



IN CHRIST ALONE

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

(PART 3)

Paul has spent the first half of his letter focused on the complete sufficiency that is found in Christ. His indwelling presence in us, our hope of glory, gives us free access to all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge and we can mine those riches as we increase in our knowledge of Him. **“God is enough. If you receive him into your life, you will never again be governed by unsatisfied desire. Those who receive the word of Jesus and the person of Jesus will never thirst again.” (Dallas Willard).** Paul now focuses our attention on how we make this a daily reality in our life.

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Ephesians 2:4-7

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

Seek - 2212 - seek in order to find, strive after, crave.

Think about the meaning of the word “seek”. What would it look like for us to seek and set our minds on the things that are above?

Read Colossians 3:1-4. Mark “Christ” with a and “you / your” with a Underline the instructions in v1 and v2.

V1&3 List what you learn about Christ from these two verses.

Read Ephesians 2:4-7 & 1:3. Mark “God / him” with a and underline “heavenly places”.

Mark Christ with a

2:4-7 List all the things God has done for us.

V4-5 Why and when did God do this for us?

V6 Where are we seated and how are we seated there?

V7 What is God’s ultimate purpose for us?

In Eph. 1:3 - Where are our spiritual blessings to be found?

How does this passage relate to Colossians 3:1-4?

What two instructions does Paul give in Col 3:1-2?

From what we learned, why is this so important?

1 John 3:2-3

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Colossians 3:5-11

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

Put off - 554 - separate from it, strip off from oneself

Put on - 1746 - to sink into, put on to oneself



Colossians 1:9-10

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

2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

From Colossians 3:4 (p.1) what is the promise for the future?

Read 1 John 3:2-3. Mark "we / everyone" with a  and mark "him" with a 

What do these verses tell us about now and about the future?

How does this tie in with Colossians 3:4?

Look at 1 John 3:3. How should this impact our life now?

As we set our minds on things above, and look forward to the glory to come, how do we purify ourselves and live in the in-between?

Read Colossians 3:5-11. Mark "you" with a  and underline the instructions.

List the instructions in these verses.

V6-7 what reasons does Paul give for putting off the old self?

Reflect on all that is listed and must be put away.

V10 What are we to put on?

V10-11 What is the final identity of this new self?

How does this relate to 1 John 3:2 printed above?

V10 What is the process by which we put on Christ? How does this relate to Paul's prayer for them in Colossians 1:9-10?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:18.

How does setting our minds on things above help us in this process of putting on Christ?

**"As we are joined to Christ, we are being restored just as the whole creation is being restored. This is not just happening to us individually, but to all of us who are in Christ."
John Woodhouse**

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 14:27


²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Psalms 100:4-5

⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!
⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Romans 12:1-2

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Read Colossians 3:12-17. Mark references to the believers with a  and mark "thanks / thankful" with a .

V12 How does Paul describe the believers?

Reflect on the implications of each of these words.

V12-14 List the qualities we must put on.

Whose image do these qualities reflect?

Read v15-17 again and underline instructions.

V15 What is Paul's first instruction?

Read John 14:27.

Where does this peace come from?

V16 What is the key instruction and how will this aid the process of our being made more like Jesus?

How are we to encourage each other in this?

V17 What is instructed here and how would this look lived out in our daily lives?

V15-17 What key word is repeated in each of these verses?

Read Psalm 100:4-5.

When and why should we give thanks?

Read Romans 12:1-2.

How do these verses reflect all we have learned about our mind and our body?

Highlight one action you are going to take as a response to this study, and bring it to God in prayer... with thanksgiving.

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?

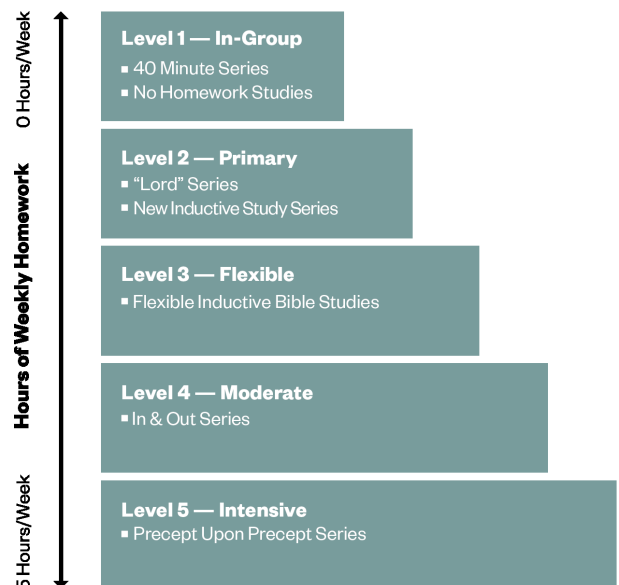
Apply - What does this mean for me?

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...

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