



IN CHRIST ALONE

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS (PART 1)

When Paul was writing to the believers in Rome he declared, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” (Romans 1:16) He was convinced that the message he preached was transformational. His message was centred around Jesus Christ, the incarnate God and it had been birthed out of his own personal encounter and ongoing relationship with Him. Paul had never visited Colosse, so he writes a letter and shares his gospel, revealing Christ to them and teaching them how to live as His disciples. This is a letter for us all.

Colossians 1:1-2

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Saints -Strong's 40- most holy thing, sacred, consecrated

Colossians 1:3-8

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing - as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

When we receive a letter we want to know who it is from and to whom it is addressed.



READ Colossians 1:1-2.

Who is writing this letter?

How does Paul describe himself and how does this impact the content of his letter?

How are the recipients described? (Note the 2 places they live!)

What comes to them from God their Father?

READ Colossians 1:3-8. Mark “you / your” with a  and mark “gospel” and any synonyms with a 

V4-5,8 What does Paul thank God for in their lives? What is the reason for their faith and love (v5)?

V5-7 List all you learn about the gospel. What core message had they understood (v6)?

V6 How is the power in the gospel shown?

V8 How have they been empowered to love?

If God is our Father (v2) and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (v3), what does that tell you about our relationship with Jesus?

Colossians 1:9-12

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Knowledge -Strong's 1922- precise / correct knowledge
Understanding -Strong's 4907- running / flowing together
Endurance -Strong's 5281- steadfastness, constancy
Patience -Strong's 3115- longsuffering, slow to avenge wrongs

Colossians 1:13-14

¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Domain -1849- authority , jurisdiction, power of rule
Kingdom -932- royal power, territory subject to rule of king

John 10:10-11

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

It is believed that the church in Colosse was being influenced by some false teachers who were saying that Jesus was not enough and that secret knowledge and extra practices were needed to reach God. Despite this being the smallest church Paul ever wrote to, his letter contains his fullest teachings on who Jesus is. Lets read on to find out what he says.

Paul's prayers in the NT letters provide us with wonderful templates to use as we pray for others. Let's discover what Paul asks God to do in the life of these Colossian believers.

Read Colossians 1:9-12. Mark "you / us" with a ○ and mark references to "God / he / his" with a △

V9 What is Paul's specific request for them?

V10 What does Paul see as 3 outcomes from this request?

V11-12 How will these outcomes be achieved and what will be required?

How do the word studies help your understanding?

V12 What has God already done? How does this relate to 1v5?

Read this prayer again and place your own name or the name of someone you are praying for into the text. Memorise v9-12 and use these words to help you as you pray.

Read Colossians 1:13-14 and mark "us/we" with a ○

What three statements does Paul make about us?

What contrast is being made here?

Who makes this possible?

Read John 10:10-11. Jesus is speaking.

V10 How does this contrast help you to see the difference between these two kingdoms?

V11 To what kind of King are we now subject?

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Holy -Strong's 40- same word as "saints" in v2

Blameless -Strong's 299- unblameable, without blemish

Above reproach -Strong's 410- unproveable, unaccused

Jude v24 & 25

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Read Colossians 1:15-20. Mark references to "Jesus / he / him" with a and underline the words "all / everything".

Make a list on everything Paul says about Jesus. Reflect on each statement.

How often is the word all / everything repeated? What does this tell you?

Reflect on the greatness of who Jesus is and the fact he reconciled us through the blood of his cross. What does this tell you about the extent of his love for us?

Read Colossians 1:21-23. Mark "you" with a and mark "he" with a

V21 What 3 things once described the Colossians?

V22 What 3 things describe them as they are presented in Christ to God?

Reflect on the word studies and what they mean.

V23 What will be evidence of the reality of their faith?

READ Jude 24 & 25.

V24 What 2 things is God able to do through Jesus Christ our Lord? Relate this to Col 1:22-23.

V25 What is due the King in whose kingdom we now live?

Ask the Holy Spirit to write on your heart one or two key truths that you have learned from this study. Pray that truth back to God thanking him for all he has done in Christ for you.

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

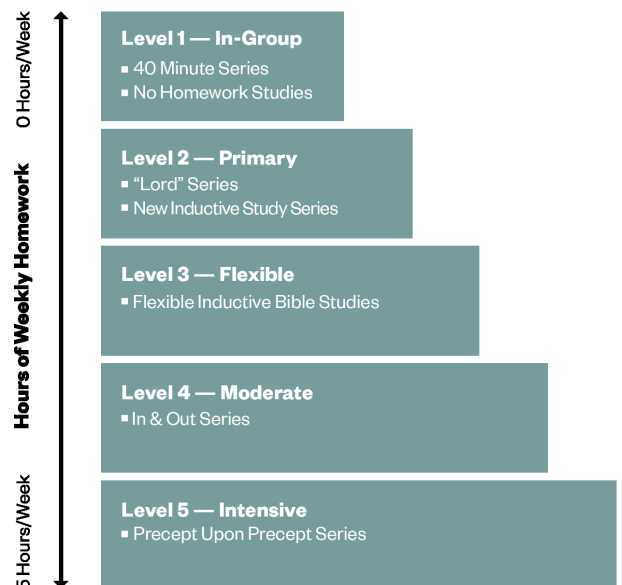
Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

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Do you wish others were learning to study God's Word with you? We also provide Leader Training sessions to equip people with the skills needed to lead a Precept Bible study.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help you or your church.

FREE RESOURCE

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PRECEPT IRELAND

www.preceptireland.org
+44 (028) 9074 6082
info@preceptireland.org
Unit 9A, NCM House, 218 York Street,
Belfast, NI, BT15 1GY