mystery”?
10. So summarize the “mystery” as stated here and in Ephesians 3.

7. Did Paul consider himself as having arrived? Philippians 3:12.
8. List the power words in v. 29, including the phrase or clause in which you find them. Look up their Greek origins if you have the resources. Otherwise, look them up in an English dictionary.

<i>Power Words</i>	

9. Paul is intensely laboring on behalf of fellow-believers. Whose power is working ***IN*** Paul? (Did the Gnostics share this experience?)
- a. In what areas do you feel the need for divine power over sin? These could be neglect or covert sins. What are some pitfalls of power needs?
- b. In what areas do you feel confident?
- 1) Do you recognize that they are God-given abilities? Aware of His grace gifts, when is the last time you thanked Him?
- 2) Do you pray about your strong points as well as your weak? What are the pitfalls of these?

Lesson Seven
The Treasures of Wisdom
Colossians 2:1-3



And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
Colossians 1:17

Day
One

Isaac Newton's theory of universal gravitation is a physical law describing the gravitational attraction between bodies with mass. Every point mass attracts every other point mass by a force pointing along the line intersecting both points. The force is proportional to the product of the two masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between the point masses:

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2},$$

Gravitation is what holds the planets in orbit. In this lesson we will consider the body of Christ. The God who holds the planets in orbit is the head of the body, the church.

1. Write out Colossians 1:16 below and read Colossians 1:17 several times to begin memorizing it. If you are memorizing the book of Colossians, write out the verse on which you are currently working.
2. Read the text starting at Colossians 1:28 and read through Colossians 2:5 for context.

Struggle (agon): a contest, struggle, conflict, race, match,

originally referred to the assembly or place but came to refer to the contest itself, used widely for a military conflict, sporting contest, political contest or court battle, suggests a rivalry between two combatants vying for the prize

The word translated *struggle* in verse 1 is translated *striving* in Colossians 1:29. Look up the following verses to see how this word is used.

Col. 4:12

I Tim. 6:12a

Heb. 12:1

3. For what specific purpose does Paul struggle or strive? See Colossians 1:28-29 and Colossians 2:4.

4. Reread the definition of struggle. Who or what is Paul struggling against?

Col. 2:4, 8

I Tim. 4:1

5. Why would Paul want the Colossians to know how great a struggle he has on their behalf? See Colossians 2:2 and 2:4. What does he want for them? What does he not want for them?

6. On whose behalf does Paul struggle? Does he know these people personally? Does this have implications for our own concern for fellow believers?

7. What are some specific ways in which Paul struggled for the Colossians and for other churches?

Col. 1:3

II Cor. 11:28-29

Col. 4:16

8. What did Paul focus on in his prayers for others?

Col. 1:9-12

I Thess 1:3,
I Thess. 3:12

II Thess. 1:3-4

9. Consider Paul's faithfulness in praying for others. Spend a few moments praying for fellow believers. Be sure to include some believers which you do not personally know. You may wish to use some of Paul's prayers as a guide.

10. List one or two practical suggestions that might help you to be faithful in prayer for your fellow believers (i.e. Voice of the Martyrs, a prayer calendar, etc.).



Day
Two

1. Read Colossians 2:2-3. Paul's desire is "that their hearts may be encouraged." To what does the word **heart** refer to in this passage and in other places in scripture like Proverbs 4:23 and Ephesians 3:16-17?

2. **Encourage (parakaleo):** to call alongside or to one's aid, comfort, exhort, encourage, strengthen, used of a call intended to produce a particular effect, to plead one's cause
- Note: In John 14:26 the Holy Spirit is called our Comforter or helper
- Knit together (sumbibazo):** to unite or put together, bring together, join, put together in one's mind, unite with in conclusion, come to same opinion, teach

What was to encourage the Colossians? See the very next phrase in Col. 2:2.

3. Look up each of the following scripture verses and note what it means to be knit together in love and how the body of Christ is encouraged by being knit together.

	How the Body is Knit Together	How the Body is Encouraged
Eph. 4:16	The whole body is fitted and held together (knit) by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part.	It grows, it builds itself up in love.
Heb. 10:24-25		
Ephesians 4:11-13		
Col. 2:19		
Col. 3:14		

4. **Understanding (sunesis):** the mind, reflective thought, to comprehend, reason out, set together, perception, understanding
- Denotes the ability to understand concepts and see relationships between them, consideration which precedes action, applies to everyday life
- Wealth (ploutos):** riches, wealth, abundance, fullness
- Assurance (plerophoria):** most certain confidence, conviction

What gives assurance to the believer according to verse 2?

5. Where do we get understanding and what is it that we are understanding? Consider the rest of verse 2 and verse 3 in answering this question.

Day Three

1. Colossians tells us that there is much wealth in having assurance. What happens when we lack certainty or assurance?

Eph. 4:14

James 1:6

2. How does scripture help us deal with doubt?

Col. 1:21-22

Rom. 8:1

Eph 3:12

Phil1:6

3.	<p>hidden(apokruphos): hidden, secret, stored up, concealed used to refer to writings containing secret knowledge (we get the English word apocrypha from here)</p> <p>mystery (musterion): hidden thing or purpose, secret, something undivulged, unrevealed or unknown, something confided to the initiated only, something hidden until revealed</p> <p>treasure (thesauros): the place in which good things are collected, storehouse, or the things gathered there</p>
----	---

In the chart below, note the corresponding thoughts that are found in verses 2 and 3. How are these thoughts a response to Gnosticism?

And attaining to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God’s mystery, that is Christ himself,	in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge
Wealth	
All	
Understanding, knowledge	
Mystery	

4. Review last week’s lesson where we discussed the term mystery as used in scripture and specifically in Col. 1:26-27. Now look at our passage. What is the mystery in Colossians 2:2?

5. What is hidden in Christ? In what sense is it hidden?

6. Briefly skim through Romans chapter 11 or look at the chapter headings in your Bible. What is the chapter about? Now read what Paul says in Rom. 11:33. What caused Paul to praise God for the riches of His wisdom and knowledge?

7. Read the following scriptures, thanking God for the treasures of wisdom and knowledge found in Christ.

II Peter 1:3

I Cor. 1:30

Lesson Eight
So Walk in Christ
Colossians 2:4-7



He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

Colossians 1:18

Day
One

1. Write out your memory verse below for practice.
2. Verse 4 of Colossians, Chapter 2 begins with the words **I say this**. Read the text starting at Chapter 2, verse 1 for context. What is **this**?
3. Who is the **you** referred to in verse 4? See Col. 1:2; Col. 2:1; and Col. 2:5.
4. According to Colossians 2:4, why did Paul point out what he did in Col. 2:1-3 including the truth that “in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?”

5. The word for delude is *paralogizomai*, and it means to reckon wrong or to deceive by false reasoning. It comes from two words, one meaning “from, beside, or aside” and the other “reasoning.” Look up James 1:22 to see how the same word for delude is used. Then look up the following passages and briefly note how they address the deceptive nature of false teaching or reasoning.

II Cor. 11:3

I Tim. 4:1

II Peter 2:3a

6. In Col. 2:4, with what are the Colossians warned not to be deceived? If you have the resources look up the meaning of these words in Greek. Why might the passage be worded this way rather than simply stating “that no one may delude you”?
7. Do you know someone that is very knowledgeable but deceived about a certain truth? Maybe that person is even someone who knows the Bible well. Perhaps they are deceived about something like evolution or universalism. Maybe they believe that healthy living or environmentalism is the answer to all or most of their problems. Maybe you know a believer or a church that is battling error. Take a moment to list a few names and to pray for these people. Make it your prayer for your church as well, (for those attending, for its leadership, for its missionaries) that “no one may delude you with persuasive argument.”
8. The Colossians in particular are in danger of being deluded about Christ, about his deity and his sufficiency to save and to bring believers to maturity.

