**COLOSSIANS – LESSON ONE**

**OVERVIEW**

**“It is in adoring worship of God – the waiting on Him and for Him in deep silence of soul that yields itself for God to reveal Himself – that the capacity for knowing and trusting Him will be developed. As we take His Word from the Blessed Book and ask Him to speak it to us with His living, loving voice, the power to believe and receive the Word as God’s own word to us will emerge in us.” Andrew Murray**

Before you begin each day’s time in the Word, begin with prayer. Why? Because truth cannot be understood by human reason; God’s truth is revealed to us by His Spirit (I Cor. 2:9-14 and Matt. 16:17). So, ask Him to reveal Himself to you in His Word, not only so you may understand, but also that you may follow Him more fully in faith and obedience.

This week you will be doing an overview of the book. The purpose of overview is to help you see the context of the book and get the big picture of what is being said. By understanding the context of the book, you discover the purpose for which it was written. Discovering the context begins by looking at the obvious things that are mentioned in the book. If you begin by observing the obvious, then the things within the book that are not so obvious will become clearer. Always remember when studying a book of the Bible that the context of the book rules. So many times, Scripture is taken out of its context and made or twisted to mean something it does not, or was not intended. So, your first lesson will be to get the big picture of the book of Colossians, this will lay the foundation for all the other lessons. Proper observation leads to correct interpretation, which leads to good application. You do not want to just understand what it says but you need to know how to take the truth and apply it to your life – believe it and obey it.

**DAY ONE –**

After you have sought the Lord, who is your teacher, read all four chapters. As you read mark in a distinct way “Jesus”, including personal pronouns.

What was your first impression of the book?

What questions did you have?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways or His purposes? The book has much to say but what did the Holy Spirit show you?

**DAY TWO –**

Once again, do not forget to seek your Teacher in prayer, ask Him to reveal Himself to you that you may know Him, love Him more, trust Him, and follow Him more fully in obedience.

Read the entire book once again this time as you read mark every reference to “God” your “Father”.

What did He reveal about Himself, His ways, or His purposes to you today?

What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

After you have begun with prayer, read all four chapters again this time marking any reference to the human author of the book.

Who is the human author and what did you learn about him?

* 1:1 –
* 1:1 –
* 1:3, 4, 9 –
* 1:23 –
* 1:24 –
* 1:25 –
* 1:28-29 –
* 2:1 –
* 2:5 –
* 4:3 –
* 4:7-8 –
* 4:10 –
* 4:13 –
* 4:18 –

What did you learn about the character of the apostle Paul?

What was his passion?

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, why was his purpose in writing?

* 1:28 –
* 2:4 –
* 3:11b –

What did the Lord show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What is He telling you to do? What will you do next?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today after you have sought His help to understand, believe, and obey His Word; read chapters 1-4 again. As you are reading this time mark any reference to the recipients, but only if it tells you something specific about them personally, like 1:2.

Now go back and record what you discovered about the recipients:

* 1:2 –

* 1:4-6 –
* 1:7 –
* 1:21, 2:13 –
* 3:12 –
* 4:12 –

How did you identify with them?

What do you need to hear from the Lord concerning your walk as you follow Jesus?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, and His purposes?

**DAY FIVE –**

We are well on our way in gaining “the big picture” of our book. Way to hang in there! He will make it all worth your hard work.

So today, as you read the book for the last time, highlight all the instructions that are given. By looking for and marking specific things in the text each day, we learn to be purposeful in our reading. After today you should have a good grasp on what is in the book of Colossians.

Now keeping your answer simple. What did the instructions that were given tell you about the struggles the saints and faithful brethren were having? i.e. 2:8, 16, 18, 20; 3:1-2; 3:5

Can you identify with them in any way? How?

Under the inspiration of the Spirit, why was the letter written?

* 1:28 –
* 2:2-3 –
* 2:4 –

What has He showed you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

Spend time praising Him today for all He has revealed to you this week about Himself.

**COLOSSIANS – LESSON TWO**

**DAY ONE –**

After you have begun with prayer, begin seeking His face in this week’s lesson.

Today we will look at the false teaching that was spreading through the church in Colossae. While Paul does not identify the heresy that was plaguing the church, it generally accepted that it was Gnosticism.

Here are the basics of this teaching:

*Much like the church today, many members of the early church were significantly influenced by a prevailing philosophy of their day. While some of the New Testament was being written, the church in Asia was being threatened by Gnosticism, a philosophy which became the major opponent of the gospel in the early apostolic church.*

*A familiarity with the teachings of Gnosticism, will give you a greater understanding of, and appreciation of some of the warnings and teachings given in the epistles.*

*Many members of the early church were seeking enlightenment and were easily deceived by Gnostic teachers being led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. Some had apparently left the church to form their own community, teaching a different gospel from the true gospel the apostles taught, and thus confusion crept in.*

*The term Gnosticism comes from the Greek word gnosis, meaning “knowledge”. Gnosticism is a philosophy which centers on a search for higher knowledge. The Gnostics taught that this knowledge was not a reasonably attained understanding, but a knowledge which the ordinary Christian was incapable of attaining. Once a person came into possession of this extraordinary knowledge, according to the Gnostic thought, he had “salvation”.*

*Although Gnostic philosophy took many strange and divergent turns, two axioms were basic to its teaching:*

* *The supremacy of knowledge.*
* *Certain* ***pneumatikoi*** *or “spiritual ones” claimed to have special knowledge of the truth.*
* *Ordinary Christians did not or could not possess this secret of higher knowledge.*
* *The separation of spirit and matter.*
* *All matter was considered to be evil and the source of evil.*
* *The spirit was considered to be good and impervious to defilement by anything the body did.*

*Claiming a so-called higher knowledge beyond that revealed by God in Christ Jesus and through the prophets, Gnosticism had its origins in the philosophy of the Greeks and Romans, in the creeds of Plato and Philo, and in the religions of the East, especially those of Persia and India. However, when Christianity spread to Gentile territories, an attempt was made on the part of Eastern philosophical religions to form an alliance with it. (typical of man to accommodate his old religious philosophies and inter mingle them with the teachings of the gospel.)*

*Many allegorized the Old Testament and did not interpret its teachings literally. They strayed from the veracity of the Word, which would have exposed their erroneous teaching regarding creation, sin, and the restoration of all things/redemption. They failed to see how a supreme God was pure in spirit and in matter (Jesus’ flesh), which they considered evil.*

* *The Docetic Gnostics denied the humanity of Jesus. The word “docetic” comes from the Greek word* ***dokeo****, “to seem”. According to the Docetists, it was impossible for God, who was spirit and good, to become flesh, which was matter and evil, in the person of Jesus Christ. They believed that Jesus was a phantom; He did not possess a real flesh-and-blood body. He only seemed to have a body.*
* *The Cerinthian Gnostics (followers of Cerinthus) separated the man Jesus from the aeon (the conceptual being) i.e. the power of Christ. They believed that the power of Christ came and rested on the man Jesus. This power then departed before His death on the cross. So it was simply the “man” Jesus who died, but not Jesus Christ, God in the flesh as revealed in Scripture.*

*These Gnostic heresies denied that God became man and walked this earth in the person of Jesus Christ to bring redemption and salvation to mankind. Having eliminated Jesus as the only way to God, the Gnostics believed they could make their own way to God through their inquiry and knowledge. Faith and one’s deeds were viewed as having no significance in salvation or the life of a believer.*

*Understanding the basis of Gnosticism and the forms of thought that it took in the early days of the Church will enable you to better understand this doctrinal heresy which God had some of the New Testament writers address.*  (referenced: ***New Inductive Study Bible***)

What was the warning given in 2:8?

How does 2:9-10 answer the false teaching/philosophies of the Gnostics?

Paul is addressing more than the false teaching of the Gnostics. He also addresses the false gospel of Jesus plus the law. We will fully see this when we get to chapter 2.

What are we admonished to know and remember?

* 1:27 –
* 1:28 –
* 2:2b-3:11b –

What is the context of the book? What is going on in Colossae? Why was this book written?

This is the big picture.

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes? (What has He provided? How does He protect His children?...)

**DAY TWO –**

Now that you know the context/big picture of the book start at chapter one. After you have asked the Spirit of God to be your teacher, read chapter one and if you have not already marked every reference of Jesus, do so now.

Record below everything you have learned from chapter one about Jesus.

* 1:4 – where does genuine faith rest?
* 1:10 –
* 1:13 –
* 1:14 –
* 1:15 –
* 1:16 –
* 1:17 –
* 1:18 –
* 1:19 –
* 1:20 –
* 1:22 –
* 1:24 –
* 1:27 –
* 1:28 –
* 1:29 –

Who is Jesus according to what you observed from the text?

How is He described?

What has He done?

