

Introduction

1. Locate the city of Colossae on a map (you can use online, a Bible atlas, or a study Bible). (a) What cities and bodies of water are surrounding Colossae? (b) How far is Colossae from Rome?

2. What facts do you already know about Colossae?

3. Memorize Colossians 1:1

4. Read the entire book of Colossians. What facts have you learned after reading the book?

5. (a) Who wrote the book of Colossians? (b) What do you know about him?

6. (a) What is Gnosticism? (b) How do you see it manifested in our churches today? (c) Would you say you hold to any form of Gnosticism?

7. (a) What are you hoping to learn as you study the book of Colossians? (b) What areas of change would you like to see in your life as you study this book? (c) Come with a prayer request to share based on your answers in question 7.

Commendations to the Church at Colossae

1. (a) Read Colossians 1:1-8. What does the term “we” refer to in verses 3-8? (b) According to these verses what should happen when the gospel is proclaimed?

2. Memorize Colossians 1:3.

3. (a) Notice the beginnings of all of Paul’s writings: Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians, 1&2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon and Hebrews. (There is debate among scholars as to who wrote Hebrews; I am of the persuasion that Paul wrote it). (b) How many of these letters mention that Paul either prays for those he is writing or that he is thankful for them? Which books are they? (c) How many of these letters do not mention these things? Which books are those? (d) What does this tell you about Paul? (e) What might it tell you about those churches, especially the churches that are not commended?

4. (a) According to Colossians 1:4-5, what things had Paul heard about the Colossian believers that convinced him that they were believers? (b) What similar New Testament passages come to mind when you read these verses?

5. (a) How does love manifest itself according to John 13? (b) What are some practical ways that we as Christians should be showing love to the brethren?

6. (a) What are some of the things you are looking forward to in heaven? (b) How do these things give you hope as you walk through this life?

7. If Paul were writing a letter to the church you attend, for what things do you think he would commend your church?

8. Does your life truly demonstrate the love of Christ? How could it improve? Please write a request that reflects your need in this area.

Paul's Petitions for the Church of Colossae

1. (a) Read Colossians 1:9-14. What does Paul pray for the Colossian believers? (b) Do you see any significance in this prayer, especially as it relates to the heresy that had crept into the church?
2. Memorize Colossians 1:10.
3. (a) Compare and contrast Paul's prayer for the Colossians with his prayer for the Ephesians. (See Colossians 1:9-14 & Ephesians 1:15-21). What similarities do you see? (b) What things are different?
4. (a) Paul prays that the Colossian believers would be "fruitful in every good work." What are the conditions of a fruitful life according to John 15:3-4, & 10? (b) Is it necessary that a believer bear fruit? See Matthew 7:16-20. (c) How much fruit should we bear? See John 15:8. (d) What causes one to be unfruitful? See Matthew 13:22.
5. (a) According to the following verses, what are some types of fruit we should be producing? Proverbs 12:14, 31:31; Isaiah 57:19; Jeremiah 6:19, 17:10; Matthew 3:8; Romans 1:13; Galatians 5:22-23 and Hebrews 13:15. (b) Are you producing these fruits?
6. (a) Paul prays that the Colossian believers "might walk worthy of the Lord." According to the following verses, in what ways are we as believers to walk? Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 7:17; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 2:10; 4:1-3, 17-32; 5:2, 8, 15 and 3 John 3-4. (b) Why are we to walk in those ways? (c) What attitudes should accompany our walk?
7. (a) How do you think we as believers are "filled with knowledge"? (b) What is our responsibility in this?
8. What are the benefits of praying Scripture for yourself and others? Spend some time this week praying Paul's prayer for someone.
9. Choose one element of Paul's prayer that you would like to be more evident in your own life. Write it down in the form of a prayer request.

Who is the Lord?

1. (a) Read Colossians 1:15-19. What is the theme of these verses? (b) List 5 questions an unbeliever may ask when reading this passage for the first time. (You do not need to answer the questions; just ask them.)

2. Memorize Colossians 1:16.

3. (a) We know from Colossians 1:18 that Christ is the head of the body, the church. What does that mean according to Ephesians 1:22-23 and 4:15-16? (b) What does He do as the Head of the church? (See 1 Corinthians 12 for more help.)

4. (a) Read Job 38 and 39; write down at least 10 observations about God as Creator and Sustainer of the universe that are especially meaningful to you. (b) What is Job's response to all that God says? See Job 40:3-5. (c) How do these verses help you to understand more clearly what Paul says in Colossians 1:15-19? (d) Is your response like Job's? Why or why not?