Col. 2:8

Col. 2:18-19a

Col. 2:23

Now go to your text starting at Colossians 1:14 and reading up to 2:4. Either mark in your text with a T for truth (or a marking of your own choosing) the truths about Christ we have already been given in Colossians, or jot several of them down below.



Day
Two

1. In verse 5 Paul goes on to say that though he is not physically present with the Colossians, he is with them in spirit. In what sense is Paul with these believers? Look back at verses 1-4 of Colossians, Chapter 2.

2. What does Paul rejoice to see according to Col. 2:5?

II Cor. 2:3

II Cor. 13:9

3.

Good Discipline (taxis):	order, orderly condition, arrangement or rank
Stability (stereoma):	firmness, steadfastness, strength, support, foundation, used in a military sense meaning a solid front

See I Cor. 14:40 to see how taxis is used.

See Acts 16:5 which uses stereoo, related to stereoma, which means strong, firm, solid, hard, rigid.

Now look back at Acts 16:4 to see what was strengthening the churches.

4. The Colossians exercise good discipline and stability in what?

5. Paul has been building up to his point in verses 6 and 7 of Colossians 2. He went from the supremacy of Christ to the command to walk in Him. Read the first phrase of the verse.

The word for received is paralambano and it means to take to or with oneself, to accept one to be as he professes or to receive something transmitted, to receive by instruction of teachers, an office to be discharged.

Note the use of the word received.

I Cor. 15:1-4

I Thess. 4:1

6. The idea of receiving ties in with the phrase "just as you were instructed" from Colossians 2:7. When or how did the Colossians receive instruction about Christ? See. Col. 1:7. Why might Paul mention their previous instruction?

7. Whom did they receive?

Day Three

1. In the same manner that they received Christ, the Colossians are to walk in Him. Look up the Greek word for walk in Col. 2:6. Then complete the chart below by noting how the following scripture verses describe walking in Christ.

Walking in Him	
Col. 1:10	
Phil. 4:9	
I Jn. 2:6	
I Jn. 2:24	

2.

Firmly Rooted (errizomenoi): to establish, cause to be thoroughly grounded, cause to strike root, strengthen with roots

What do roots do for a plant? Why is this an effective word picture for what Christ has done for us? Consider where we are rooted.

Matt. 13:20-21

Lesson Nine
Made Complete
Colossians 2:8-10



For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell
in Him,

Colossians 1:19

Dr. Henry Morris suggests that the reason most cosmologists accept the Big Bang theory of the origin of the universe is that it fits so well into the theory of evolution. "It begins with nothing, then matter evolves out of that nothing with a horrendous bang..." and so on and so on.

The problems with the Big Bang theory are many. Eric J. Lerner, in an article in *New Scientist*, admits,

BIG BANG theory relies on a growing number of hypothetical entities—things that we have never observed. Inflation, dark matter and dark energy are the most prominent. Without them, there would be fatal contradictions between the observations made by astronomers and the predictions of the big bang theory. In no other field of physics would this continual recourse to new hypothetical objects be accepted as a way of bridging the gap between theory and observation. It would, at the least, raise serious questions about the validity of the underlying theory...

Eric J. Lerner, "Bucking the Big Bang," *New Scientist* (May 24, 2004), p. 20.

According to Dr. Morris, "...some Christians—theistic evolutionists such as Howard Van Till and progressive creationists such as Hugh Ross, and many others—who feel we simply have to accept the evolutionists' billions of years—have decided to accept the Big Bang theory."

Does it really matter? What has Colossians 1:16 said?

Who is speaking in Mark 10:6, and what is said? What is the connection with refuting the Gnostics?

Day
One

1. Write out Colossians 1:18 below and begin learning 1:19.

2. Read Colossians 2:8-10 and summarize below. Write out your questions if there are things you don't understand.

3. We are getting into the heart of Paul's defense now against the heresy that threatens to wreck the church in the Lycus Valley. The belief system is not spelled out, so we make deductions from the things Paul chooses to emphasize. How does he describe his concerns in 2:4?

4. Paul is being very direct in these verses. How many times does he use the pronoun "you", "your" in verses 4-8? If you didn't mark them in blue from a previous lesson, do that now.

5. What is the 3-word command in v. 8?
 - a. Look up the word "see", Gr. BLEPO, for insight.

 - b. The same word is used in the following. How do they help?
 - 1) Luke 24:12
 - 2) Acts 1:9

 - c. This is in the Present Active Indicative tense. What does that add to our interpretation?

 - d. What is Paul saying by these three simple words?

 - e. Paul is speaking of false teachers who depreciate Christ, but in what ways must we be on guard against things that do the same in our souls?

6. What is Paul's word picture of what is happening (his choice of the verb)? What does it mean?

4. Discuss the phrase “all the fullness of Deity.”

5. What does the use of the word “dwells” communicate? How does it make you know that you are secure?

6. What does the phrase “in bodily form” add to the argument?
 - a. Some through the centuries have claimed that Jesus was merely a phantom. What was He made up of? How does this verse and John 1:14 answer that?

 - b. The fullness of the Godhead did not change Christ’s essential human properties. Give examples of the following that prove His humanity.
 - 1) His birth.

 - 2) His childhood

 - 3) Human experiences.

7. The Godhead was veiled, but never entirely eclipsed. List some ways His glory shone through while on earth.

Lesson Ten
Union with Christ
Colossians 2:11-15

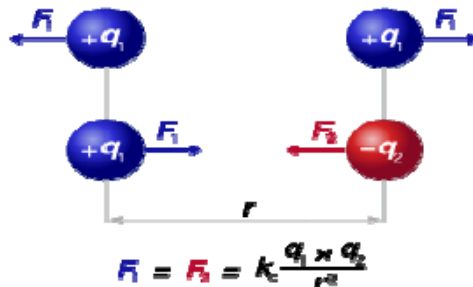


...and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Colossians 1:20

Coulomb's law, developed in the 1780s by French physicist Charles Augustin de Coulomb, may be stated in scalar form as follows:

The magnitude of the electrostatic force between two point electric charges is directly proportional to the product of the magnitudes of each charge and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between the charges, i.e., like charges repel each other, and opposite charges attract each other.



What is the above? A law. What is a law? In science it is defined as “a sequence of events in nature...that have been observed to occur with **unvarying uniformity** under the same conditions.” That is what God demands of humanity, “unvarying uniformity” to His laws. We will see dramatically demonstrated in this lesson the law as a testimony of man’s inability to consistently conform to God’s standards and His Solution. Stop now to thank Him for the cross, ask Him to show you its practicality, and deepen your love of it.

Day
One

1. Write out Colossians 1:19 from memory, and begin working on 1:20.

2. Read Colossians 2:11-15 and summarize below. Write out your questions if you have any.

3. Verse 11 begins with another benefit of being “in Him”, “...in Him you were also circumcised...” What is circumcision? Look up its origin in Genesis 17:9-14.
 - a. What is the context of the Genesis passage?

 - b. What was the purpose of circumcision?

 - c. Who was to be circumcised?

 - d. Was it to be a purely physical act in the Old Testament? Deuteronomy 10:16.

 - e. What does it mean in Colossians 2:11?

4. Some have said that “the removal of the body of flesh” is the key phrase of this section. Let’s try to understand it more fully.
 - a. What is it according to Romans 7:24? Romans 6:6?

 - b. Has the “body of flesh” ceased to exist?

 - c. What must be done according to Colossians 3:5?

 - d. How?

- a. Mark “you”, “your”, and “us” in blue.
 - b. Is he speaking primarily to Jews or Gentiles? How do you know?
 - c. Note the parallel passages in Ephesians and show the complexity of the Gentiles’ separation from God.
 - 1) Ephesians 2:1
 - 2) Ephesians 2:11a, 12
 - 3) What has God done about that according to Ephesians 2:13?
8. How does 2:13 show that salvation must be all the work of God? (Did you circle the word “all” in blue?).
9. List the “with Him” references in vss. 12-13.
10. What difference do these make in our struggle against sin?

A rectangular graphic with a blue gradient background. The words "Day" and "Three" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, stacked vertically in the center of the rectangle.