Why is it so significant in our day to know these truths concerning Jesus Christ?

What did He show you today, specifically about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What has He been calling you to obedience for?

**DAY THREE –**

After beginning in prayer read chapter one, and if you have not already, mark every reference to God the Father.

Record below what you observed concerning God the Father.

* V. 1 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* V. 11 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 15 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 25 – (what you learn about God not Paul)
* V. 27 –

What has the Father done for us?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

How will you respond to that?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today as you read chapter one mark in a distinct way the following key words:

* Wisdom - *sofia*
* Knowledge – *epignosis* (used in vv. 6, 9, 10, 27)
* All, every, everything

Record what you learned from the text concerning wisdom:

* V. 9 –
* V. 28 –

Record what you learned from the text concerning knowledge:

* V. 6 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* V. 27 –

What do the words “all” or “every” communicate to you? These are very big words.

According to chapter one, is there any other source of wisdom, knowledge, power, understanding, or salvation? Is there any other person who is God in the flesh? Why did you answer in this way?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

After beginning in prayer, read chapter one again. Today marking the following key words:

* Word of truth, gospel, word of God (mark the same)
* Mystery

What did you learn about the Word of truth, the gospel?

What did you learn about the mystery?

What did you learn this week concerning the knowledge and wisdom of God?

What did you learn that He has done for you?

What did you learn about who He is?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON THREE**

**DAY ONE –**

This week we begin to dive deeper into chapter one. So as is your privilege, begin your time in the Word seeking to know the Living Word. Read Colossians 1:1-8.

Who is the human author of the book of Colossians?

How does he describe himself?

How did he become an apostle of Jesus Christ?

Who is with him?

To whom is He having Paul write?

By whom does grace and peace come?

Who is giving thanks?

To whom are they giving thanks?

What are you told about Him?

How are they giving thanks? V. 3

The word for “praying” here is to talk face to face with someone.

When did Paul and Timothy start to give thanks for the Colossians? V. 4

What had they heard about the Colossians? V. 4

The Greek word for “in” here in verse 4 is *en.* It is a preposition of rest – having believed now resting there. Having placed faith “into” Jesus already, they are resting in that settled state of believing, “denotes the sphere in which their faith moves, rather than the object to which it is directed”. (the preposition in/“*eis*” used in John 3:16 to “believe in Jesus” for example, and many other places, is a preposition of motion, a moving from something else and placing faith into Jesus.)

What is the ground for their love of all the saints according to v. 5?

What is their incentive to love all the saints? V. 5a

Where does this love come from, according to v. 8?

What had they heard and believed? Vv. 5, 6

What is the Word of truth, the gospel constantly doing? V. 6

By whom had they learned the Word of truth, the gospel? V. 7

What did you learn about him? Vv. 7-8

Once again, what had the Colossians heard and understood according to and concerning the gospel? Vv. 5, 6

What must one “do” in order to have the hope that is laid up in store for, and out of reach of, enemies and sorrow?

Have you heard and understood the word of truth, the gospel, even the grace of God in truth – which is mixed with nothing extra, but is pure? Write out a brief testimony of your coming to be in a settled state of believing.

Before you finish for the day, spend some time worshipping Him who has brought to you the gospel and opened the understanding of your heart to see and believe.

**DAY TWO –**

Today carefully and prayerfully read 1:9-12.

Why, for what reason, has Paul and Timothy not ceased to pray for the Colossians?

What is the purpose for them to keep on asking in prayer? V. 9b

What will this result in according to V. 10?

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What does being filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding result in? V. 10 – make it personal.

I will…

Here are the Greek words and definitions –

* Knowledge – *epignosis* – full knowledge, knowledge upon knowledge, it is an experiential knowledge – this was a favorite word of the Gnostics, they used it to designate superior knowledge which they claimed to exclusively possess. Paul is letting the Colossians know that biblically, full knowledge is for everyone and not just a favored few. This knowledge is related to the will of God and not to other worlds.
* Spiritual – *pneumatikos* – belonging to the Spirit; pertaining to the Spirit.
* Wisdom – *sofia* – mental excellency in its highest and fullest sense; applying the knowledge of God’s will to life’s situations.
* Understanding – *sunesis* – insight, putting together the facts and information, drawing conclusions, and seeing relationships; the ability to discriminate between the false and the true.

Look up and read I Cor. 2:1-16.

How did Paul come to the people there with the message of the gospel, the testimony of God?

* V. 1 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 4 –
* V. 6 –
* Vv. 7-9 –

Why did he bring the message in this way? V. 5

How was the message revealed according to V. 10?

What spirit have we received who have believed? V. 12

What does His Spirit do for the believer according to V. 12b?

Who does not accept or receive the things of the Spirit of God? V. 14

Why do they not accept or receive the things of the Spirit of God? V. 14

Where does the wisdom of God come from?

What kind of wisdom and understanding is Col. 1:9 referring to?

One last cross-reference for today, read Rom. 12:1-2.

Why are you to be being transformed and renewed from above in your thinking?

What do these verses reveal about the will of God?

Spend some time today asking Him to fill you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that you too may walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him, bearing fruit, increasing in the knowledge of HIM (not just knowledge!), and prove by testing that the will of God is good, acceptable and perfect.

**DAY THREE –**

Today after prayer read 1:9-12.

What is the result of being filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? V. 10

“The saints are to see to it that their manner of life, their conduct, weighs as much as the character of their Lord. That is, He is to be their example in life, and the copy must be like the Example.” Wuest

“This lofty wisdom and insight **is not** an end in itself. It must issue in right practice. Doctrines and ethics are for Paul inseparable. Right conduct must also lead to right conduct.” Expositors

The Greek word for “worthy” is *axious* and means equal to, to balance the scales.

How is your daily life to be lived according to the Word of God?

First what must you be filled with according to v. 9?

How is it possible for you to walk worthy?

* Ez. 11:19-20 –
* Ez. 36:25-27 –
* Eph. 3:16, 20 –
* Phil. 2:13 –
* Gal. 5:16 –
* Gal. 5:25 –
* Rom. 6:1-4, 11-13
* Rom. 6:16 –
* Col. 1:27b –

Is it possible to live under your own rule/will and walk worthy of your Lord? What does walking worthy of your Lord do according to v. 10?

Now restate in your own words what you observed from the Word of God concerning walking in a manner worthy of your Lord?

What has He said to you today? And what will you do next? These are not rhetorical questions.

**DAY FOUR –**

Today read again 1:9-12. What is the next result of being filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? V. 10

According to Mark 4:20 and Rom. 7:4, what does one do who has heard and received the Word of God?

Read Matt. 7:15-20 and Luke 6:43-35, and record below what you have observed concerning fruit bearing?

Now read John 15:1-11 and record below what you have observed concerning fruit bearing?

What is the fruit the Spirit produces in us when we are walking in the Spirit, according to Gal. 5:22-23?

But in contrast to the fruit of the Spirit, what are the deeds/fruit of the flesh?

How can you know you and have come to a settled state of believing into Jesus according to all you have been observing from the Word of God this week?

What are you known by, according to the Word of God?

According to Titus 3:8, what will the believer be doing?

According to Eph. 2:10, what will the believer be doing?

What does your fruit bearing reveal about you?

Lastly, what else will being filled with the knowledge of His will result in? 1:10

What will the full knowledge of God produce in you according to V. 10?

What does knowledge alone produce in a person according to I Cor. 8:1b-2?

Read Phil. 3:7-11. According to these verses, what kind of knowledge should you be seeking?

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

How will this help you to walk in a manner worthy of your Lord?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read 1:9-12 once again. Do not forget to seek your Teacher first.

What is Paul’s second request in verse 11?

Why, what will be the desired result? V. 11b

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This is a very full and meaningful verse, so let us break it down.

Greek word meanings –

Strengthened – *dunamoo* – to be able, to have power, inherit power that gives ability to do something, to make strong.

Power – *Dunamis* – verb – strength, ability, inherit power, resident power.

Might – *Kratos* – relative and manifested power.

Steadfastness – *hupomone* – as relates to trials, things; those who are under the siege of trials bear up and do not lose heart or courage; “It doesn’t merely mark endurance but the perseverance, the brave patience with which the believer contends against various hindrances, persecutions, and temptations that befall him in his conflict with the inward and out world.” Trench

Patience – *makrothumia* – patience in respect to people; the long holding out of mind before it gives room for action or passion; patience exhibited under ill-treatment by people. “who having to do with injurious persons, doesn’t suffer himself easily or provoked by them or set ablaze in anger.” Trench

How is one made strong with all strength and ability, according to whose might/power? V.11

According to this verse, as Expositors has stated, “the equipment with power is proportioned not simply to the recipient’s need **but to divine supply**.”