5. (a) In the following passages, who is being raised from the dead, and by whom are they being raised? 2 Kings 4:18-37; Luke 7:11-15; John 11:41-44; John 20:1-10; Acts 9:36-42, and Acts 20:7-12. (b) What is different about the Lord's resurrection in contrast to these others? (c) What is the significance of Christ's resurrection, according to 1 Corinthians 15:12-28? (d) How does 1 Corinthians 15:20 help you better understand Colossians 1:18?

6. (a) How could you use Colossians 1:15-19 in presenting the gospel to someone? (b) How could you use Colossians 1:15-19 to help those who are caught up in Gnosticism?

7. What does it mean to you personally that Christ is the Creator of all things?

8. (a) In what ways can Jesus Christ be given first place in our lives? (b) What things might we put before Him?

9. After meditating on Colossians 1:15-19 this week, what encouragement does it give you for any difficulties you are now facing? Write down your petitions and pray with faith that the Lord of all Creation, who upholds the world by His power, will answer your prayers! Bring a petition to share.

1. (a) Read Colossians 1 and list all the words or phrases that are repeated. (b) What significance do these have?
2. Memorize Colossians 1:21
3. (a) How is one reconciled to God according to Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; and Ephesians 2:14-17 (b) Why is it necessary that one be reconciled? (c) How would you explain reconciliation to a non-believer?
4. (a) According to the following passages, in what ways was the apostle Paul once alienated from God and an enemy of God? Acts 9:1-18; 22:1-21; 26:1-23. (b) What were the events that took place when Paul was reconciled to God?
5. (a) What does John say about those who have not continued in the faith, in 1 John 2:19? (b) Were they ever in the faith? (c) With these things in mind, read Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:1-23. (d) Which of these were truly saved? How do you know? (e) What does this teach you about the perseverance of the saints? (f) What other verses come to mind when you think of what scripture says about true believers persevering in the faith?
6. (a) Why did Jesus have to die? (b) Why was it necessary that a body be offered as well as a blood sacrifice? See Hebrews 10 to help you with these answers.
7. (a) Have you been reconciled to God? (b) If so, what changes have you seen in your life, especially this past year? (c) Have you thanked the Lord lately that you are reconciled to Him?
8. (a) What does it mean to you to "continue in the faith?" (b) How does a believer's life manifest being "grounded and steadfast"? (c) In what ways would you like to be more steadfast in your faith?
9. Write a prayer of thanks for your reconciliation to God!

The Call and Cost to Ministry

1. (a) Read Colossians chapter one, especially noting verses 24-29. What do you think is the “mystery” that Paul mentions? (b) What things do you observe about this mystery?

2. Memorize Colossians 1:28.

3. (a) What are Paul’s motives for being in the ministry, according to Colossians 1:24-29? (b) What other things was Paul willing to endure for the sake of others, according to 2 Corinthians 4:8-15; 6:1- 10; 11:23-28; and 1 Thessalonians 2. (c) Why do you think some are not willing to labor to the point of exhaustion for the brethren? (e) How can we change that?

4. (a) What was prophesied in Isaiah 49:6? (b) When was this fulfilled? See Acts 10. (c) Who was told to take the gospel to the Gentiles? (d) How was he told? (e) What happened after this, according to the rest of Acts 10? (f) According to Romans 15:9, how should we as Gentiles respond to this amazing truth?

5. (a) Paul says in Colossians 1:28 that in his preaching, he warns and he teaches. Why do you think both are important? (b) Read over Colossians and make two columns. In one column list the verses where Paul is warning the Colossian believers, and in the other column list the verses where he is teaching them.

6. (a) According to the following verses, what are some of the reasons that Christians suffer? John 15:18-21; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 4:8-11; Philippians 3:10; 2 Timothy 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:9- 10. (b) How does this personally help you face present sufferings?

7. What does it mean to you personally that “Christ is in you”?

8. (a) In what ways have you seen the Lord working mightily in your life, especially in the past year? (b) What things have happened in your life that can only be explained because of Christ working in you?

9. How could you be more effective in what God has called you to do? Please write your need in the form of a prayer request.