1. What is the “certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us” in 2:14? Does Luke 23:38 help?
2. Look up the meaning of “having cancelled out”, BLOT OUT in Vines Word Studies.

3. Write out the 5 things that are said about the “certificate of debt”, what they mean, and what they mean to you.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
4. Read v. 15 and summarize.
5. Someone told me lately that she grew up being told, “Don’t say that out loud. Satan may hear you, and that’s where he will attack you.” Scan Chapters 1 and 2 and note the references to the spirit world, showing the relationship to Jesus Christ.
6. In what other ways may we act as if Satan were still in possession of our souls?

We are free, free indeed, by our union with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Below are four ingredients of liberty from Lloyd John Ogilvie, Loved and Forgiven, p. 77.

Truly free people think and act on the basis of identification with Christ.

- 1) They have dealt with the past and are free from incriminating memories of failure.
 - 2) They have had an experience of forgiveness which has extricated them from self-condemnation.
 - 3) They have been unfettered from the bonds of compulsive patterns.
 - 4) They are emancipated from dependence on the opinions and criticism of
7. Discuss the above points in your own words and own experience.

Lesson Eleven
Liberty and Legalism
Colossians 2:16 -19



If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Colossians 3:1

Scientist Alexey Vikhlinin used NASA's Earth-orbiting Chandra X-ray Observatory to study galactic clusters formed "billions of years ago" according to an upcoming Astro-Physical Journal. The purpose of these clusters is to manage the size of the universe. They are thought to cause the universe to continue to expand, but also to prevent certain galaxies from "overeating and getting too big." Vikhlinin, a scientist at Harvard Smithsonian Astro-physical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, looked at 86 such clusters and saw a slowdown which started about "5.5 billion years ago." The mysterious discovery is referred to as "dark energy", and is considered crucial to figuring out the evolution of the universe.

AP Wire Services

Remember that people who do not believe in God do not believe in nothing. They will believe in anything.

According to Colossians, Who controls the size, expansion, and order of galaxies? What does that mean regarding lesser challenges in your world? Praise Him now.

Day
One

1. Write out 3:1 below, and begin memorizing it for next week.

Our verse schedule will be as follows:

Lesson 11: 3:1	Lesson 16: 3:14
Lesson 12: 3:2 & 3	Lesson 17: 3:15
Lesson 13: 3:4	Lesson 18: 3:16
Lesson 14: 3:12	Lesson 19: 3:17
Lesson 15: 3:13	

2. To review the book and get a glimpse of where we are going, fill in the following chart taken by permission from The Nelson Study Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville, TN.

The Preeminence of Christ

CHRIST

In universal government	In reconciliation	In wisdom and knowledge	In religious observances	In Christian living
a. 1:15	a. 1:19, 20	a. 2:2, 3	a. 2:11-13	a. 3:3
b. 1:16	b. 1:21, 22	b. 2:8	b. 2:16-23	b. 3:5-14
c. 1:17	c. 1:27			
d. 1:18				

It is Jesus Christ, always and everywhere. The invaders of the Colossian mission had never indeed professed to banish Him out of their system; but they did not enthrone Him in it everywhere and always; and it is this which His servant cannot tolerate...The programme of our personal religion must be nothing short of this, if we would find in it not merely a law for external performance but an **inward joy and force**.

Colossians and Philemon Studies, H.C.G. Moule, p. 164.

3. We also need to review the immediate context of our passage for this week. Read 2:13-15.
 - a. List the things Christ did for us mentioned in these verses.
 - b. What is the connection between v. 14 and 15?
 - c. What does it mean that He “made a public display of them”?
4. Read Colossians 2:16-19.
 - a. Record your impressions and questions below.
 - b. What is the connection between 2:13-15 and 2:16-19? What is the “therefore” there for? (Mark it).
5. List the things in v. 16 that Paul says must not be a standard of spirituality.
6. The first issues brought up are regarding food and drink. Some such injunctions of the Mosaic law are given in Leviticus 6:20-27. Why do you think God was so specific?
 - a. What did Jesus teach regarding food? Mark 7:18, 19. What did that say about Him?

- b. How was Peter instructed regarding the food issue in Acts 10:15?
 - c. How does Romans 14:17 put the matter of food into perspective?
 - d. Does that mean we can consume an entire bag of Oreos without concern? How does Romans 14:17 affect an anorexic?
7. What is the significance of “a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day”?
8. How does Romans 14:5, 6 summarize this argument?



**Day
Two**

1. One of our missionaries recently counseled a couple from the Scriptures regarding whether Christians are required to worship on Saturday, the Sabbath, as Israel was. Could you do that? See if the exercise below helps.
- a. Exodus 31:16,17
 - b. What did Jesus do in Matthew 12:1?
 - c. Was observation of the Sabbath ever commanded in the New Testament?
 - d. When did early believers, following Christ’s resurrection and appearances on Sunday (Mark 16:1; John 20:1) meet?
 - 1) Acts 20:7

2) I Corinthians 16:2

2. In the context of legalism among the Galatians, how did Paul rebuke them in 4:10, 11?

3. Another good summary of this argument is in Galatians 5:1. What is it?

4. Read Colossians 2:17 to see God's perspective of these observances.

a. Who had instigated these observances?

b. But what does He call them in v. 17?
communicate?

What does that figure of speech

c. What is the contrast made in the last part of v. 17? Write it in your margin. _____ cf. _____
_____. What does the last phrase mean?



**Day
Three**

1. Now read Colossians 2:18, 19.

2. What is the command?

3. What does “defraud” mean?

4. So going back to rituals was doing what according to v. 18?
 - a. To what is God referring here?

 - b. The same root word is used in Philippians 3:14. How does that help?

5. Now list the things from vv. 18 and 19 that can lead to that loss.

6. What is “self-abasement”?

7. Revelation 19:9, 10 help us regarding the worship of angels denounced here. An angel is speaking.
 - a. What two commands are in the rebuke?
 - b. What does the angel call himself?

8. Note also II Peter 2:12 in this regard.

9. The remedy for combating false thinking is summarized in v. 19. Where have we seen this figure of speech previously in the book? Discuss v. 19 in that light. How is the thought magnified?

10. Think about the errors of the false teachers. What are the most serious, not necessarily from the list, but in actuality, what are they doing?

Lesson Twelve
The Appearance of Wisdom
Colossians 2:20-23



Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Colossians 3:2 & 3

Newton's three laws of motion form the basis of classical mechanics. His first law states that, if a body is at rest or moving at a constant speed in a straight line, it will remain at rest or keep moving in a straight line at constant speed unless it is acted upon by a force. This postulate is known as the law of [inertia](#). Essentially, it makes the following two points:

- An object that is not moving will not move until a net force acts upon it.
- An object that is in motion will not change its velocity (accelerate) until a net force acts upon it.

We tend to take these invisible forces for granted, but Christ holds all these forces together, acting on our universe, from planets in their steady orbits, to asteroids impacting and producing meteoroids, or meteoroids left in trails behind comets. Think of all the forces acting on them, causing them to accelerate, change direction.

Thank God that He doesn't leave us in a state of inertia, resisting the net force of His Word. Our state of inertia would lead straight into Hell. The power of His Spirit convicted our rebel hearts, arrested us, opened our blind eyes, radically changed our direction. As believers, we are the objects of His power, pressing in and changing our hearts, sending suffering's gentle staff to nudge us back to the path, continuing to change our rebel hearts.

Day
One

1. Write out Colossians 3:1 below and begin working on 3:2, 3.

10. Paul asks them “why...do you submit yourselves to decrees?” Who is left out of that approach?
11. Summarize the verse.

A graphic with a grey-to-white gradient background containing the text "Day Two" in orange.