What does that mean for you personally; make application?

What will this strengthening and equipping result in? V. 11b

What will accompany the resulting endurance and longsuffering? Vv. 11b, 12a

To whom?

How can this prayer be prayed, on what basis or what right do you have to pray this same prayer Paul prayed?

-V. 12b –

-V. 13 –

-V. 14 –

“Qualified” – *hikanoo* – to cause to be qualified, to make adequate, sufficient, to render fit; has to do with our standing in Christ.

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What has He said to you this week?

What will you do next?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON FOUR**

**DAY ONE –**

This week we will start looking at the absolute supremacy of Jesus. His supremacy in creation, His supremacy in redemption, and His supremacy over the church. This Scripture is packed full of the glorious teaching and revelation of who His is, what He has done, and what He is doing. We could spend a life time right here and scarcely take it in.

Begin with prayer asking the Spirit of God to be your teacher, filling you with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding that you may walk in a manner worthy of your Lord to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, and continually increasing in the knowledge of God.

“Will You not Yourself revive us again that Your people may rejoice in You? Show us Your lovingkindness, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation. I will hear what God the LORD will say; for He will speak peace to His people, to His covenant children; but let them not turn back to folly. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, that glory may dwell in our land. Lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (“grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ” John 1:17)” Ps. 85:6-10

We will begin with what He began with in this text – and that is what He has done for us.

Read Col. 1:12-23. If you have not already marked in distinct and different ways – “Jesus” and “God the Father” – do so as you read now.

What has the Father qualified you to share in? V. 12

What is this inheritance that you are to share in? look up the following verses and record what you learn concerning your inheritance.

* I Peter 1:3-5 –
* Eph. 1:11-14 –
* I Cor. 6:9-11 –
* John 3:3, 5 –
* Heb. 9:15 –
* Gal. 4:7-8 –
* Rom. 8:16-17 –

Write a summary statement concerning what you learned about your inheritance.

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What has been your response to what He has shown you? What will you do now?

**DAY TWO –**

After you have begun with prayer, read 1:12-23.

How did the Father qualify you for this inheritance that you learned about yesterday?

* V. 13 –
* V. 14 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 20 –
* V. 22 –
* V. 23 –

What did the Father deliver you from? V. 13

Where did He transfer you to? V. 13

Read over the Greek word meanings below to help with a fuller understanding of what is being said.

* Delivered – aor. tense, *rhuomai* – to draw to one’s self at a point in time with lasting results; to rescue once for all time; to deliver, or preserve from bondage.
* Transferred – aor. tense - *methistemi* – to remove from one place to another once for all time; change of place or situation; transplant.
* Domain – *exousia* – authority, power, ruling power, official power or jurisdiction, controlling power, tyranny, the predominant idea here is of a capricious unruly, disorderly rule.
* Kingdom – *basileia* – royal rule, royal reign.

What is the contrast in V. 13?

When you were born again you were delivered from arbitrary tyranny and transferred into a well-ordered sovereignty or kingdom.

Read the following verses and record what you learn concerning this arbitrary tyranny you were under.

* Eph. 2:1-3 –
* Eph. 6:12 –
* Acts 26:18 -

Read Eph. 1:20-22; 2:4-10 and record what you learn concerning this new kingdom you are now a part of.

How is this new kingdom described in Col. 1:13b?

According to V. 14, in whom is redemption provided?

What is the result? V. 14b

You might want to spend the rest of your time meditating on what you He showed you today about Himself, His ways, and His purposes – what has He done for you?

**DAY THREE –**

Prayerfully read 1:12-23. We will concentrate on Vv. 15-17, His supremacy in creation. Go back and read Vv. 15-17 and distinctly mark the words “creation” and “created” in the same way. And now read Vv. 15-18 and mark “He is”.

Complete the following:

* V. 15 – He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 15 – He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 17 – He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 18 – He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* V. 18 – He is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now briefly state what you learn from observing the word “creation”/”created”.

* V. 15 –
* V. 16a –
* V. 16b –
* V. 17 –

According to these verses, is Jesus eternal or was He a created being? Now explain from the text why you answered in this way.

Here is a list of Greek word definitions to help with some of the words in the text. Feel free if you have the time to look them up yourself and add to the definitions from your research.

* Image – *eikon* – likeness - Jesus is the perfect likeness of God the Father, exact representation, exact reproduction of the Father, a derived image, copy, arch type. Of the invisible God – representation is that of manifestation.
* First born – *protokos* – implies priority to all creation and sovereignty over all creation; acknowledged head of creation; absolute pre-existence to all creation, thus not created but creator, thus eternal. “Since He is eternal He is God and since He is God He cannot be one of the emanations from deity of which the Gnostics taught. He is Lord of creation.” Wuest

Who is Jesus, according to Scripture? Look up the following verses and record your observations.

* II Cor. 4:4 –
* Heb. 1:1-3, 8; 2:14, 17 –
* John 1:1-3, 14, 18 –
* John 8:58-59 –
* John 12:45 –
* John 14:7-11 –
* John 10:30-33 –
* Col. 2:9 –
* Phil. 2:5-11 –

Write a brief summary statement of who Jesus is according to all you observed today?

**DAY FOUR –**

After you begin with prayer read 1:13-23.

Today we will look at cross-references on Jesus being the “first born” of all creation. How can one be Creator and first born, what does that mean – hopefully by the end of this day’s study you can answer that.

Record below what the definition of “first born” was in the Greek.

Is Jesus created or Creator according to the following verses? Explain your answer from the text.

* Col. 1:16 –
* Col. 1:17 –
* Rom. 8:29 –
* John 1:3, 10 –
* I Cor. 8:6 –
* Heb. 1:2-3 –
* Heb. 1:8-13 –

What does it mean when it says Jesus was the first born of all creation? What is His relationship to creation?

What difference does this truth that Jesus is the Eternal God, and that without exception He is absolute Sovereign/first born of all His creation, make in your life? What difference should it make?

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FIVE –**

Read once again this week 1:13-23. Don’t be tempted to skip reading the text over and over again, it will become part of your thinking and sink deep in your heart. As Heb. 4:12 says, “For the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” It will not be a waste of time!

According to V. 16, what was created by Jesus?

Was there anything created that was not created by Him?

Why were all things created? V. 16b

All creation depends on and serves Him.

Is there anything that does not serve Him, that was not created for His purposes?

Does your suffering serve Him? Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20; Jam. 1:2-4; I Pet. 2:21; Acts 14:22; Job 1:7-12

What have you learned about the Lord your God this week?

What difference has it made in your life?

If you have extra time this week consider reading Job 38-42:6, it is many among a great many that speak of His sovereign rule over creation – all of creation

**COLOSSIANS LESSON FIVE**

**DAY ONE –**

We will continue this week to look at Jesus’ absolute supremacy. Before you begin ask Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

Last week you looked at Jesus’ absolute supremacy over creation, this week we will look at His absolute supremacy in redemption. Read 1:13-23, prayerfully.

Let’s start with the Greek word definitions for –

* Redemption. The Greek word is *apolutrosis* – a releasing effected by payment of a ransom, liberation procured by the payment of a ransom. (Wuest)
* Forgiveness - *aphesis* – to release from a debt, pardon, cancellation of a debt, liberation or putting away sin.
* Reconcile – *apokatatallasso* – aor. act. inf. – to exchange hostility for friendship, to reconcile; implies a restitution to a state from which one has fallen; to effect a thorough change back. (LKGNT)

Using the word definitions write out an amplified version of v. 14.

In Jesus I have -

Look up the following cross-references and record below what you observe and learn concerning redemption. How is it accomplished, what is required, who accomplished it, what is the result, why was it needed, when was it accomplished? So, as you read ask these questions of each Scripture.

* Heb. 9:11-28 –
* Rom. 3:19-26 –
* I Cor. 1:30 –
* Eph. 1:7 –
* Col. 1:14, 20-23 -

Answer the following questions from the Scriptures you observed, keeping your answers short:

* How was your redemption accomplished?
* What was required to accomplish it?
* Why was it needed?
* Who accomplished it?
* When was it accomplished?
* How is it received?

What do you have to say to Him as a result of this great redemption He has accomplished for you?

**DAY TWO –**

Today read 1:15-23. Begin with prayer.

Today we will focus on our reconciliation to God.

Referring to day one and the Greek definition of reconciliation, what does it mean?

According to vv. 19-23:

* Why was reconciliation needed? V. 21
* How was your reconciliation to your Heavenly Father accomplished? Vv. 19-20, 22
* What did this reconciliation result in? V. 22
* Realizing that it is by grace through faith, both being the gift of God, what did you have to do in order to enter into reconciliation? Because it was not automatic, God does not believe and receive for you? V. 23
* What must be proclaimed and understood before one can be reconciled? V. 23

Read II Cor. 5:14-21 and record below what you learn from the text concerning reconciliation. Remember to ask the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions as you read, like you did above.