Requests and Recommendations for Those Caught Up in Heresy

1. (a) Read Colossians 2. From your reading and without referring to other helps, jot down the heresies Paul mentions in this chapter, of which the Colossian believers were in danger? (b) What is Paul's attitude about this?
2. Memorize Colossians 2:6.
3. (a) Locate the city of Laodicea on a map (online, or in a bible atlas or study Bible). (b) How far is Laodicea from Colossae? (c) Why do you think Paul is concerned for Laodicea? (See Colossians 4:13-16 for some hints.)
4. (a) In Colossians 2:4, how does Paul define the Gnostics' speech? (b) How does that compare to what Paul says about his own speech in 1 Corinthians 2:1-8? (c) What other warnings do you see, in 1 Corinthians 2, about man's wisdom? (d) What does this teach you about listening to the words of men?
5. (a) What do false teachers look like according to 2 Corinthians 11:13-15? (b) What do they desire to do to the saints according to Ephesians 4:14-15 & 5:6-7? (c) As believers, what should our response be to false teachers, according to these verses, as well as Titus 3:9-10?
6. (a) According to Psalm 1:3; 92:12-13, Isaiah 61:3 and Jeremiah 17:8 why is it important that we as believers be firmly rooted and grounded in the faith? (b) According to Jude 1:8-13, what is going to happen to those who have not been rooted and grounded in the faith and have, instead, fallen into error?
7. (a) Have you grown in your knowledge of Christ? (b) What have you learned about Him specifically this past year?
8. (a) If a false teacher was trying to entice you, what would you do? (b) How can you train your children, grandchildren or those you are mentoring to be on the alert for false teachers? (c) What advice would you give them?
9. Does your heart ache for someone you know who is caught up in erroneous teaching? Turn your pain for them into a prayer request for them. (Please be discreet in sharing).

Are We Complete in Christ Alone

1. (a) Read Colossians 2:1-15. According to these verses, why is Christ sufficient? (b) What other verses come to your mind when you think of our sufficiency in Christ alone?
2. Memorize Colossians 2:10.
3. (a) What did Jesus say was the danger of keeping traditions, according to Matthew 15:1-9 and Mark 7:1-13? (b) What did Christ desire instead of their traditions? (c) In Matthew 23, what else did Jesus say about those who are more interested in the outward show of tradition than the inward purification of the heart?
4. (a) According to the following scriptures, what are the differences between outward circumcision and inward circumcision? Genesis 17:11; Deuteronomy 30:6; Jeremiah 9:25-26; Romans 2:25-29; 1 Corinthians 7:17-19; Galatians 5:1-12; 6:11-15 and Philippians 3:3 (b) Why is outward circumcision unnecessary for salvation? See Acts 15. (c) How could you use what you have just learned to teach someone who thinks outward circumcision, or any other works, are necessary for salvation?
5. (a) In Colossians 2:8 (KJV), Paul warns of the dangers of the “rudiments” of the world (NKJV, “basic principles; NASB, “elementary principles”). In Galatians 4:3 he calls this the “elements of the world.” From Galatians 4, answer the following questions: Why was Paul so concerned about this? (b) What is the danger of putting oneself under bondage? (c) What does Paul say is true freedom or liberty?
6. Why is Christ sufficient for the believer as seen in Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 3:21-23; Colossians 2:3, 10 and Peter 1:3?
7. (a) Using discretion, recall a time that you or someone else you know got caught up in philosophy, legalism, traditions of men, or the like. What was the result? (b) What did you or they learn? (Please avoid using names here unless you’re sharing about yourself)
8. What are some modern-day forms of philosophy, vain deceit, traditions of men, and rudiments of the world?
9. (a) What does it mean to you personally that “you are complete in Him?” (b) Is that truth evident in your life, or would others say, “She needs Christ plus something else?”
10. Please examine yourself before the Lord, asking Him if your life is demonstrating that He alone is sufficient. After thorough examination, please write a prayer request based on what God has revealed to you.

Two Isms to Avoid

1. (a) Read Colossians 2 and list all the commands you see. (b) Why do you think Paul listed these particular commands for the Colossian believers?
2. Memorize Colossians 2:16.
3. (a.) Write down at least five dietary laws mentioned in Leviticus 11. (b) What do Christ and Luke tell us about these dietary laws in Mark 7:14-20 and Acts 10:9-15?
4. (a) Why was the Sabbath given, according to Exodus 31:14-17; Leviticus 16:31; Leviticus 23:1-3; and Ezekiel 20:12? (b) What did Jesus say and illustrate in the New Testament about the Sabbath in the New Testament, in Mark 2:23-3:5? (c) Are Christians required to keep the Sabbath? Prove your answer from the Word of God.
5. (a) Read Romans 14. What does Paul say here about judging others for what they eat, and for how they live? (b) What is Christ mainly interested in, according to verses 6, 8-9, 13 and 17?
6. (a) In the following verses, what are the angels described as doing? Luke 2:9-14; Hebrews 1:6-7, 14; Revelation 5:11-14. (b) What did John try to do to the angel in Revelation 22:6-9? (c) What was the angel's response? (d) Do you think we should worship angels? Why or why not?
7. (a) Do you look down on those who do not follow the same dietary laws as you do? (b) What about those who choose to celebrate or not celebrate certain holidays? (c) What have you learned from this lesson about the danger of doing so?
8. How would you describe humility?
9. What has God shown you through this lesson? Write down any thoughts you might have in the form of a prayer request.