Day
Two

1. The word in v. 20 for “decrees” in the Greek is DOGMATA. Note that over the word in your text.
2. Most commentators agree that in v. 21 he may be quoting some of their decrees. The ancient writers didn’t use quotation marks, but it seems logical here. List the three he mentions. Do they seem to intensify as the list goes on?
3. Before going on to Paul’s argument, note some things that are wrong with living by these codes?
4. What two things does he say about their ceremonial prohibitions in v. 22? Discuss their impact.
 - a.
 - b.

3. Note in your text somehow that all three of these “Appeared to contain wisdom”.
4. How does Matthew 9:14 connect with this section?
5. Look back over 2:16-23 and list in the left column the man-made ways to God. In the right column, write God's perspectives as contained in these verses.

Man-Made Ways to God's Favor	God's Opinion of Them

6. According to the last 3 words in Chapter 2, all these things are for the purpose of fighting against what?

7. What does the word “indulgent” mean?
8. What is the “flesh”? Galatians 5:19-21 gives the “deeds” of the flesh. List them.
9. Is that all there is to it? Deeds? How does 2:18 refer to the flesh?
10. Do you agree with this statement, “All secular behavioral psychology is legalistic” ? Why or why not?
11. Does the Bible promise to satisfy our flesh?
12. How is it to be handled according to Galatians 5:24, 25?
13. Note on the chart below how the fruits of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22, 23 are opposed to the indulgence of the flesh.

Fruits of the Spirit	Fleshly Indulgence

Lesson Thirteen
Hidden in Christ
Colossians 3:1-4



When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
Colossians 3:4

Day
One

1. Work on your memory verse by writing it out below for practice.
2. Read Colossians 3:1-4, marking repeated words below.
3. Go back and read Colossians 2:11-13. Who has been raised up with Christ and when did this occur?
4. In Colossians 2:11-13, Paul uses two word pictures. What are they and what is their purpose? What are they picturing for us? You may wish to look back at your notes from Lesson 10, pages 58 and 59.

5. Now read Romans 6:4-6. How does this help us understand being raised up with Christ?

6. If you have been raised up with Christ, which you are if you are a believer, what effect should this have on your life according to Col. 3:1?

Keep Seeking (zeteo): to seek after, seek for, strive after, try to obtain, desire, require, seek how to do something, seek by thinking, meditating or reasoning, to inquire into

7. What are the things above? What are some practical ways to seek after the things above?

Col. 3:1b	
Col. 3:2b	
Matt. 6:31-33	
Matt. 6:19-20	

8. Why is it significant that Christ is seated at the right hand of God?

Heb. 10:11-12

Hebrews 1:13

Eph. 1:19b-22

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**Day
Two**

1. Look back at Colossians 1:21. How does it describe man? Now look back at your notes from Lesson 5, Day Two, question number 5. What does it mean to be hostile in mind? In particular notice what was said in Romans 8:6-7.

<p>Set your mind (phroneo): have understanding, be wise, feel, think, direct one's mind to a thing, to seek or strive</p>
--

2. Now compare this to Colossians 3:2. See also Philippians 4:8.
3. According to Colossians 3:2, where are we not to set our minds? See Matthew 16:21-23 for an example.

4. What are the things that are on earth?

Matt 6:32	
I John 2:15-16	
Col. 2:4	
Col. 2:8	
Col. 2:18	
Col. 2:20-23	

5. Colossians 3:3-4 says to set your mind on the things above because you have died. In what sense have believers died?

Colossians 2:13

Colossians 2:20

Romans 6:2-6
(esp. vs. 2 and 6)

Day Three

zoe (life):	<p>the element or principle of life in the spirit or soul, the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate, used of physical earthly existence, also fullness of life, real and genuine life, used frequently along with eternal (eternal life)</p> <p>differing from bios, which is the affairs of life or manner of life, the moral life</p>
krupto (hidden):	to cover, conceal, keep secret

1. Look back through Colossians for the word hidden. You should find it in two places. What was the meaning there?

2. In order to understand what it means for our life to be hidden in Christ, look ahead to Col. 3:4. What does it mean for Christ to be our life? Reread the definition of life above and see the following verses.

John 11:25

John 5:24-26

Col.3:1a

3. Considering the above, how is our life hidden with Christ in God? Hint: See Col. 3:4 in answering this question.

Phaneroo (revealed):	made manifest or visible, made known, to become plainly recognized or known, openly displayed
doxa (glory):	an opinion or the honor resulting from a good opinion, brightness or splendor, magnificence or excellence,

4. What is it that will be revealed and when?

I John 3:2

II Cor. 5:2-4

Romans 18-23

Verse 4 says that believers will be revealed with Him in glory. Christ will be seen as exalted and his followers will be revealed with Him. May this motivate us to seek the things above, set our minds on Christ and live like we are dead to sin.

Lesson Fourteen
Put on the New
Colossians 3:5-11



And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;

Colossians 3:12

Day
One

1. Work on your memory verse by writing it out below for practice.
2. Read Colossians 3:5-11. It begins with the word therefore, pointing back to the truths we just studied. Go back and read Col. 3:1-4 and briefly summarize the main points from last week's lesson.
3. Colossians 3:5 says literally "kill, destroy or put to death the members (limbs, or parts) which are upon the earth". Historically, different religious groups have carried out various means of self-denial and self-injury for the purpose of spiritual discipline. One example would be a wearing a hairshirt, a rough or irritating garment which is worn next to the skin for the purpose of penance. Is Paul encouraging practices like this? Are they effective in dealing with sin? See Colossians 2:23 and Mark 7:21-22.

4. In order to understand how to “put to death or destroy the members which are upon the earth,” first consider the list of sins that follow this phrase in Colossians 3:5. Using a Bible dictionary, English dictionary or Greek lexicon, write a brief definition of each of the sins listed.

What does this group of sins have in common? Why might greed have been included in this list and how is it idolatry?

Sin	Definition
Immorality	
Impurity	
Passion	
Evil Desire	
Greed	
Idolatry	

5. Our goal is to kill sin rather than to suppress or control it. Read Romans Chapter 6 vs. 12-13, and vs. 19-22. What does this section of Romans have to say about killing sin?

6. What else is involved in killing sin?

Romans 8:13b

Colossians 3:1-2

Colossians 3:10a

Ephesians 6:17-18

A rectangular graphic with a blue-to-white gradient background. The words "Day" and "Two" are stacked vertically in a blue, sans-serif font.

1. Why are we to kill sin according to verse 6 of Colossians Chapter 3?

See Ephesians 2:1-5, esp. vs. 3

See Romans 6:1-2

2. What phrase is repeated in Col 3:7? To what does this refer?

Day Three

Anakainoo (renewed):	cause to grow up, make new or fresh, restore, give new strength or vigor, change, renovate (it can mean restore to original state as we do with a piece of furniture)
Epignosis (true knowledge):	precise and correct knowledge or perception with understanding

1. Believers do not immediately gain maturity, but what is happening to the new self according to Colossians 3:10?

See Ephesians 4:24

See also I John 3:2

2. The reference to the image of the One who created him is probably an allusion to Genesis 1:26-27. Why might Paul have referred back to creation?
3. Read Colossians 3:11. Consider a couple of the people groups listed. What types of things would have divided the Greek and the Jew? the slave and the freeman?

4. Look back at your notes from Lesson 10, Day One, Question 3b or see Genesis 17:11. What was the purpose of circumcision when God instituted it for Israel? Circumcision of Gentiles became a major issue in the church and had to be addressed by the apostles and the elders in Jerusalem. Some believed it was necessary to circumcise Gentiles and direct them to observe the Law of Moses. What was determined?

Acts 15:9, 11

See also Galatians 5:3, 6

5. See what you can find out about barbarians and Scythians. Why might they have been included in this list?
6. What is common to all those listed? In what is there no distinction? (Hint: Consider vs. 9 and the end of verse 10. See also Colossians 1:28.)

Because every believer is being renewed, every believer regardless of his nationality, religion, culture or economic standing should set aside or kill his sinful practices and live in accordance with the new life given him in Christ.