Read Romans 5:6-11 and record below what you learn from the text concerning reconciliation.

Why were you an enemy of God? Why was reconciliation necessary?

Who did the reconciling?

How was this reconciliation accomplished?

He did it, He provides it, what must you do to enter it? (consider Acts 20:21)

What responsibility has He now given to you, according to II Cor. 5:14-21?

Who does the appeal to be reconciled still come from, ultimately?

What is the message you bring to your co-worker, spouse, child, neighbor, or stranger?

Since you needed to be reconciled to God also, how should you share the message of the gospel, what is to be your attitude?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

Read 1:15-23. Begin with prayer asking Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

How could Jesus accomplish your redemption and reconciliation according to these verses?

* V. 15 -
* V. 16 –
* V.17 –
* V. 18 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 20 –
* V. 22 –

Read the following verses and record what your condition was before your reconciliation and why redemption was necessary.

* Rom. 3:10-18, 23 –
* Eph. 2:1-3 –
* Eph. 2:11-14 –

What was your position formerly, and what were you engaged in before you were placed in Jesus, according to Col. 1:21?

Summarize your answer to what your condition was and why redemption was necessary for forgiveness and reconciliation.

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FOUR –**

Read 1:15-23 once again. Don’t forget to ask Him to reveal Himself to you by His Spirit whom He has made to dwell in you.

What has His redemption and reconciliation accomplished for you according to 1:22?

Holy – *hagios* – separation to God from worldly defilement; dedicated to God; set apart from-to.

Blameless – *amomos* – without blemish or defect, like the sacrificial animals presented to the LORD.

Beyond reproach – *anegkletos* – not only free from blemish but free from the charge of it!!!

Read Rom. 8:31-39 and list what is true concerning you because of what Jesus has accomplished for you in redemption. Spend much time here, meditating on it, and asking the Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth, and to convince you of that same truth. Because this is the purpose of your redemption and reconciliation, that He might present you before the Father holy, blameless, and beyond charge.

What has He done with the certificate of debt you once owed, according to Col. 2:13-14?

Are you believing these truths are you living in these truths? Why not?

“Oh, the depth of the riches and the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” Rom. 11:33

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FIVE –**

Read 1:15-23. Seek His face.

Verse 23 begins “if indeed”. This is with the expectation you will continue in the faith, if genuinely converted by grace then always kept by that grace. Genuine possession is shown by continence. “It is not the retention of salvation that is in the apostle’s mind, but the possession of it that would be shown by their continuance in the gospel.” Wuest

If your faith is firmly grounded on the foundation of the gospel and is settled on that foundation, and does not move away from the hope of the gospel, what will Jesus do one day according to V. 22b?

The real question is, are you firmly grounded on the foundation of the true gospel? Are you in a settled state upon the foundation of the gospel of grace, and are you remaining, not moved away from the hope of the gospel? Are you in Jesus, resting upon Him, staking your life on the truth He is who says He is, and has done what He said He did, and keep those who are His firm to the end?

All of creation depends on and serves Him according to chapter 1.

The work of redemption and reconciliation was accomplished in Him alone and only He was qualified to procure it – He is God in the flesh.

We have looked at Jesus’ absolute supremacy in creation and redemption. Next week we will look at His absolute supremacy over the church.

Go back over what you studied and observed this week and record below the most significant things He showed you.

**COLOSSIANS LESSON SIX**

**DAY ONE –**

After you have begun with prayer read 1:13-29. We will look this week at Jesus’ absolute supremacy over the church. Since all of creation depends on and serves Him, how much more should His church, the redeemed of God, depend on and serve Him.

First off, look up and record the definition of the Greek word for church – *ekklesia.*

What did you learn from chapter one concerning the church?

* V. 18 – (Greek word is *arche* – meaning – ruler, beginning, origin, refers to priority in time and to originating power.)

* V. 24 –
* V. 25 –

What is the responsibilities of the ministers of the church of God according to the following verses?

* V. 24 – (before you record your answer look up John 15:18-25, give your answer in light of what Jesus said) –
* V. 25a –
* V. 25b –
* Vv. 26-27 –
* V. 28 –
* V. 29 –

According to verse 28a, what do we proclaim to others?

How are we to proclaim Him? V. 28

Why? V. 28b

How are you to labor? V. 29

As you conclude for today, what has He shown you about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What has He said to you today? What will you do next?

\**Ekklesia –* called out from home to a public place; assembly of people convened at a public place of counsel for the purpose of discussion. *Weust*

**DAY TWO –**

Don’t forget to begin your time in the Word seeking the Living Word and the help of the Spirit of God to understand and obey. There is much wrong thinking concerning the church in our day. What it is, what its purpose is, how it is to function, and who is responsible for its growth.

If you were asked to explain to someone who did not know what would you say? Keep it simple.

What do you see most people in and out of the “church” today interpret the church to be?

Let us now look at what the Word of God has to say. Read the following verses and record what you learn about the church. Make sure you are asking the six questions – who, what, where, when, why, and how - of each text.

* Matt. 16:15-19 – (taking into account that Peter’s name in the Greek is “stone” and “upon this rock” is the Greek word for bedrock)
* Acts 2:37-47 –
* Acts 4:31-32 –
* Acts 20:28-31 –
* I Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:2; I Thess. 1:1 –
* Rom. 16:1, 3-5, 16, I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15-16 –

State what you have learned so far concerning the church.

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What thinking have you had to adjust to the Scripture, concerning the church?

**DAY THREE –**

We will continue to look at what the Word of God has to tell us concerning the church. So, begin your time in prayer asking Him to help you have an understanding of the church that is according to truth.

Read Eph. 1:22-23 and record what you learn about the church.

Read Eph. 5:22-33.

Who is head of the church? V. 23 (This is a different Greek word than the one found in Col. This word is *kephale* – speaks of authority and direction.)

What else He according to V. 23b?

What is the church compared to in these verses? The relationships between…

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What has He done for the church/His bride?

* V. 25 –

* V. 26 –
* V. 27 –
* V. 29 –

Once we are in Jesus what have we become with Him? Vv. 28, 30, 31

What have we left and who have we been joined to? V. 31

Read I Cor. 12:12-31 and record what you learn about the body/church of Jesus. Keep it to simple statements, i.e. we are the body of Christ; we are many members, yet we are one body...

Read Rom. 12:3-8 and record what you observe from the text about the church.

How is it possible for many members of one body to function in such a way as to accomplish the will of the Father?

What did Jesus do according to John 4:34; 5:17, 19-20, 30; 8:28-29; 12:49; 14:10?

What are we to do as the body of Christ?

Who sets the agenda for the church? How do we come to know what His agenda for “our” church is?

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today we will look at how He set the church up to operate. Once again, make sure you are seeking your Teacher.

What is Jesus in relation to His church?

* Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What does that mean practically?
* John 10:11; Heb. 13:20; I Peter 5:4 – \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. What does that mean practically?

What has He given to the church; what is their purpose and what are the qualifications (don’t get bogged down in too much detail) according to:

* Eph. 4:11-13 –
* Acts 20:28-31a –
* I Peter 5:1-5 –
* Titus 1:5-9 –
* I Tim. 5:17-20 –
* I Tim. 3:1-7 -
* Acts 6:4 –
* II Tim. 4:1-5 –

What is our responsibility in relation to the under-shepherds He has placed over His church, according to Heb. 13:17 and I Thess. 5:12-13?

What kind of men should you be watching out for and being on your guard against?

* Rom. 16:17-19 –
* Gal. 1:6-9 –
* II Tim. 4:3 –
* II Peter 2:1-3 –
* Jude 3-4, 16-19 -

What else has He given to the church, why, what qualifications according to Acts 6:1-6?

Read the following verses and record what else you learn about deacons.

* II Tim. 3:8-13 –

What is the purpose of a deacon?

What is the purpose of an elder/overseer/pastor-teacher/under-shepherd?

How are we all to function in the body of Christ according to all you have observed so far?

What is our purpose?

How do we know His assignments/agenda for Faith Family?

What has He shown you or reminded you about concerning the church?

**DAY FIVE –**

On our last day of the week, we will look at how the members of the body of Jesus are to treat one another. Begin with prayer.

Read the following Scriptures and record what you learn concerning how we in the body of Christ are called to treat one another.