1. Read Colossians 1 and 2 and list all the new truths you have learned.
2. Memorize Colossians 2:20-21.
3. (a) Read Galatians 3. According to verse 24, what was the purpose of the law? (b) According to this passage, what is the danger of putting oneself back under the law? (c) What does Paul exhort his readers to do instead, according to Galatians 5:1?
4. (a) In Romans 7:1-6, what analogy does Paul use to explain our death to the law? (b) What were the reasons for that death?
5. (a) In 1 Corinthians 6:13, what does Paul say is going to happen to food? (b) In John 6:27, who else says the same thing? (c) What did Jesus say would last forever? (d) What was He talking about? (e) What did Jesus say was His food, in John 4:34-38? (f) What do these verses teach you about where our time should be invested?
6. (a) In 1 Timothy 4:1-10, what does Paul warn about? (b) What does he say should be our attitude towards exercise? (c) What is more important? (d) According to Romans 12:1-2, how should we treat our bodies? (e) What else does Paul emphasize in these verses? (f) With all that in mind, what do you think is the biblical mandate regarding our bodies? (g) What dangers do you see in our culture in regard to the body?
7. Are there any man-made rules or traditions that you are following in the hope of aiding your spiritual growth?
8. What are some of the dangers in following a list of “do’s” and “don’ts”?
9. (a) What changes have you made thus far as a result of our study? Please write them down in the form of praises to God.
10. (a) What changes would you still like to see? (b) Please write one or two down in the form of a prayer request.

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1. (a) Read Colossians 3 and list all the commands you find. (b) Are you obeying these commands?
 2. Memorize Colossians 3:2.
 3. (a) What things does Paul mention about Christ in Colossians 3:1-4? (b) What do you think each one of these means? (c) Why does Paul emphasize the person of Christ so much here in chapter three? (Hint: look back at chapter two)
 4. (a) In Colossians 3:1, Paul mentions that Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father. What insights do the following verses give you as to why Jesus is at the right hand of the Father? Acts 2:33; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22. (b) Why do you think Christ is described as standing at the right hand of God, rather than sitting, in Acts 7:54-60? (c) What hope does this give you as you think of that day that you too will “appear with Him in glory?”
 5. (a) The men and women listed in Hebrews 11 had some challenges in keeping their thoughts heavenward. Write down at least three people mentioned in Hebrews 11, as well as the challenges they were facing as they lived here on earth. (b) How did they keep their mind set on things above, according to verses 13-16? (c) How does this encourage you to keep your focus heavenward and not earthward?
 6. (a) Make two columns on the back of your paper, one with the heading of “Heaven” and the other with the heading of “Earth”. (b) Read the following passages and list under the proper heading what Heaven and Earth each have to offer. Psalm 73:25; Hebrews 10:34; 1 Peter 1:4; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 21:9-27; (c) Looking back over these lists, which place do you prefer? (d) How do you think these passages could help you to stay focused on the kingdom to come?
 7. (a) Think back over this past week and ask yourself if you have set your affection on things above, or on things on the earth. (b) What changes do you need to make in order to be more eternally-minded?
 8. (a) If the Lord came back today, would you be ready? (b) Why or why not?
 9. (a) What do you think is keeping you from being more heavenly-minded? (b) Write your thoughts in the form of a prayer request.