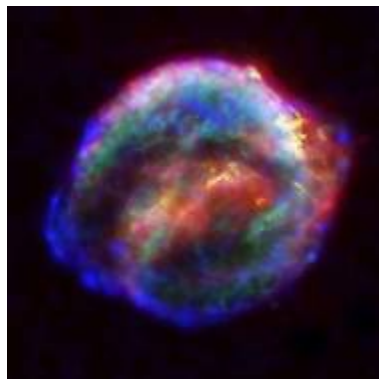
Lesson Fifteen
As God's Chosen
Colossians 3:12-17



...bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

Colossians 3:13

Supernova



The death explosion of a massive star (which occurs at the end of a star's lifetime, when its nuclear fuel is exhausted and it is no longer supported by the release of nuclear energy), resulting in a sharp increase in brightness followed by a gradual fading. At peak light output, these types of supernova explosions (called Type II supernovae) can outshine a galaxy. The outer layers of the exploding star are blasted out in a radioactive cloud. This expanding cloud, visible long after the initial explosion fades from view, forms a supernova remnant (SNR). While many supernovae have been seen in nearby galaxies, they are relatively rare in our own, the last, Kepler's star in 1604.

Did you know such things happened in distant galaxies? Can you explain how, when, and why? Can you trust the One who does? Does He know better than you what benefits you most? Does He have the power to change your circumstances? Your heart? Speak to Him now about this week's "heart surgery."

Day One

1. Write out Colossians 3:12 below, and begin working on 3:13 for next week. We'll study it in context this week.

2. Read Colossians 3:12-17 and write your impressions and questions below.

3. Mark the pronouns in blue. (Add “you” when there is a command). What does that say about this passage?

4. Verse 12 starts out, “And so...” Look back to the end of v. 11 for the summary upon which this section starts.

5. This passage is more description of the “new self” (3:10) and its implications. We have been placed in a new family, and are “being renewed” to demonstrate family characteristics. What three descriptions are used for the new family in v. 12a? What do they mean? They describe our position in Christ, and are background for the behavioral words that follow.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

6. Once again, remember that in 3:10 we are told that we are “being renewed.” But there is some effort required on our part. There are 6 commands in this section. Find them and number them in your text. List them below.

7. We are told to put on some new clothes in v. 12. What is the command in v. 12? (Just the five words without the list). What does it mean?
- a. Notice before you list them who is being addressed. He is addressing a relational sin. What does he say to the one who caused the offense? What does he say to the one offended?
 - b. Now list the characteristics of the new clothing of the heart to be put on. Discuss each one, looking up the definitions and derivations as you have time. "These terms called the believer to a high standard of personal action when offended." Melick, p. 300. Discuss them and pray about them in this light.
 - 1) Verse 12:
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5) **Verse 13:**
 - 6)

- c. Discuss the phrase “whoever has a complaint (MOMPHE, denotes ‘blame’) against anyone.”
- 1) Whose example should we follow according to v. 13 if we have a “complaint” against someone? Discuss the weight of that connection.

 - 2) Specifically, what are some things that should be remembered in such cases?



Day
Two

1. How can the list in 3:12, 13 help us avoid the sins of 3:8, 9?

2. Read v. 14. What piece of new clothing are we commanded to put on in this verse?
3. Why is it given priority over all the other things?

4. What is the claim made about love at the end of the verse? What does it mean?

5. Verse 15 is the third command in the section. Write it out.
 - a. “The congregation was to do nothing without the peace of Christ as the environment which overshadowed the action.” Look up the word “peace” and discuss it.

 - b. Look up the word “rule” and discuss its practicality.

c. What does the peace of Christ have to do with 1:18 and 2:19?

6. What are the last two words in v. 15?

Mark it if you have not already, and the two other times in the last verses of this section. Also mark the chain through the book if you have not already: 1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15-17; 4:2.

Day Three

1. Thinking back over 3:15, what is the logical connection between “peace” and being “thankful”?

2. Looking back over the book, name some things in Colossians that provide reasons for thanksgiving. (Looking ahead to 3:18 ff., do you think thanksgiving is a good context for the commands coming up?)

3. Read v. 16. What is the connection with v. 15 and 16?

4. What is the command of v. 16?

5. What does the word “dwell” communicate?

6. What does the word “richly” add to the command?
7. What is the command of Ephesians 5:18?
8. What are the responses to the command given in Ephesians 5:19, 20?
9. Do the results sound similar in Colossians 2 and Ephesians 5?
10. What connection could the two commands have?
11. List and discuss the ways we are to “let the word of Christ dwell richly within us, according to v. 16?
12. What may be the difference in “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs”?
13. What is the difference in “teaching and admonishing”? How should they affect our corporate worship?
14. To whom is our gratitude delivered, according to v. 16, 17?
15. Verse 17 is a summary of the whole section. “Speech and action encompass every area of life. A truly Christian commitment incorporates both.” All of life is a contribution to Him, with self subservient and Christ as Sovereign.

Write out the verse and pray. Pray for yourself and those you love.

Lesson Sixteen
Fitting Families
Colossians 3:18-21



And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

Colossians 3:14

By Mimi Lee

Write memory verse.

In our study of Colossians thus far we have been presented with the supreme Second Person of the Godhead, God the Son, Jesus Christ. He is high and lofty, above all. This Christ who is our creator, the image of the invisible God, has brought us as believers into His family, right now! Yes, there is heaven to look forward to, but He desires a relationship with us now, today.

This High God who holds all things together and by whom all things consist has some things to say to us as wives! He takes notice of us in our little homes! This portion of scripture is designed by God to move us from learning about our God and His wonderful provisions for us to the application of those truths in our daily lives – in our homes – in our hearts. As you work through this lesson you will need to take a great deal of time each day asking God to reveal your own shortcomings, asking for His help (which He delights to provide), and thinking and writing down what you discover.

**Day
One**

Begin by reading Colossians 3:18-21.

What four family members are addressed here?

We will focus primarily on our roles as wives, but will consider the others as well. From our previous studies we have learned that all of God's commands and dealings with us are based on who Christ is, His death on the cross for our sin, and His headship over the church. So, ultimately, it is my relationship with Him that matters, is it not? How I relate to other people (my husband) affects my relationship with Christ! As you consider the verses in this lesson apply them to yourself thinking as your husband's wife.

(2) Write Colossians 2:6-7

How do I "walk in Him", become "rooted and built up in Him?" One huge way is in obeying His instruction to us.

(3) Write Colossians 3:18

"Be subject to.." is defined as "to SUBMIT". What does it mean?

The outstanding word in this lesson is *SUBMIT*, a word that the world hates in regards to being a wife. Yet God desires it for us, and He states it more than once.

(4) James 4:6-7a

As Christians we want to submit to God, don't we? Yet, submission to God or to our husbands is not our natural inclination. Let's REALLY ponder it. Going all the way back to the beginning, the first wife, Eve. What took place in her relationship with her husband after the Fall?

(5) Genesis 3:16b

Look up DESIRE in your commentary. Write your answer here.

One paraphrase of the previous verse says, "You will now have a tendency to dominate your husband, and he will have a tendency to act as a tyrant over you." The battle of the sexes has begun. Each strives for control and neither lives for the best interest of the other. Instead God would have us live the following way.

(6) Philippians 2:3-4

The antidote is in the restoration of mutual respect and dignity through Jesus Christ.

(7) Ephesians 5:21-24,33b

What comparisons are used here? Why are they significant?

We may assume that the author, Paul, grew up in a “normal” household. And Jesus, Himself, lived in a less than perfect family. Their mothers had those same natural sinful tendencies, and like them we wives need God’s correction!

Submitting to my husband is more than, “He wants a red car, I want a black car, but I submit, red car it is!” Learning submission is a way of life, a way of thinking. This attitude involves a whole lifetime, an internal heart submission, which will be physical, visible.

Questions to consider: Why is God so concerned for families? Doesn’t our character, who we are, stem from our home, our family? What am I like at home? What should I be like? Do I need to learn submission to my husband? Suppose I applied the characteristics found in Colossians 3:12-17 to myself as my husband’s wife! List them now on a separate sheet of paper.