* Phil. 2:1-4 –
* Phil. 2:5-11 –
* Rom. 15:1-3, 7
* Rom. 12:10-13, 16 –
* Rom. 14:1-21 – brief overview statement, what is the point here? –
* Heb. 10:24-25 –
* Gal. 6:1-2 –
* Eph. 4:1-3 –
* Eph. 4:31-32 –
* Col. 3:12-14 –
* II Thess. 5:11 –
* Jam. 5:9 –
* I Pet. 4:8-9 –

How are you doing in your part in the body of Christ at Faith Family? What has He shown you this week that you need to repent of and obey Him in?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON SEVEN**

**DAY ONE –**

We begin chapter 2 this week. Before you read this chapter begin with prayer, asking Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

Read 1:24-2:5. If you have not already mark the word “mystery”. List below what you learn concerning the mystery.

* 1:25-26 –
* 1:27 –
* 1:28 –
* 2:2 –

What is the mystery?

Where are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden?

Where are you seeking knowledge and wisdom from?

Is there more treasure or wealth than that which is in Jesus?

What are we constantly doing and having to guard against in this walk of faith in Jesus alone?

We have to be honest, are we looking for the next great book or sermon or conference or teaching that we can find the more in? If one is not satisfied with Jesus alone there is a fundamental problem. Ask the Holy Spirit to shine a light into your heart and mind and show you if you are fully satisfied with Christ alone and His Word alone.

Read completely through chapter 2.

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

How does that relate to you? What is He asking you to do? What will you do next?

**DAY TWO –**

After you have begun with prayer read chapter 2 again. As you are reading, and if you have not already, mark every reference to Jesus. Also, mark somewhat distinctly “in Him” and “with Him”.

List what you learned about Jesus in chapter 2.

This chapter is telling us all we need is Jesus, why is He all we need – according to this chapter.

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

How has this changed the way you will walk/live?

**DAY THREE –**

Once again read through chapter 2, as you read mark the warnings/instructions.

What is the first instruction in V. 6?

What are the warnings? Keep your answers simple or basic.

1. V. 4 –
2. V. 8 –
3. Vv. 16-17 –
4. Vv. 18-19 –
5. Vv. 20-23 –

So obviously, what had been taking place in Colossae and Laodicea?

Do you see any parallels with what goes on in the churches of our day?

How can you guard against the same happening to you? Use this chapter to answer that question.

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What has He shown you today that you need to adjust in your own life?

**DAY FOUR –**

After beginning in prayer read chapter 2 once again, as you do mark the key words – faith, wisdom, knowledge.

List below what you learn from the word “faith”:

List below what you learn from the word “wisdom”:

List below what you learn from the word “knowledge”:

What contrast do you see in verses 2, 3 and verse 8?

What contrasts do you see in the following verses?

* V. 8 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 17 –
* Between V. 18 and V. 19 –
* V. 20 –
* V. 23 –

What has He said to you today? What is He asking you to adjust in your thinking and walk?

**DAY FIVE –**

Begin with prayer and then read chapter 2 completely through. On day one you were to mark Jesus and then also mark “in Him” and “with Him”. List below what you can observe from these two phrases.

**IN HIM –**

* V. 3 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 6 –
* V. 7 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* V. 11 –

What is true for you as a follower of Jesus because you are in Him according to what you just observed?

**WITH HIM –**

* V. 12 -
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 20 –

According to this chapter, what has Jesus done for you?

How then are you to walk/live according to Vv. 6-7?

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON EIGHT**

**DAY ONE –**

As always, begin your time in prayer.

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the heart or soul to God, thru Christ, in the strength and assistance of the Holy Spirit, for such things as God has promised or according to His Word, for the good of the church, with submission in faith to the will of God.” John Bunyan

“But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come, He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.” John 16:12-14

Today read 2:1-5 several times through.

Who is speaking?

To whom is he speaking?

Why is he writing? V. 1

Why is he in agony on their behalf? (*agon* in the Greek) V. 2

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What will be the result of this? V. 2b

What is the mystery of God that has now been revealed? V. 2

What was God’s hidden plan of redemption?

What is found in Him? V. 3

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How much of these treasures are in Jesus?

Where were people looking for wisdom and knowledge in Paul’s day?

Where are people looking for wisdom and knowledge in your day?

Where are you looking for wisdom and knowledge? Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart before you run past the question.

What happens when we look for wisdom and knowledge in other places besides Christ alone? V. 4

There are a lot of facts out there in the world in science, history, technology, etc., but how do we know what they mean and how they should or should not be applied?

Although some were being deluded by men’s best thinking, logic, or arguments, what was Paul rejoicing in concerning those true believers that were in Christ? V. 5

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Where was their faith placed? V. 5b

What is Paul’s concern for these believers and what is the Lord’s concern for you today? Vv. 1-5

That I should -

If you have time today look up some of the Greek words used in the text for today.

* Encourage – *parakaleo -*
* Knit together – *symbibazo* –
* Knowledge – *epignosko* –
* Wisdom – *sofia* –
* Delude – *paralogizomai* –
* Persuasive argument – *pithanologia* –
* Good discipline – *taxis* – it was a military term used of an orderly array of soldiers.
* Stability – *stereoma* –

According to what you have studied today in verses 1-5, what should you be concerned about?

What is the answer for this concern?

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, His purposes?

What has He asked you to do? What will you do next?

**DAY TWO –**

After you have begun with prayer, read 2:1-7 today.

What was his concern for them in V. 4?

What would prevent them from being led astray from Truth, according to Vv. 1-5?

What was his next concern for them according to V. 6?

How are you to be walking day in and day out now?

What has happened to them in the past (completed action with a continuing result, settled state)? V. 7a

Who are they firmly rooted in, with the present result that they are firmly anchored? V. 7

Who are they currently being built up in and their faith being established in?

What are they to be actively and continually overflowing with?

What is this gratitude for? Vv. 1-7

How did they come to be in this state? V. 7b

Who had instructed or taught them these truths?

So according to Vv. 6 and 7, how is one kept from being led astray by false reasoning?

Since you are instructed to walk in Jesus as you received Him, how did you receive Christ Jesus the Lord? Look up the following and record the answer from the scriptures.

* Eph. 2:8-10 –
* Titus 3:5-7; 2:11-14 –
* Rom. 5:1 –
* Acts 20:21b –

Now how are you to walk in Jesus?

According to vv. 1-7, what has been done for you in Jesus?

Who is the standard of measure of truth, wisdom, and knowledge?

Is there any higher knowledge?

What difference are these truths making in your daily life, your walk with Christ?

What has He said to you today?

**DAY THREE AND FOUR –**

After you have spent time seeking Him and asking Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself in understanding truth, read 2:1-15.

What is his warning to the Colossians, Laodiceans, our local body and you? V. 8

According to this verse what can you be taken captive by?

- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the love of wisdom)

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- anything other than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Himself

Read I Cor. 1:17-2:16; 3:18-23 and mark the word “wisdom”.

Record below everything you observed concerning the wisdom of this world.

According to these passages, what is the wisdom of God?

Read Acts 17:16-34.

What did you learn about those caught up in worldly philosophy?

How did Paul deal with them?

What was the result?

How does this apply to the day in which you live?

“See to it” is present active imperative – continually, constantly, be actively watching out, keeping a watchful eye on. “Be ever on your guard lest there shall be anyone who ruins you.” Expositors

They want to carry you off as a captive and slave to their philosophies and/or traditions.

Read Matt. 15:1-9 and record what you learn their concerning the traditions of men.

What were the Pharisees teaching? How were they teaching their traditions? V. 9

What were they doing by teaching their tradition as the very Word of God? Vv. 3, 6b

Can you think of something you have been taught or heard that was taught as if it were the very Word of God but it was not, and you were expected to follow it like it was the Word of God?

Next, he did not want them to be led astray captive to the “elementary principles of the world”.

Look up the following and record what you learn about the elementary principles of the world.

* Col. 2:20 – what is to be your relationship to be to them?
* Gal. 4:3 –
* Gal. 4:9 –
* I John 2:15-17 –
* II Pet. 3:10-18 –

According to Col. 2:8, what is being contrasted in this verse?

Tomorrow we will look at the “rather than according to Christ” Himself.

What did He show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today after prayer read 2:8-15.

What was the warning in verse 8?

What are you to be taken captive to? V. 8b

What did you learn about Him?

* V. 9 – (He was and is absolute and perfect God!) –
* V. 10 – (All you need is Jesus!) –
* V. 10 –
* V. 11 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 – what **was** your condition before Christ? What is it now?
* V. 14 – How did you come to be forgiven? –
* V. 15 –

What were the decrees written against you?

* Gal. 3:10-13, 22-26 –
* Rom. 4:15; 5:20 –
* I Cor. 15:56 –

What did He do about those decrees written against you?

What did He do to the enemy of your soul? V. 15; I John 3:5, 8b

As a result of what your Lord and Savior has done for you how should you now live and what is your motivation? I John 3:1-3; I Peter 1:14-19; Eph. 4:1; Col. 2:6

What has He said to you today?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON NINE**

**DAY ONE AND TWO –**

Don’t forget, begin your time in prayer seeking Him above all else.