1. (a) Read Colossians 3:1-9. Compare this list of evil deeds with Romans 1:29-31; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; and Ephesians 5:3-5. (b) Which of these deeds listed in these other passages are similar to those listed in Colossians? (c) Which of them are different?
2. Memorize Colossians 3:5.
3. (a) Why is it necessary that we “put to death” our sin according to Romans 6:6; 8:13; Galatians 5:24; and Ephesians 5:3-6? (b) What are we to be doing with our “members” instead? See Romans 6:13.
4. (a) Paul says we are to put to death our sins. How does Jesus communicate the same idea in Matthew 5:27-30? (b) Do you think Jesus intends for us to take His words literally? (c) Why or why not?
5. (a) Name the sinner and the sin in the following passages. Also, describe the manner in which God’s wrath was shown on each sinner mentioned? (Note: these should fall under one of the sins listed in Colossians 3:5.) Genesis 19:15-29; 2 Samuel 11:1-17 with 12:13, 14; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-8. (b) What does this teach you about sin and its consequences?
6. (a) According to Ephesians 6:11-18, how are we as believers to fight against sin? (You should find several ways listed here.) (b) How could you use Ephesians 6:11-18 to help yourself or someone else in waging war against one of the sins mentioned in Colossians 3:5? List some practical things you could do.
7. (a) Have you put to death the 5 sins Paul mentions in Colossians 3:5? (b) If not, why not? (c) What will you do about it? (I would encourage you to confess your sin before God and any you have sinned against. Then determine to repent. Consider asking someone to hold you accountable.)
8. (a) Based on what you have learned in this lesson, how would you counsel a professing Christian who is engaged in one of the sins listed in Colossians 3:5? (b) If they refused to repent, what would you do?
9. (a) Is there an area of sin (not necessarily one Paul mentions) which the Spirit of God is challenging you to “put to death?” Perhaps it is spiritual pride, selfishness, lack of submission to husband, anger, etc. (b) How may we pray for you? Please write it down to share with your group.

****Recommended Reading—The Vanishing Conscience—by John MacArthur**

1. (a) Read Colossians 3:8-11 and Ephesians 4:20-32. From these two passages, which sins are similar and which ones are different? (b) How does one rid themselves of these sins according to what Paul says in the Ephesians passage?
2. Memorize 3:8-9
3. (a) Look up the following passages and note the sinner and the sin committed. These should fall under one of the sins that Paul mentions in Colossians 3:8-11. (b) Also, mention the result of the sin if it is mentioned. (You may need to read further on in the passage for the answer). Genesis 4:1-15 (two sins here); Genesis 12:10-20; Leviticus 24:10-16; Numbers 20:7-13; Judges 16 (at least two here); 2 Samuel 16:5-14; Esther 3 (at least two sins here).
4. (a) Where does lying come from? See John 8:44. (b) What are we to do instead of lying? See Ephesians 4:25. (c) What will happen to all liars? See Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15.
5. (a) According to Matthew 15:19, where does ungodly speech come from? (b) What does James say about our tongue in James 3:1-10? (c) What should we be doing with our speech instead? See Ephesians 4:29. (d) What have you done in the past to tame your tongue? (e) What are you currently doing to tame your tongue?
6. (a) What do the following passages have to say about God being a respecter of persons (or being partial)? Proverbs 22:2; Mark 7:25-29; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:6-11; 3:29; 10:12; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 5:6; 6:15; Ephesians 6:8. (b) How does this help you to understand what Paul is saying in Colossians 3:11?
7. (a) How can we practically put to death the sins of anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication, and lying? (b) How are you training your children in putting these off? (c) How can we as women set a good example for our children and grandchildren in these areas?
8. (a) Do you have prejudices against those (even fellow believers) who are different in race, religion, social status, or culture? (b) What does Paul say about that in Colossians 3:11? (c) Why should there be no distinctions?
9. (a) How has God spoken to you through this lesson? (b) Please write down a prayer request based on what He has shown you.

What Will You Wear Today

1. (a) Read Colossians 3:12-14. Who in scripture, male or female (except our Lord), comes to mind when reading over these qualities? (b) Jot down their names and what quality or qualities they exemplified.
2. Memorize Colossians 3:12-13 or 14.
3. (a) Compare and contrast Colossians 3:12-14 with Galatians 5:22, 23. What virtues do you find in both passages? (b) What virtues are different? (c) How are these possible to put on these virtues according to Galatians 5:16? (d) What happens when you try to do these in your own strength? See John 15:5.
4. (a) In reading the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37, which one of these individuals demonstrated mercy, kindness, and humility? Which of them did not? (b) Put yourself in the parable for a moment. If you were the man who was stripped and beaten, how would you feel? (c) Being honest with yourself, if you came upon that half-dead man, would you respond like the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan? (d) When you consider these three individuals, what makes this story so appalling?
5. (a) Read 1 Corinthians 13. What virtues are listed here that are also listed in Colossians 3:12-14? (b) What is similar about 1 Corinthians 13:13 and Colossians 3:14?
6. (a) Make 8 columns using the back of this paper. Write above each column the following: tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, and love. (b) Read Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19, which record the last hours before our Lord's death. Write in the appropriate column how Jesus Christ, our Supreme example, demonstrated these qualities?
7. (a) Does your life manifest tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, and love? (If you want to really know, ask your family members.) (b) How can we as God's daughters improve in these virtues?
8. (a) What has Christ forgiven you of? (b) Have you shown that same forgiveness toward others?
9. Write a prayer request based on your answers from #7. In other words, how can we pray for you regarding these qualities that should be evident in your life?