Can we then see how we need for God to change us? Let’s ask ourselves, “Am I living/thinking this way about my husband? What do I know that he likes that I can do today? What do I know that he dislikes that I can stop doing?”

Take the rest of your time throughout the day to go to God about this - confessing sin, asking Him to show you your blind spots, and to help you to change. On a separate sheet write down the things that He reveals to you.



Day
Two

God also has instructions for HUSBANDS. What does He say?

(1) Colossians 3:19

Since we cannot change our husbands, we may consider how we as wives can make it easier for our husbands to obey God here.

Can it be that your husband can reach a point where he doesn't love you? Apparently so! And, that this one who wanted to marry you, live his life with you, may actually become embittered toward you?

Are there things that you have said or done that cause your husband to be embittered toward you? Search your heart now. Write down the things that God reveals to you. Take time.... Confess them to God. Ask His forgiveness. Confess them to your husband. Ask his forgiveness.

Tell God and your husband that you want to change. Then, with God's enablement begin to change today. Your desire is then *out there*. Both you and your husband know that you want to do this! Yes, it is a humbling experience!

Our supreme example of true humility and submission is Jesus, our Savior.

(2) Philippians 2:5-8

Before we humble ourselves toward our husbands we must first humble ourselves before our God.

(3) 1 Peter 5:5-6

(4) James 4:10

Question: How can I make it easier for my husband to love me? Perhaps he is a godly man and is really trying to obey God in this. Or, perhaps he is not godly, but he watches me. Most of us know things that please our husbands. Write some down, and do at least one of them today. Will your husband faint when you begin to have this attitude of submission toward him? What is your purpose in this change of heart?

(5) Colossians 3:23-24

Colossians 2:3 in reference to Christ says: "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." His will for a wife comes from His treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Perhaps you don't get or don't like this idea of submission, but you trust Christ. Question: Why don't I let Him reveal that wisdom to me as I submit to my husband? How should I speak to my husband?

(6) Colossians 4:6

Could “each person” be your husband, your children? Write down some ways that you need to change your speech to your husband. Questions: Do I correct his mistakes too much? When does it matter? When do I do it – in front of others? How do I do it? Should I overlook some things? Things that I may have dismissed before marriage may now be more important to me. How should I handle those issues?

More questions: How do I *look* to my husband? Do I care about my appearance? Have I gotten sloppy? Do I look him in the eye and smile at him? Would he *want* to kiss that face? What is my facial expression, my body language? Do I talk too much? Do I really listen? Do I take good care of the home? Do I prepare good, healthy meals for him – on time? Does he have clean clothes ready to wear? Do I give him genuine compliments? Do I thank him for his hard work, provision, and care for his family? How can I plan my day so that before he comes home I look in the mirror and make some changes, greet him at the door? Shall I give him some time (maybe food) before I tell him my problems? Where can I begin today?

How would your husband describe you? Would it be like the following verses?

(7) 1 Peter 3:1-6

What does verse #4 say is precious to God?

Question: How may I become this kind of wife?

(8) Ephesians 4:29-32

How is a good wife described in the following verses?

(9) Proverbs 31:10-12

Question: Does my husband safely trust in me in the following ways? With our finances? How I describe him to my friends? Not flirting with other men? How I speak about him to the children – do I encourage their respect for him? To accept his advances for physical intimacy? Do I manipulate him to get my way?

Day Three

Our CHILDREN are also addressed.

Colossians 3:21

How may we as mothers help them learn obedience? So much is *absorbed* by the children as they live in the home.

Questions: Do my children see me being obedient to God by submitting to their father in love? Are they seeing harmony between my husband and me? Am I consistent in disciplining or is a certain behavior wrong today and overlooked tomorrow – maybe because I am tired? Are my children aware that I expect them to obey, rather than, “Oh, I *knew* you wouldn’t obey me!”

Do my husband and I talk about and agree on our dealings with our children, or does life just “happen” and we react? Do I pray for my children – specific requests asking God’s intervention and help? Do my husband and I pray *together* for them? Write down some areas here where you may begin to change.

God also speaks to FATHERS.

(1) Colossians 3:21

Look up “exasperate”. What does it mean?

How may a father exasperate his children?

How may a child “lose heart?”

If this has happened, how may a wife help her husband see the issue?

Does your husband have a special sit-down time with the family reading God's Word, talking about his own trust/relationship with God? Can you think of ways to encourage him to do that? Our prayers are of vital importance. Pray the following for your husband and for yourself.

(2) Colossians 1:9-12

As we look to God to "fit our families", to make us like He wants us to be, we need to remember His great LOVE for us. He LOVES us!! And He wants us to love Him, to love our husbands, to love our children.

(3) 1 Peter 4:8

(4) 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8a

May we learn to HUMBLE ourselves under the mighty hand of God, SUBMIT to Him and to our husbands, LOVING Him and our husbands more each day!

Someone has said: "When we deliberately decide to obey God then He will tax the remotest star and the last grain of sand to assist us with His almighty power!"

Change My Heart, O God

Words and music by Eddie Espinosa



Change my heart, O God,

Make it ever true.

Change my heart, O God,

May I be like You.

You are the potter,

I am the clay;

Mold me and make me,

This is what I pray.

Repeat first verse

Lesson Seventeen
 Servants and Masters
 Colossians 3:22 - 4:1



And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
 Colossians 3:15

You stretch out the north over empty space.

You hang the earth on nothing.

Behold, these are the fringes of your ways.

Job 26:7

Who does this according to Colossians? Does He, then, have the right to command humanity? Do we, then, have the joy of obeying?

Our lesson for this week is perplexing. Let's ask Him for wisdom before we study.

**Day
 One**

1. Write out Colossians 3:14 from memory, and begin working on 3:15 for next week.
2. Read Colossians 3:22-4:1 and write out your initial impressions and questions.

3. Remember that the major Gnostic doctrine was the supremacy of knowledge. How would the content of this section have addressed the Gnostic theory? What would have been the implications?
4. What has already been said in the book that prepares us for this section?
5. How many verses are given to wives? Husbands and fathers?
Children?

How many verses are given to slaves and masters? Why do you think that is the case?
6. What is said to slaves about their rights?
7. Why is slavery so biblically reprehensible?
8. Why did Jesus Christ not abolish slavery while on earth?
9. A common attack on the Bible is that it “teaches slavery”. How would you answer that?
10. From a Bible dictionary, find some historical background to the practice of slavery.
11. Did God abolish slavery under the theocracy? According to the following, what did He do?
 - a. What categories are mentioned in these passages? What guidelines are given?
 - 1) Exodus 21:2, 3
 - 2) Leviticus 25:44

- 3) Deuteronomy 21:10-14
 - b. Deuteronomy 23:15, 16
 - c. What provisions were set in place for the slaves?
 - 1) Leviticus 25:4, 6
 - 2) Leviticus 25:10
12. The word for “slave” in the Hebrew is HEBED. The word is translated “Servant” in Isaiah 42:1-3 referring to Whom?

A rectangular graphic with a vertical gradient from light to dark, containing the text "Day Two" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

Day Two

1. The New Testament also regulated slavery. Note the truths in the following that add to or underscore what we see here in Colossians. As you read these passages, think of the significance of what is being expected of the slave who did not have his freedom and how much more these things should be true of us.
 - a. Luke 7:2
 - b. I Corinthians 7:21

c. Ephesians 6:5-9

d. I Timothy 6:1, 2

e. Titus 2:9, 10

f. At the end of this lesson you will find the book of Philemon printed out. Read it and write in the margin things we learn or must keep in mind regarding slavery.

A graphic with a dark grey background and a light grey gradient. The text "Day Three" is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. "Day" is on the top line and "Three" is on the bottom line.