Read 2:16-23. And re-read it on the second day. Try to spread this over two days so you can get the full benefit of the truths in this passage.

What is the second warning given? V. 16

Why are you to stop doing this? Vv. 9-15, 17b

What were all these Old Testament things, according to verse 17?

But who does reality, not shadow, belong?

What does that mean that those things are shadow and Christ is the substance? Heb.8:4-6; 9:8-14; 10:1-10 – just state the big picture here.

What is the next warning given? V. 18

How were they being defrauded (*katabrabeuo* – being robbed of the prize, condemned, disqualified, deprived of the prize, cheated, to declare unworthy or disqualified of the prize?

“By delighting in” (*Thelo* – present act. – continually, as the habit of their lives, being pleased by, desiring, wishing to have, or wanting)

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- And - V. 19a –

Word definitions:

* Self-abasement – *tapeinophrosyne –* false humility, disingenuous humility
* Worship – *theskeia* – ritual act of devotion for a divine being, service to idols; “expression of devotion to transcendent beings especially as it expresses itself in cult rites.” BDAG Or “over-scrupulous devotion to external forms.” Weust
* Taking a stand on visions – “has the idea of wanting to by-pass the Word of God and the Spirit of God.” “These false teachers scrutinized minutely the things which they imagined or professed to have seen in visions.” (Weust) Go with what your dream up for God.
* Inflated – *phusico -* Very puffed up, proud, by their carnal way of thinking/opinions/minds

Again what were the false teachers and followers of false teachers not doing? V. 19a

What are the benefits of we as a body staying connected to the Head? V. 19

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What is the result? V. 19b

What is the only way to grow God’s way? V.19

What then does man-centered teaching do according to v. 19?

If the spinal cord is disconnected from the head what is the result? What is the result spiritually?

What is the source of God-centered growth? V. 19

What would your responsibility be to the entire body?

What is the subtle effect of man-centered teaching according to v. 19?

According to v. 20, what is true of the one who is in Christ?

Elementary principles – *stoichera* – elementary teachings and practices of the world in the ethical sense – living by the worlds rules, ways, ethics, morality, all that allures us away from Jesus.

Read I John 2:15-17. Record below all that you observe about the things of this world.

According to vv. 20-23, what are the world’s principles/teachings? What are they based on (v. 22b)? What are they not based on (v. 19)?

* Vv. 20b-21 –
* V. 23 –

What is the value of the base principles or teachings of the world?

* V. 22 –
* V. 23 –

But what were they and what do we have to struggle to guard against according to vv. 16-23?

What does man-centered teaching look like? Vv.16-23

Pastor Mbewe said, “Too many Christians are doctrinally malnourished so that any bacteria or virus of heresy that comes their way soon wreaks havoc in their lives.”

How does man-centered/worldly teaching effect a believer’s walk with God?

What has He been saying to you specifically these two days? What will you do next? Don’t be tempted to skip this question. Are you just following the rules or are you pursuing a real and living relationship with Him? Why do you answer in that way?

Col. 2:20 tells you, “you have died with Christ”, what does 3:1 tell you that you also have been?

Because of this what are you to keep on doing as the habit of your life? 3:1-2

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What had they obviously been seeking after? What about you, what have you been seeking after spiritually?

What had they set their minds/thinking on? What about you, what has your mind/thinking been set on spiritually?

**DAY THREE –**

Today we start observation on chapter 3. So begin with prayer and then read all of chapter 3, as you read mark all the instructions given.

In simple statements, leave off their explanations, record the instructions below.

* V. 1 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 –
* V. 10 –
* V. 12 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 13 –
* V. 14 –
* V. 15 –
* V. 16 –
* V. 16 –
* V. 17 –
* V. 17 –
* V. 18 –
* V. 19 –
* V. 20 –
* V. 21 –
* V. 22 –
* V. 23 –

What does correct teaching led you to?

What does Titus 2:11-14 teach you about this?

Who is at the center of correct teaching? V. 11b

Who is at the center of correct living?

What has He showed you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FOUR –**

After you have begun with prayer read chapter 3 again, this time look for and mark every contrast you observe. Record the contrasts below.

* 2:20 – the things of the world/with 3:1 – things above
* 3:1a/3:3a – raised/died
* 3:2 – the things above/things that are on the earth
* Vv.8-9/vv.10, 12 – put aside/put on
* V. 9/v. 10 – old self/new self
* V. 11a/v. 11b –
* V. 23a/v. 23b –
* V. 23/v. 24 –

According to v. 1 whose perspective are you to be seeking concerning all things?

Why?

Whose way of thinking are you to be setting your mind on? V. 2

Why? Vv. 3-4

In view of the fact that you have been raised up with Christ and your life is hidden in Christ, what are you to do as the habit of your life?

V. 1 –

v. 2 –

So, to whom is he speaking?

Whose way of thinking do we now have according to I Cor. 2:16b and Phil. 2:5?

According to Phil. 2:5-8, what was His way of thinking?

What should be your way of thinking then? Re-state it to make it personal. His attitude – my attitude

What is of value (2:23) against fleshly indulgence/gratification according to 3:1-4?

What is of value against fleshly indulgence/gratification according to Rom. 6? Bullet point your answers.

* What are you to know? Vv. 3-5, 6-7, 16 –
* How does knowing these things have value against fleshy indulgence?
* What are you to consider yourself to be? V. 11
* What are you to do as a result? V. 12, 13

How is it possible to do this according to Rom. 8:2, 9, 11?

According to Col. 3:4, who is your life now that you are hidden with Christ in God?

When He is revealed, made visible, who else will be revealed with Him in glory?

“The veil which covers, shrouds, your higher life from others, will be withdrawn. The world which now persecutes, despises, ignores now will then be blinded with the dazzling glory of the revelation.” Lightfoot

“Your life now is no longer in the sphere of the earthly and sensual but is with, and inseparable from, the life of the risen Lord who is unseen!” *Weust*

Who is your life and hope?

What are you seeking as the habit of your life?

What are you setting your mind on as the habit of your life?

What should you do next? Why, what is your motivation to do that?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read 3:1-17. Don’t forget to seek His face first. Ask Him to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.

How does v. 5 begin?

Why should you consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed? Vv. 1-4

Consider – *nekroo* – aor. act. imp. – as a completed action with lasting results; it is an imperative/command – kill, put to death, to cease completely, deprive power, destroy the strength of.

How is this possible according to vv. 1-4?

“He is the dynamic (power, strength, ability) of what He demands.” *Thomas*

What is the result of those things in v. 5? V. 6

When outside of Jesus how did you **once** walk and live as the habit of your life? V.7

According to Eph. 2:1-3, when you were outside of Jesus what was your condition?

Who took the wrath reserved for you and paid your sin debt? Heb. 9:11-14, 22, 26

Read Eph. 5:1-18. Write down your observations:

* Concerning the wrath of God –
* Your former life outside of Jesus –
* How you should currently live –

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

How should this effect your walk in this world?

**COLOSSIANS LESSON TEN**

**DAY ONE –**

Today, begin with prayer, read 3:1-17.

As review –

How did you once walk when you were outside of Christ according to V. 5? Which indicates a state of total depravity! This was the sphere or realm in which all lost people operate. No one can choose that which glorifies God supremely until they are raised to life by God’s grace..

Word definitions:

* Immorality – *porneia* – illicit sex in general
* Impurity – *akatharsia* – in a moral sense lustful, luxurious, reckless, extravagant, and wasteful living
* Passion – *pathos* – in this context – inordinate affection, depraved passions
* Evil desire – *epithumia kake* – evil wicked cravings
* Greed – *pleonexia* – greedy desire to have more
* Idolatry – *eidolatreia* – worship of false gods

What is the result of these things? V. 6

Are these to define our walk and way of living now as those who belong to Him? V. 7

Why? Vv. 1-4

Now that you have once and for all put these things to death, and they have ceased completely in your life, what are you to put aside (to strip completely off) now, according to V. 8 and V. 9?

Word definitions:

* Anger – *orge* – an abiding, settled, and habitual anger which includes the purpose of revenge
* Wrath – *thumos* – the boiling agitation of the feelings; sudden violent anger
* Malice – *kakia* – ill-will, desire to injure, wickedness, depravity, rashness, wicked hateful feelings
* Slander – *blasphemia* – slander, speech injurious to another’s good name
* Abusive speech – *aischrologia* – foul, low and obscene words or speech, dirty talk

(Word definitions – combination of Weust and BDAG)

What clothes are you to now put on in their place? V. 10

What is presently being done to that new self you now possess? V. 10

What is it being renewed to?

Which is dominated by whose image?