Five Commands for the New Woman

1. (a) Read Colossians chapter three. What are the “one-anothers” that you notice? In other words, what should we be doing to one another and not doing to one another according to this chapter? (b) How does this go along with what Jesus said in Matthew 7:12?
2. Memorize Colossians 3:17.
3. (a) How does one acquire peace? See Numbers 6:24-26; John 16:33, and 1 Peter 5:14. (b) When one does not have peace, what does that indicate, according to James 3:14-18? (c) What is our responsibility for retaining that peace? See Isaiah 26:3 and Philippians 4:6, 7. (d) How do you practically retain peace in your life?
4. (a). To whom is our singing to be directed? See Psalm 28:7 and 47:6, 7. (b) In the following verses, who is singing, what are they singing, where or when are they singing, and why are they singing? Matthew 26:30; Acts 16:25; 1 Corinthians 14:15, 26; Ephesians 5:19; Hebrews 2:12; James 5:13. (c) What does this tell you about music and its importance in our lives?
5. (a) Paul says in Colossians 3:17 that whatever we do, we are to do it in the name of the Lord. What specifically does that mean, according to Matthew 28:19; Romans 14:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15, and 1 Peter 4:11? (b) How can you apply these verses to your daily living? (c) Is there anything that you are currently saying or doing of which you cannot honestly say, “I am doing this in the name of my Lord?”
6. (a) What does Job say about God’s Word in Job 23:12? (b) What does Jeremiah say about the Word of God in Jeremiah 15:16? (c) Also, skim Psalm 119 and list at least five attitudes the Psalmist had about God’s word. (d) Do these characterize your attitudes about God’s Word?
7. Since your conversion, how has your life changed in the areas of inner peace, the Word of God, being thankful, admonishing others, and speaking and doing all to the glory of God?
8. (a) In what ways is God’s Word dwelling in you? (b) In what ways have you grown in your understanding of God’s Word?
9. After looking over #7, write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the changes He has made in your life.

1. What do Ephesians 5:22-24, 33; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:3-5; and 1 Peter 3:1-6 all have in common?
2. Memorize Colossians 3:18.
3. (a) According to Ephesians 5:22-24 and Titus 2:3-5, why are wives to be subject to their husbands? (b) Who is mentioned in 1 Peter 3:1-6 as a role model for us? (c) How did she show submission to her husband according to Genesis 12:1-9?
4. Why is the husband head over the wife, according to 1 Corinthians 11:1-16 and 1 Timothy 2:9-15?
5. (a) Read Esther chapter one. Who was not submissive to her husband? (b) What happened to her? (c) Who took her place according to Esther 2:16-18? (d) From what you read in Esther 7:1-6, how was Queen Esther different from Queen Vashti? (e) What can you learn from these two queens?
6. (a) Do you think Sarah should have done anything different in the story mentioned in Genesis 12:10-20 and Genesis chapter 20? If so, what? If not, why? (b) What was Sapphira's consequence for her submission to her husband in Acts 5:1-11? What should she have done instead?
7. How would you explain submission to a new Christian woman or to a newly married wife?
8. (a) Is submission difficult for you (To husband, to authorities, to church leadership)? Why or why not? (b) What benefits of submission have you learned that you can pass on to others by way of encouragement? (For the brave: Ask your husband if you are a submissive wife or not.)

1. (a) Read Colossians 3:19-21, Ephesians 5:25-33 and 1 Peter 3:7. How are husbands to love their wives, according to these passages? (b) What do these verses tell you about why husbands are to love their wives?
2. Memorize Colossians 3:21.
3. (a) Read Luke 2:41-52. In this passage, who was subject to His parents? (b) How could you use this passage to teach a child the importance of obeying their parents?
4. (a) According to the following Proverbs, why is it essential that children be obedient to their parents? Proverbs 1:8-9; 4:1-4; 6:20-23; 22:15; 23:13-14; 23:24; 29:15; 30:17.
5. (a) What was the Lord's attitude toward children? See Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; and Luke 18:15-17. (b) What did Jesus say would happen to one who offends a child, according to Matthew 18:1-6? (c) How is it possible to have Christ's attitude toward children and also discipline them as His Word commands?
6. (a) When you read the commands in Colossians 3:18-21 what families or individuals in Scripture come to mind as good role models for us to follow? (Example: Hosea's love for his adulterous wife- Hosea 3:1-3) (b) What examples come to mind as bad role models? (Example: Absalom's rebellion against his father David-2 Samuel 15) (c) What can you learn from these examples?
7. (a) Why do you think husbands are commanded to not be bitter (KJV) toward their wives? (b) What are some ways wives provoke their husbands?
8. (a) How have you trained, or did you train your children to obey you? (b) Share some things you have learned about obedience and discipline that will be of help to others.
9. Has God spoken to you through this lesson? How can we pray for you? Write your prayer request down to share with others.