Day Three

1. Now let's take the descriptions of way slaves were to behave, one by one in our passage. One commentator says these are applicable to "all those who are in situations from which they cannot walk away." We can learn from these in our difficult situations, once more remembering that God's requirements for slaves set a high standard of behavior. See what you can find out about the language used here.
 - a. Obey
 - b. Not with external service
 - c. Not as those who merely please men
 - d. With sincerity of heart
 - e. Fearing the Lord

- f. Whatever you do, work heartily
 - g. Work as for the Lord rather than for men
2. The next three verses have something in common (3:24, 25; 4:1). They infer that there will be retribution and reward for the things done on earth. Notice the following from different biblical authors.
- a. Christ. Matthew 6:1
 - b. Paul. I Corinthians 3:12
 - c. Peter. I Peter 1:17
 - d. James. James 1:2
 - e. John. II John 8

We must remember that we make choices in time that last for eternity, and that our Mighty Creator has the right to require of us as He chooses. Let's ask Him for His power.

Philemon 1

Salutation

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker,

²and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon's Love and Faith

⁴I thank my God always, making mention of you in my prayers,

⁵because I hear of your love and of the faith which you have toward the Lord Jesus and toward all the saints;

⁶and I pray that the fellowship of your faith may become effective through the knowledge of every good thing which is in you for Christ's sake.

⁷For I have come to have much joy and comfort in your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother.

⁸Therefore, though I have enough confidence in Christ to order you to do what is proper,

⁹yet for love's sake I rather appeal to you--since I am such a person as Paul, the aged, and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus--

Plea for Onesimus, a Free Man

¹⁰I appeal to you for my child Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my imprisonment,

¹¹who formerly was useless to you, but now is useful both to you and to me.

¹²I have sent him back to you in person, that is, sending my very heart,

¹³whom I wished to keep with me, so that on your behalf he might minister to me in my imprisonment for the gospel;

¹⁴but without your consent I did not want to do anything, so that your goodness would not be, in effect, by compulsion but of your own free will.

¹⁵For perhaps he was for this reason separated from you for a while, that you would have him back forever,

¹⁶no longer as a slave, but more than a slave, a beloved brother, especially to me, but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷If then you regard me a partner, accept him as you would me.

¹⁸But if he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to my account;

¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand, I will repay it (not to mention to you that you owe to me even your own self as well).

²⁰Yes, brother, let me benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.

²¹Having confidence in your obedience, I write to you, since I know that you will do even more than what I say.

²²At the same time also prepare me a lodging, for I hope that through your prayers I will be given to you.

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,

²⁴as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Lesson Eighteen
Praying and Proclaiming
Colossians 4:2-6



Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Day
One

1. Work on your memory verse by writing it out below for practice.
2. Read Colossians 4:2-6. Then skim through the book of Colossians jotting down references to what is said about prayer.
3. Now look back at your homework from Lesson Two, Day 1, Question 4b and Lesson Three, Day 1, Question 4. These questions referred to Colossians 1:3 and 1:9-10. What did we learn about prayer?

Proskartereo (devote):	<p>remain somewhere, stick faithfully with someone, be steadfast, insist on something or stay close to something</p> <p>From pros (to) and kartero (to endure)</p>
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4. What does it mean to be devoted to prayer? Note how the word for devoted is used in the following verses.

Acts 2:42, 46

Rom. 12:12

Rom. 13:6

Mark 3:9

5. The word alert means to watch, give attention, be cautious, be active or take warning. It comes from a word meaning to wake up or to cause to rise. How can this be done in prayer and why is it necessary? Consider that Paul has just said to be devoted to prayer.

See also Matthew 26:40-41

6. One way to remain alert in prayer is to pray specifically rather generally, that is to make a particular request. When Paul tells the Colossians he is praying for them, he tells them the content of his prayer. See Colossians 1:9-12. Name a couple of practical ways to either remain alert in prayer or to pray more specifically.



Day
Two

1. How can thanksgiving be incorporated into our prayers?

Col. 2:7

Col. 1:3-4

Col. 1:12-13

Phil. 4:6

2. It is easy to become overwhelmed by needs and fail to pray. Fill in the blanks below and take a moment to pray for each one.
- a. *The volume of physical needs in my church alone is overwhelming, but today I can pray for _____.* (name one person that is sick or suffering).
 - b. *There are many unbelievers in the world, but today I can pray for this one:*
_____.
 - c. *Berachah Bible Church supports over 15 missionaries, but today I will pray for*
_____.
 - d. *Statistics say that the ratio of marriages to divorces in the United States is 2 to1, but today I will pray for this marriage:* _____.
 - e. *There are many different ways to sin, but today I will pray about my struggle with*
_____.
 - f. *There are so many things for which I could thank God, but today I will thank him for this:*
_____.

3. Immediately following the instruction to be devoted to prayer, Paul gives a prayer request. What is his request according to Colossians 4:3-4? What is Paul's primary concern and does this have implications for our own prayer life?

4. To whom does "us" refer to in verse 3? See Col. 1:1 and 4:7ff.

Col. 1:1

Col. 4:7ff

5. Who is opening a door for the word and why is this important?

6. What is it that Paul desires to speak forth? For what is he in prison? Review Col. 1:26-27 along with Lesson 6, Day 2, Question 10.

7. While Paul surely would have hoped to be freed from prison so that he could pursue his ministry, what did he come to say about his imprisonments?

Philippians 1:12-14

II Timothy 2:9

See also Acts 28:30-31

Phaneroo (clear): to make manifest, visible or conspicuous what has been hidden, to show openly, make public, to make known the true character of someone or something, or to make known by teaching, to make plainly recognized

8. What does “it” refer to in verse 4? What does it mean to “make it clear in the way I ought to speak?” How can we learn from Paul’s example?

I Cor. 9:16-17

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Acts 20:21, 24

Day Three

1. After giving his prayer request, Paul instructs the Colossians to conduct themselves with wisdom toward outsiders. To whom is he referring?

I Cor. 5:12

I Thess. 4:10-12

2. How can we be wise in dealing with outsiders?

a. Col. 4:5a (See Col. 1:10 where the word for conduct is translated walk.)
I Peter 2:12

b. Col. 4:5b

c. Col. 4:6a (see also Eccl. 10:12)

3. "Making the most of" means to redeem, buy or make use of "the opportunity" (a reasonable time or a point of readiness, a fixed point of time). Based on the context (Col. 4:2-6), Paul is speaking of an opportunity to do what?

4. Paul lived out what he was asking the Colossians to do. Read Acts 21:27 through Acts 22:1, noting how Paul proved to be a good example of making use of an opportunity.

5. See if you can find out which books of the Bible Paul wrote while he was in prison?

6. Grace is to characterize our speech. Use an English dictionary, a Vine's dictionary or a Hebrew lexicon to find out what the word "grace" means. What types of things should characterize our speech? What should not? See also Eph 4:29.

7. How does Col. 4:6 further describe gracious speech? What does this add to the picture of what our speech is to be like?

Job 6:6a

Matt 5:13

8. According to Col. 4:6, why is it important that our speech always be gracious? Considering the context of Colossians 4, what opportunity might gracious speech give to you?

I Peter 3:15

4. Read the paragraph (4:2-6) again and discuss the insight into Paul's heart seen there.
5. How many times is verbal communication mentioned in 3-6? Mark them.
6. Discuss the word "Devote" in v. 2. To what am I devoting myself in prayer?
 - a. There are three ways in which we are to devote ourselves to prayer. List and discuss them.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - b. There are three things Paul asks them to pray for. List them below. What do they mean?
 - 1) 4:3
 - 2) 4:3
 - 3) 4:4
7. What contrast do you see in v. 3? Write it in your margin. How does it express Paul's perspective as we saw last week?

6. Why must we make the most of our time according to Ephesians 5:16?

7. Discuss the goals of our speech from v. 6.

a. When?

b. How?

1)

2)

3)



Day Three

1. How many people are mentioned in 4:7-15?

Let's look at some of them in specific to see qualities Paul appreciates and that we might seek to imitate.

2. Tychicus

a. Biographical comments from Paul:

b. Why do you think Paul made clear that he was sending Tychicus?

c. Besides bringing information, what does v. 8 say is another purpose for his visit?

