



IN CHRIST ALONE

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

(PART 4)

As we come to the end of this short letter that Paul wrote to the church in Colosse, the focus is on practical application of the truth that he has been teaching. Paul has exalted Christ, and explained that in him we will find all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge. In the face of every challenge, this is the core truth we must come back to - everything we need is found in Christ - his presence in us is enough. Living this out requires us setting our minds on this reality and doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul now shows how this works out in our everyday relationships.

Colossians 3:18-21

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:22-4:1

²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

¹ Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Read Colossians 3:18-21. Underline each group of people mentioned. Mark the Lord with a

What context does Paul deal with first? Why do you think this is?

Note what each group is instructed to do.

WIVES (note how?)

HUSBANDS

CHILDREN (note why?)

FATHERS (note why?)

How does the husbands obedience help the wife to be obedient?

How does the father's obedience help the child?

How important is the man's role in the family?

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1. Mark as above.

V22 How is a bondservant to work?

V23-24 What should their focus be?

4:1 How does the master's obedience help in this?

How does all Paul's teaching in this letter relate to the instructions in 3:18-4:1?

What lessons can we learn for our home life and our work life?

The focus on Christ impacts every area of our lives, matters in every relationship and our obedience encourages others to obey.

Colossians 4:2-4

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison - ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:5-6

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

1 Peter 3: 15-16

¹⁵ but in your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defence to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behaviour in Christ may be put to shame.

Colossians 4:7-9

⁷ Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. ⁸ I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, ⁹ and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

GO FURTHER:

The story of Onesimus is told in Paul's letter to Philemon, the letter Tychicus is also taking with him as he heads to Colosse. Take time to read this letter and note how Paul's teaching is played out in the events that had taken place.

Read Colossians 4:2-4. Mark prayer with a 

V2 What 3 things does Paul say should mark our praying?

How would these 3 qualities change our praying?



V3-4 What is the focus of Paul's prayer request? How does this relate to his teaching in ch. 1&2?

Read Colossians 4:5-6. Underline the instructions.

What context is Paul teaching about here?

How do the two instructions relate to each other?

What do you think speech seasoned with salt sounds like?

Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. Mark Christ with a  and mark "you / your" with a 

V15 What do we learn about speech to outsiders?

Note the two statements made regarding Christ. How does honouring Christ impact our behaviour?

Paul now moves on to his final greetings.

Read Colossians 4:7-9. Mark Tychicus with a 

How is Tychicus described by Paul in v7?

How does the phrase "in the Lord" emphasize Paul's heart?

How is Onesimus described? In what ways is Paul demonstrating being "knit together in love" (2:2)

Colossians 4:10-15

¹⁰ Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹ and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³ For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. ¹⁴ Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Acts 15:36-39a

³⁶ And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.” ³⁷ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.

Colossians 4:16-18

¹⁶ And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. ¹⁷ And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

¹⁸ I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Read Colossians 4:10-15. Underline each name mentioned. Lets look at 2 of them.

V10 What do you learn about Mark?

Read Acts 15:36-39a.

What do we learn about their past history?

How does this explain Paul saying to welcome him?

V12-13 What do we learn about Epaphras?

Paul has already mentioned him in this letter. It was through Epaphras that the gospel had come to the Colossians and Paul describes him as a “beloved fellow servant and a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf.” (1:7)

How does Epaphras’ prayer for them reflect Paul’s prayer for them in Colossians 1:9-10?

As you read these greetings, what does it teach us about Paul’s heart for working together in a team?

Read Colossians 4:16-18

What instruction does Paul send to Archippus?

Archippus is mentioned in Philemon 1:2 as a “fellow soldier” and it seems the church met in his house.

What would this instruction mean for you just now?

How does Paul conclude his letter?

“Christ in you, the hope of glory” - this is a key statement in Paul’s letter. What does this truth mean for you as you live out its reality today?

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?

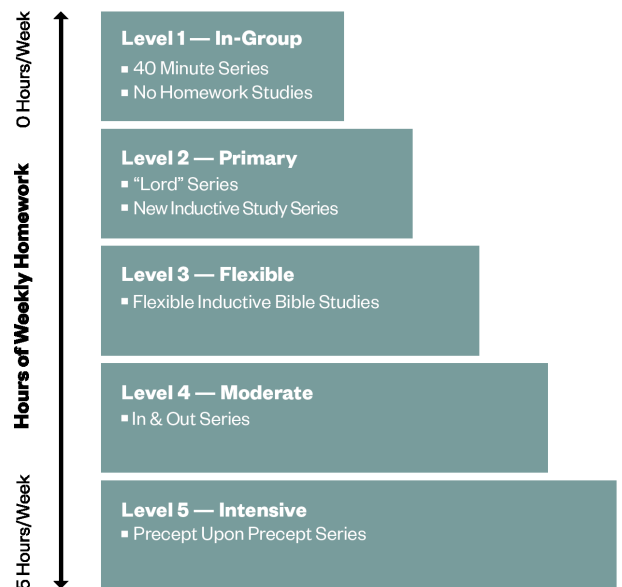
Apply - What does this mean for me?

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

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