1. (a) Read Colossians 3:22-4:1 along with Ephesians 6:5-9. What admonitions does Paul give in these passages that are the same? (b) Do you see any differences?
2. Memorize Colossians 3:23.
3. (a) In looking at the work of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:10-31, would you say she did her work as unto the Lord or unto men? (b) What were her attitudes in her work? (c) In what ways was she diligent? (d) How does this relate to what Paul says in Colossians 3:22-4:1?
4. (a) Make two columns on the back of your paper, one marked "Diligent", the other marked "Lazy". (b) Read the following Proverbs and contrast the diligent with the lazy. Proverbs 10:4-5; 12:24; 12:27; 13:4; 15:19; 18:9; 19:24; 20:4; 21:25-26; 22:13; 22:29; 24:30-34; 26:13-16; 27:23-27. (c) Write a summary sentence of what you have learned. (d) According to what Paul says in Colossians 3:22-25; 1 Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; and Peter in 1 Peter 2:18-19 what should be the attitudes of those who work?
5. (a) In the parable mentioned in Matthew 25:14-30, which servants did their work as unto the Lord and which ones did not? (b) What was the result for each? (c) How does this parable fit with what Paul is saying in Colossians 3:22-4:1?
6. Why do you think Paul devotes the amount of space (number of verses in his letter to the Colossians) to the role of slaves/masters, in comparison with family relationships? For possible answers read Colossians 4:7-9 and the book of Philemon.
7. (a) Whatever your work, do you do it as unto the Lord? (b) Is your work done with your whole heart and with thoroughness and completeness? (c) How are you training your children to do work with a right attitude?
8. (a) How could you use the verses you have studied in Colossians to encourage someone who is struggling in their job (husband, friend, child, etc?) (b) Do you think when one is not enjoying their work they should quit? Why or why not?
9. What area of work is hard for you? Attitude? The actual work? Completion? Thoroughness? Etc.? Please write your need in the form of a prayer request.

Three Essentials in Evangelism

1. Read Colossians chapter four and list all the commands that you find.
2. Memorize Colossians 4:6.
3. (a) Paul says we are to walk in wisdom toward those that are outside (Colossians 4:5). What does that mean, according to what Jesus said in Matthew 7:6 and 10:16? (b) What does true wisdom look like, according to James 3:13-18? (c) Would you say the wisdom James describes is the same wisdom that unbelievers observe in you?
4. (a) What do you think is the main point in Jesus' parable in Luke 18:1-8? (b) How does this coincide with what Paul says in Colossians 4:2? (c) Would you say that you are persistent in prayer? (d) What keeps you from persevering?
5. (a) What other prayer requests does Paul ask for from other churches? See Romans 15:30-32; 2 Corinthians 1:11; Ephesians 6:18-20; Philippians 1:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2; Philemon 22; and Hebrews 13:18-19. (b) In what ways do these requests challenge you? (c) If you could ask for three prayer requests, what would they be?
6. Make two columns on the back of your paper, one with "Question," and the other labeled "Answer." (a) For each of the following passages, list the question and then how Paul or Jesus answered it. See Matthew 16:1-4; 21:23-27; Luke 20:20-26; 20:27-38; 20:39-44; John 14:5-6; Acts 17:16-34. (b) How do these questions and answers seem to relate to Colossians 4:6? (c) If these questions would have been posed to you, would you have been able to answer them?
7. (a) When was the last time you shared the gospel? (b) Will you pray this week that God will give you an open door to share the gospel as Paul did? Come prepared to share if that door was opened and what happened.
8. (a) If someone came to you today and asked you of the "hope within you," would you be ready to share with them? Are you prepared to do so? What are some ways you can or have prepared? (The following passages are good ones to consider for later: Acts 20:17-27; Romans 3:19-28; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Ephesians 2:8-10; and Titus 3:4-7.) Some helpful resources: Discipleship Evangelism; Evangelism Explosion; Way of the Master; Tell the Truth by Will Metzger; The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman.
9. Come with a prayer request either for someone who is lost, or a prayer for yourself as you endeavor to share the gospel.