What is this image no longer distinguished by? V. 11

Why? V. 11b

How would this effect the unity in the church?

What makes you distinct, what defines you now that you are in Christ, or where is your identity derived from – your former life, your job, your family background, what you have or don’t have, your age, or position in this world?

What light does II Cor. 5:16-17 shed on this?

How should we view one another in the church?

What has He shown you today?

**DAY TWO –**

After beginning in prayer read 3:1-17.

How is the believer identified in V. 12?

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What is the one who is elect of God, separated unto God for His use, and who is loved of God to do? V. 12

Are you to put these things on top of “clothes” of the old self/way of life? What were you instructed to do first?

* V. 5 –
* V. 8 –
* V. 9 –

What are you to put on?

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-

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What else are you called to do as His elect, holy, and loved one? V. 13

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How are you called to forgive?

Does this verse indicate this kind of forgiveness is possible? Why?

Word definitions:

* Chosen of God – *eklektoi tou theou* – to select out from a number by God. “That is, see that your manner of life is fitting, seemly, in accordance with that kind of life the elect of God should live.” Weust
* Holy – *hagios* – set apart from the former to God, for God; to live a separated life
* Heart of compassion – *splagchnon* – seat of tender affection
* Kindness *chrestotes* – speaks of a gentle gracious disposition that is expressed in attitude and deed, helpful spirit
* Humility – *tapeinophrasune* – having a humble opinion of one’s self – it is the recognition of one’s own weakness **but** also the recognition of the power of God; “the word indicates an obedient submissiveness to God and His will with unwavering faith and enduring patience which displays it’s self in a gentle attitude and in kind acts toward others and this often in the face of opposition it is the restrained and obedient powers of the personality brought into submission and subjection to God’s will by the Spirit.” LKGNT
* Gentleness – *prautes* – “an inwrought grace of the soul, that temper of spirit in which we accept God’s dealings with us as good, and therefore without disputing or resisting, though realizing that other peoples’ insults or injuries are permitted and employed by God for the training and purifying of His elect.” Trench - it doesn’t fight against God or His working thus against those people He chooses to use for our sanctification.
* Patience – *makrothumia* – expresses patience under ill-treatment; “Speaks of a person, who, having to do with injurious persons, doesn’t’ suffer himself easily to be provoked by them or blaze up in anger at them.” Weust
* Bearing with – *anecho* – to endure with, bear with, to put up with someone
* Forgiving – *charizomai* – to show one’s self gracious, kind, benevolent, to grant/gift forgiveness
* Complaint – *momphe* – to find fault with someone, to be dissatisfied with someone, commonly refers to errors of omission - a debt which needs to be remitted (Lightfoot)

Have you picked up on how chapters 1-3:4 were all about correct doctrine and now we have moved into correct living? What does that say to you practically?

According to all you have observed now, what is your motivation for correct living? Vv. 1-4, 10, 12a

What does V. 14 instruct you to put on over all those previous qualities?

Why?

Perfect – *teleiotes* – completeness, maturity, full growth, good working order

Read I Cor. 13:1-3 and record what you observe that applies to Col. 3:14.

When love is lacking in you, what does the body suffer as a result, according to Col. 3:14?

So, what is the binding factor?

You can do your “duty” as one of the elect but if you lack love, which is the binding that holds all the other qualities and graces together, there will be no maturity/perfection.

What has the Lord said to you today? What has He shown you about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY THREE –**

Today read 3:12-25. How should you begin?

The Scripture here deals with how you are to relate to three different groups of people, what are they?

* Vv. 12-17 –
* Vv. 18-21 –
* Vv. 22-25 –

Remember we have moved from correct teaching to the correct practical living it out. We will finish today with how you are to relate to the body of Christ, your church body.

Because you are elect of God, holy, and loved of God, what are you to put on now that you have stripped off once and for all the former things? Yes, list them again.

What are you to put on top of these qualities and virtues? V. 14

Why?

What two instructions are given to you and the entire body in V. 15?

- “let” – (pres. Imp. it is to be the continual habit of your practice) –

- “be” – (pres. Imp. – again, it is to be the habit of the body) –

Rule – *brabruo* – an athletic term – umpire; let the peace of Christ be the umpire in the body. “Wherever there is a conflict of motives or impulses or reasons, the peace of Christ must step in and decide which is to prevail.” Lightfoot

Thankful – *eucharisto* – good grace

What can you learn about this peace of Christ in the following passages?

* John 14:27; 16:33 –
* Rom. 12:16-21 –
* James 3:13-18 –

According to Jam. 3:13-18, what will be the sign that the peace of Christ is not ruling/umpiring in the body?

Now according to Jam. 3:17, it is not peace at any cost. What is first and foremost, and then is peaceable, etc. (pure/holy)? What does that mean?

What is your responsibility toward the peace of Christ ruling in the body, according to the verses you observed?

Where the love of Christ and the peace of Christ are not, what will be in their place?

Why is there to be love, peace, and unity, according to V. 15?

What word is repeated in Vv. 15, 16, and 17?

What did you learn about thankfulness in these verses?

Look up the following verses and record what you learn concerning being thankful. Make sure you ask the who, what, where, when, why, and how questions of each text.

* I Thess. 5:18 –
* Eph. 5:4, 18-20 –
* Phil. 4:6-7 – (And what three things are connected here in these verses.?)
* Ps. 95:1-7 –
* Ps. 100:1-5 –

What have you to be thankful for today? Be obedient and express it to Him.

**DAY FOUR –**

Today we will look specifically at 3:16-17. After you have begun with prayer read 3:10-17, so you can put our verses in context.

What relationship is this text dealing with?

How are you to be relating to your church body according to the text?

What is the instructions/imperatives given in V. 16?

Word definitions:

* Dwell – *enoikeo* – to make its home; to give the Word unrestricted liberty in one’s life.
* Richly – *plousios* – not just be yielded to the Word but one must have a good knowledge of it giving the Spirit of God use of it in our lives; it is His language – how He speaks
* Admonish – *noutheteo* – to warn, exhort, admonish, encourage, reprove

In verses 14-17 there are eight present active imperatives given, meaning - as the continuous habit of your life you are to be actively:

* Putting on love
* Letting the peace of Christ rule
* Being thankful
* Letting the Word dwell richly
* Teaching
* Admonishing
* Singing

According to V. 16, what are you to be letting make a home, and take up residence in you?

How can you be practically and actively doing this? These command actions.

Why are you instructed to do this? V. 16

How are we to be teaching and admonishing one another? V. 16

The saints of God with wisdom will be able to teach and admonish one another.

What form was the teaching and admonishing to be in? V. 16

In New Testament times, when everyone did not have a written Scripture, this form of teaching was employed in order for the to learn the Word of God. Have you ever considered the words to “Christian” songs as significant? Why then would the words to our congregational and private songs need to be doctrinally correct and Christ-centered?

What is to accompany this wise teaching and admonishing? V. 16b

The ultimate purpose therefore is to glorify God!!

How are you to be speaking and serving the body of Christ, according to V. 17?

And what is to accompany that? V. 17b

What difference does a heart of thanksgiving have on your speaking and service?

What responsibilities has the Lord Jesus given you in relation to the His body at FFF? Vv. 5-17

How will these instructions from the Lord change how you will now relate to the body? What will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read 3:18-21, after you have sought the Spirit’s help in prayer. You have one Teacher, truth is discerned only by the Spirit’s help. Ask the Lord to change your thinking, heart/will, and actions.

What is the next instruction/imperative given? V. 18

Who is this instruction for, what kind of wife? Vv. 1a, 3, 12a

Word definitions:

* Subject – *hypotassesthe –* to subject one’s self, put in subjection, take a subordinate place, obey – in this verse, joined with the word fitting, it means to do it voluntarily based on one’s own recognition of God’s order.
* Fitting – *aneko* – used of actions that are due to someone, has the idea of moral obligation – here the placing one’s self under the authority of God and the order He has placed in the family it is the wife’s moral obligation, necessity or duty

This instruction is for the wife who is in Jesus. Her duty flows out of a relationship to the Lord Jesus and her submission is to Him, resulting in submission to her husband.

Look up the following verses and record what light they shed on the wife, who is in Jesus, responsibility toward her Lord and her husband.

* Eph. 5:22-24, 33b –
* Titus 2:4-5 –
* I Peter 3:1-6 –

If you are a wife, what has the Lord shown you today concerning your relationship to your husband?

What will you do next?

What is the next instruction/imperative given in V. 19?

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Word definitions:

* Love – *agape* – the love that was shown at Calvary, God’s unconditional, active love – “The love produced in the heart of the yielded saint by the Spirit, the love that will cause a husband to sacrifice himself and his wishes in the interest of the well-being of his wife.” *Weust*
* Embittered – *pikraino* – to be bitter, bitter feelings, to make sharp, behave harshly, to be irritated

Look up the following verses and record any insights into the responsibilities of the husband toward his wife.