3. Onesimus

a. Biographical comments from Paul:

b. Purpose of his visit as described here.

c. What do you think the Gnostics thought of this reference to Onesimus? How do you think we can have the same attitude?

4. According to v. 10, 11, Paul had three “fellow workers for (EIS, “for the promotion of”) the kingdom of God from the circumcision.”

a. Aristarchus

1) Biographical comments. (There are those who are in this same category today. What can you do about it? Are you?)

2) Notice his involvement with Paul in Acts 19:29. What happened?

b. Mark

1) Biographical comments from Paul.

2) This is likely the same Mark of Acts 15:36-39. What happened? What does this say about Paul?

c. Justus

5. **Epaphras** (See 1:7)

6. Demas is mentioned very briefly in v. 14. Read II Timothy 4:10-12 to see more about him and some of the others mentioned above.

7. Now notice again the places mentioned in v. 13, 16.

a. What do we know about the letter sent to Laodicea?

b. What do we know of the later history of the church at Laodicea? Revelation 3:14-19.

And so, we close the book on Colossians, but hope never to forget its message.

As then, so now. He is “the Lord of Time,” being the Son Eternal. So we and the Colossians are neighbors and contemporaries—in Him. To our questions too, He is the answer; the peace of our consciences, the power and purity of our spirits, the light and life of our homes, the star and sun of our everlasting hope. The old page lives to us and...converses with us, “in the heart of Jesus Christ.”

Whatever be our Colossae, it is a place of peace and gladness. For we, like our brethren gone before, are also in that wonderful fact, “in JESUS CHRIST.”

Colossian and Philemon Studies, Lessons in Faith and Holiness, H.C.G. Moule, p. 275, 276.

“In Him All Things Consist” An Introduction to Quantum Mechanics

By Suzanna Glorvigen

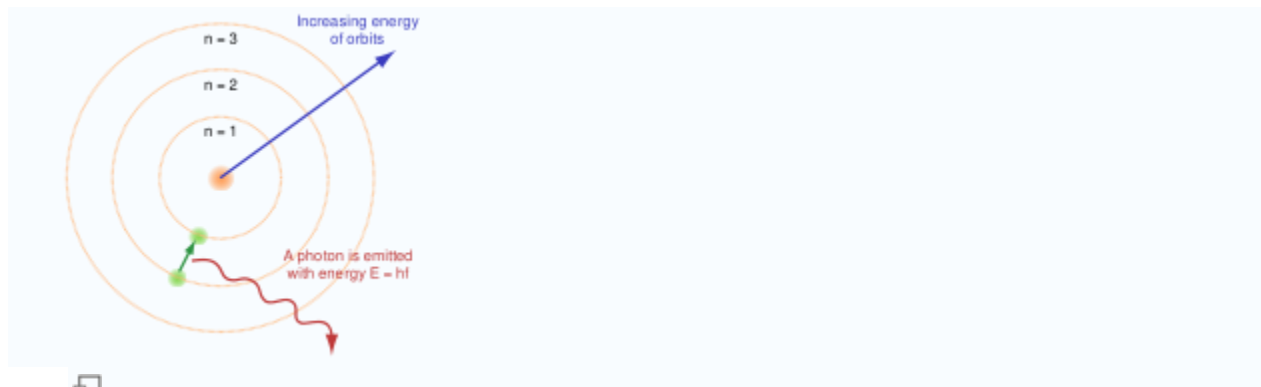
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For centuries scientists have not ceased to be enthralled with the infinitesimal component of creation. Resulting from their fervor, mankind has benefited from scientific discoveries in microscopy and has likewise become mesmerized by its multi-faceted phenomena. As we think specifically on how in Christ all things “consist” or “hold together” (Col. 1:17), it is of particular significance that we take a peek inside His world of quantum mechanics.

Quantum mechanics is the branch of physics which tries to explain the workings of the atomic and subatomic systems. These systems include protons, neutrons, electrons, atoms, molecules, and other subatomic particles. The word “quantum” comes from the Latin word meaning “how much” or “how great.” In quantum mechanics the word “quantum” is applied to the fact that energy comes in packets, or “quanta” at the microscopic level. In this microscopic realm, energy is said to be “discrete” rather than continuous. To understand “discrete,” think of the infamous “quantum leap.” For example, when an atom is struck by a photon (a light wave particle), an electron is boosted into a higher orbit. The electron does not move continuously to the other orbital, but rather it disappears out of one and reappears in the other, without traversing the space in between.

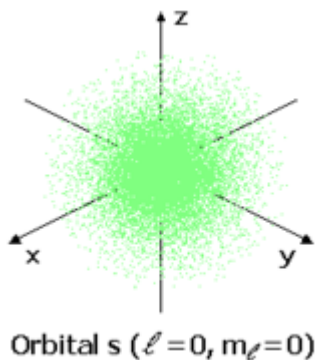
It was once believed (1909) that electrons orbited the nucleus of an atom much like planets orbit the sun. The problem with this theory is that an accelerating electrical charge will give off electromagnetic waves. The charged orbiting electron would increasingly lose energy and thus spiral down a path of collision toward the nucleus, making stable atoms impossible. In 1900 Max Planck found that the energy of electromagnetic waves occurs only in discrete small packets or quanta. Albert Einstein took this idea and demonstrated that a light wave could be described by a particle (later called the photon in 1926) with a discrete amount of energy dependent on its frequency. This postulation opened the door to all kinds of discussions, theorizing, and testing, which led to quantum physics.

In 1913, Niels Bohr incorporated the quantum theory into a model of the atom demonstrating that electrons existed in quantized energy states in which the electrons could only orbit the nucleus in specific circular orbits, having fixed angular momentum and energy. The distance of the electron from the nucleus was proportional to their respective energies. The electrons could move between these orbits by the emission or absorption of photons by making “quantum leaps.” This would keep electrons from spiraling into the nucleus because they could not continuously lose energy.



The Bohr model of the atom, showing quantized states of electron orbital energy. An electron dropping to a lower orbit emits a photon equal to the energy difference between the orbits.

Louis de Broglie in 1924 hypothesized that all moving particles, like electrons and other matter, show properties of both particles and waves. This gave rise to the concept of wave-particle duality. This concept can be demonstrated by passing light through two parallel slits in a piece of cardboard. The light passes through both slits simultaneously due to the wave-like nature of the electron. In 1926, Erwin Schrodinger's wave equation gave the probability of finding an electron near a position. Once the electron spin and the interaction between multiple electrons is considered, this wave equation could predict the configuration of electrons in atoms. However, this concept had problems, since a wavefunction incorporates time as well as position. Max Born proposed that Schrodinger's equation described all the possible states as opposed to the electron itself, and therefore could rather be used to find the probability of where the electron may be found around the nucleus.



In quantum mechanics, the behavior of an electron in an atom is described by an [orbital](#), which is a probability distribution rather than an orbit.

The fact that a wavefunction involves time as well as position makes it impossible to determine both the location and speed of a particle at the same time. This principle is known as the Uncertainty Principle. This principle states that the more we try to determine the precise location of a particle (such as an electron around the atom's nucleus), the less we are able to pinpoint the velocity of the particle, and the more we try to measure the velocity of the particle, the less able we are to determine its position. This invalidates Bohr's model of neat circular orbits. The modern model of an atom shows the probability of the electrons' positions. The region in which an electron is more prone to exist around the nucleus is dependent upon its energy level and is referred to as its atomic orbital.

We can be sure that there is no uncertainty principle in the mind of God. Although we cannot be certain as to the precise functionality of the atomic world and how Christ holds all things together, quantum mechanics gives us an intriguing glimpse at the deeper details of God's creation. We can appreciate the words of Max Planck, with whom quantum mechanics originated, expressed in a 1937 address. "He stated that science and religion wage a 'tireless battle against skepticism and dogmatism, against unbelief and superstition,' with the goal: 'toward God!'" (DeYoung).

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