1. Read Colossians 4 and list all the individuals Paul mentions and what you notice about them.
2. Memorize Colossians 4: 7.
3. Tychicus is mentioned four other times in Scripture. Look up the following passages and make note of what you learn about him! Acts 20:1-5; Ephesians 6:21, 22; 2 Timothy 4:12; and Titus 3:12.
4. (a) Aristarchus is also mentioned four times in Scripture. Look up the following passages and make note of what you find regarding him! Acts 19:29; Acts 20:1-5; Acts 27:1-4; and Philemon 22-25. (b) Based on the verses you looked up from question 3 and 4, were Tychicus and Aristarchus ever together?
5. (a) Mark is mentioned five times in Scripture. Look up the following passages to see what you discover about Mark: Acts 12:12, and 25; Acts 15:36-41; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5:13; Philemon 24. (b) What do you think happened between Acts 15 and 2 Timothy 4?
6. (a) Read the book of Philemon. Write down any observations you see regarding Onesimus. (b) Why do you think Paul is sending him to Colosse with Tychicus? See Colossians 4:7-9.
7. (a) What are the characteristics of a true friend, according to the following - Proverbs 17:9; 17:17; 18:24; 27:6; 27:10; 27:17. (b) Are you blessed to have friends like that? (c) Are you that type of friend to others?
8. (a) If you were to describe your closest friend in three ways, what would you say? (b) What would you like to be described as? (c) Do you think your friends would describe you as faithful, comforting, and self-sacrificing?
9. (a) Has there been a time recently when a friend comforted you? How did that bless you? (b) Has there been a time recently when you knew a friend sacrificed on your behalf? What did you learn from that?
10. Come with a prayer of thanksgiving to God for your friends and a petition to God for yourself concerning how you might be a better friend to someone else.

1. (a) Read Colossians chapter four and make note of all the cities Paul mentions. Locate these on a map.
(b) How far are Laodicea and how far is Hierapolis from Colossae?

2. Memorize Colossians 4:12.

3. (a) What does Paul say about Epaphras in Colossians 1:7, 8 and Philemon 1:23?

4. (a) What facts do you already know about Luke? (b) What other facts can you glean about Luke from the following passages? (Luke wrote Acts-the "we" and "us" in the Acts verses includes him). Acts 16:10-18; 20:6-16; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 1:24.

5. What do you learn about Demas from 2 Timothy 4:10 and Philemon 24?

6. (a) Look up the following passages and answer the following questions: Who is wrestling in prayer? (b) What are they praying for? (c) What was the result of their praying? (d) What do you learn about praying fervently from these passages? Genesis 32:24-32; 1 Kings 18:41-46; and Luke 22:39-46.

7. (a) In looking over the men and their qualities that Paul mentions in chapter four of Colossians, which one would you like to emulate and why? (b) What is the biggest help to you personally in your service to Christ?

8. (a) Would you describe your prayers for others as fervent? (b) What do you think are some ways that we as believers can be more earnest in prayers?

9. Looking back at question seven, write a prayer request asking God to cultivate those character qualities in you.

The Final Fours in Paul's Closing Remarks

1. (a) Read each chapter of Colossians and write down at least one truth you have learned or one change you have made from each chapter. (b) Look back at question 7 from lesson one to see how God answered your prayer for change.

2. Memorize Colossians 4:18.

3. (a) In Colossians 4:15 Paul mentions Nymphas has church in her house. Who else had church in their house, according to the following passages? (b) Also, list what they were doing in church, if it is mentioned. Acts 12:12; 16:40; 28:30-31; Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; and Philemon 2.

4. (a) How many times does Paul mention the church at Laodicea in Colossians? Write down the verses. (b) From Revelation 3:14-19, what else do you learn about this church?

5. Look at the ending of all of Paul's letters: Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, and Hebrews (if you think Paul wrote it). What do they all have in common? (You should find at least two commonalities.)

6. (a) Paul admonishes Archippus in Colossians 4:17 to complete the work that God has given him to do. Looking at the following passages, who completed what God had given them to do, and who did not? Numbers 20:7-13; 1 Samuel 15; John 17:4; 2 Timothy 4:6-8 (b) What were the blessings of those who completed what God had given them to do? (c) What was the result of those who did not complete what God had given them to do? (d) What do you learn about the importance of completing what God has called you to do?

7. (a) Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? (b) Are you sharpening them and using them for the glory of God?

8. (a) What ministries are you involved in? (b) Do you take those ministries seriously and are you faithful to them?

9. As we end our study in Colossians, what is the desire of your heart? Write it down as a prayer request to share with your group.