* I Peter 3:7 –
* Eph. 5:23-33 –

If you are a husband, what has the Lord shown you today concerning your relationship to your wife?

What will you do next?

Remember the husband and the wife in these verses are those who are the “chosen of God, holy, and beloved”. We should not expect the world to live this way, nor should we be surprised when they do not understand how we would want to live God’s way.

**COLOSSIANS LESSON ELEVEN**

**DAY ONE –**

Today read 3:12-21.

Who are these instructions for, according to V. 12?

What is the instruction given to children? V. 20

Why are they to do this? V. 20

Read the following verses and record any insights concerning children towards their parents.

* Prov. 6:20-23 –
* Eph. 6:1-3 –

To whom is the next instruction given? V. 21

What are they instructed to do?

Why?

Read the following verses and record any insights concerning the father toward their children.

* Eph. 6:4 –
* Deut. 6:5-15 –
* Josh. 24:14-15 –

How should the truth concerning who Jesus is, what God has done for you, in and through the Lord Jesus to reconcile you to Himself, affect the way you live day to day?

* In relation to the church –
* In relation to your family –

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY TWO –**

Today read 3:12-4:1. Don’t forget to seek your Teacher first.

To whom is the next instruction given? V. 22

What are they instructed to do?

* V. 22 –

How are you to do this?

* V. 23 –

What is most important, the work you do or how you do the work you have?

Why are you to do it this way? V. 24 –

What should you expect, if you are not obeying these instructions? V. 25

What kind of employee should you be? Why?

How may the one outside of Christ serve his/her employee? Vv. 22, 25

Who does the one chosen of God, holy, and beloved of God serve as an employee?

What difference will these truths make in how you do your work, whether you dig ditches or work in an office or clean up behind your family?

Read the following cross-references and record any insights concerning your relationship to your employer.

* Eph. 6:5-9 –
* I Tim. 6:1-2 –
* Titus 2:9-14 –

Word definitions:

* External service – *ophthalmodouleia* – eye service, service performed under watchful eyes only
* Men pleaser – *anthropareskai* – one who tries to please men at the sacrifice of principle
* Sincerity - *haplotes* - idea of personal integrity expressed in word or action, speak plainly, speak simply without hidden agenda or strings attached.
* Heartily – *ek psyche* – out of the soul, to work energetically diligently as opposed to idleness or inactivity.

One’s work, no matter what kind it is, is to always in every aspect be done as service to the Lord.

What has the Lord shown you today concerning His ways and purposes concerning your work?

What instruction is given in 4:1 and to whom?

What is this master’s relationship to the Lord Jesus?

What should the master who is a believer expect if they treat someone wrong according to 3:25? Why?

If you are the boss at work, how does this instruction change your thinking and thus your actions? Why?

What has the Lord said to you today?

**DAY THREE –**

Today we will do observation on chapter 4. After you have begun with prayer read chapter 4 as you read mark the following key words – prayer/praying, speak/speech, mystery, and fellow.

Read chapter 4 again this time marking any instructions. Record the instructions below.

* V. 2 –
* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 5 –
* V. 6 –

Record below what you observed about the key word “prayer/praying.”

* V. 2 –
* V. 3 –
* V. 12 –

What did the Lord show you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

What did He instruct you to do? What will you do next?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today read chapter 4 once again, as you read mark each person who is mentioned. Record their names and what you learn about them from the text.

* Vv. 7-9 –
* V. 9 –
* Vv. 10, 11 –
* Vv. 10, 11 –
* V. 11 –
* Vv. 12-13 –
* V. 14 –
* V. 14 –
* V. 17 –
* V. 18 –

What character qualities did you observe in these people?

What has He shown you today as it relates to your service to the Lord in ministering to the body?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read 4:2-6. Remember to begin your time in prayer.

What is the instruction given in V. 2?

How is this to be done? V. 2

Word studies:

* Devote – *proskarterea* – pres. Act. imp. -present tense indicating it is to be done as the habit of your life, continually; to give constant attention to something, to give unremitting care to something, to persevere, to wait continually upon.
* Keeping alert – *gregoreo* – to give strict attention to, to be active, to take heed and be diligent in lest some destructive calamity suddenly overtakes you.

In light of all you have studied so far in Colossians why this urgent call to diligence in prayer?

Why should you be giving the same devotion and diligence to prayer, in light of the day in which you live, for yourself and the body?

Look up the following Scriptures and record what determines the effectiveness of your prayers.

* I John 3:21-22; Ps. 66:17-20 –
* James 4:2-3 –
* John 14:13 -
* John 15:7 –
* John 15:16 –
* John 16:23-24 –
* I John 5:14-15 –
* Heb. 11:6; Mark 11:23-26 –
* Luke 11:5-11; 18:1-8 –

Spend the rest of your time meditating on what you have studied today. Pray.

**COLOSSIANS LESSON TWELVE**

**DAY ONE –**

Today after prayer read 3:12-4:6.

As one who has been chosen of God, holy, and beloved of God – how are you instructed to relate to:

* The body of Christ? – 3:12-17 –
* Your family? – 3:18-21 –
* Those you work with? – 3:22-4:1 –
* Those who are outside of Christ? – 4:2-6 –

What is Paul asking them to pray for himself and those with him? Vv. 3-4

What are you instructed to do in V. 5?

How are you to “order your life”, live in this world? V. 5

What is the next instruction given to you? V. 6

Why are you to do this? V. 6

Expositors puts it this way, “You must be wise in your relations with those outside of Christ so as not to give them an unfavorable impression of the gospel.”

Word study –

Seasoned with salt – “Salt has a two-fold purpose (1) it gives flavor to the discourse and recommends it to the palate, this being the primary idea here. (2) It preserves from corruption and renders wholesome.” Lightfoot

Once again, Expositors puts it this way, “We must strive to cultivate the gift of pleasant, gracious, and wise conversation, so that we may be able to speak appropriately to each individual (with their peculiar needs) with whom we come in contact.”

What two aspects of your life are dealt with in this passage as it relates to the lost?

* Vv. 3-4, 6 –
* V. 5 –

How should you then live and speak to those you come in contact with who are outside of Christ?

What has He said to you today? What has He shown you about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY TWO –**

Today read 4:7-18, after you have spent time seeking your Teacher’s help.

What character qualities does Paul point out in each man’s life? Just make a list.

In light of the false teaching that was being introduced to the Colossian believers, why would Paul have to send recommendations for these men to the churches?

Read II Thess. 2:2, 15; 3:17. What had someone done? Who wrote this letter to the Thessalonians?

Who wrote the greetings in the letter to the Colossians? 4:18

Why would it be necessary to know personally those who preach and teach you, or to have recommendations for those whom you may listen to by someone whom you trust? Col. as a whole; Acts 20:17-38; Matt. 7:15-20

What has the Lord said to you today? What will you do next?

**DAY THREE –**

As we draw our study to a close, let’s review some. It is important that we are “filled with the full knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we 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 full knowledge of God.” So, by way of reminder, re-read chapter one, according to chapter 1 what did you learn about the Lord Jesus – and then God your Father? This should be quite easy since you will have already marked every reference to Him

Jesus –

God your Father –

How does knowing these truths about who He is help you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?

What is to be your proclamation, according to 1:28a?

How are you to proclaim Him? 1:28

Why? 1:28

How are you to be laboring? 1:29

What has He shown you today about Himself, His ways, or His purposes?

**DAY FOUR –**

Today after you have begun with prayer read chapter 2-3:4 and record below what you learned from the text about Jesus and God your Father.

The Lord Jesus –

God the Father –

What were the three warnings in this chapter?

* V. 8 –
* V. 16 –
* Vv. 18-19, 23 –

How do these warnings apply to you personally?

* V. 8 –
* V. 16 –
* Vv. 18-20, 23 –

What has He said to you today? As a result, what will you do next?

**DAY FIVE –**

Today read chapter 3 – 4:6.

What has Jesus done for you and become to you, according to what you just read? 3:1-4, 12

How is this to affect your walk with Christ in relation to –

* your inward life/upward life – Vv. 1-11 –
* your connection to the body of Christ – Vv. 12-17 –
* your family life – Vv. 18-21 -
* your work life – Vv. 22-4:1 –

If one is continually believing Jesus is who He is as portrayed in Scripture, and trusting in His finished work of redemption on the cross for them, how should that one be living?

“And Jesus was saying to them all, ‘If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny Himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his soul will lose it, but whoever loses his soul for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?’” Luke 9:23-25

“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.” Luke 14:26-27

“And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” II Cor. 5:15

What would you say is the most significant thing He taught you through the study of Colossians?