COLOSSIANS: INTRODUCTION

Introduction:

1. Colossae was located in Asia Minor on the Lycus River approximately 120 miles southeast of Ephesus. It formed a triangle with Hierapolis, 13 miles to the northwest, and Laodicea, 10 miles more to the west of Colossae.

2. Colossae was known for a wool dyed purple, known as Colossinus.

3. Paul probably did not preach personally in Colossae, but helped establish the church there through men such as Epaphras who probably heard in the two years Paul preached in Ephesus (Acts 19:10).
   a. Paul “heard” of their faith (1:4, 9).
   b. Some had not seen Paul’s face (2:1).
   c. Epaphras had proclaimed the message of God’s grace to the Colossians (1:6-7).
   d. Archippus was left to work with the church (4:17).

4. AUTHOR: “Paul,” “I Paul,” “me Paul”
   a. Three times the writer calls himself Paul (1:1, 23; 4:18).
   b. Like the Epistles of Philippians, Philemon, I and 2 Thessalonians, Timothy joins in the salutations.

5. DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING: A.D. 62
   a. Written from a prison in Rome (4:10, 18; Acts 28:30-31)
   b. The other letters written at this time were Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon.

6. THEME AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK:
   a. Theme: The Pre-Eminence of Christ
   b. Purpose:
      (1). To fill the saints with the knowledge and spiritual understanding that is found only in Christ (1:9).
      (2). To encourage the saints to walk worthily of the Lord (1:10)
      (3). To guard the saints from a false, but intellectually appealing doctrine (2:8-23).

7. ARRANGEMENT OF THE BOOK: AN OUTLINE

   I. Introductory salutations and thanksgiving for the saints’ faith (1:1-8)

   II. The Completeness Enjoyed By Knowing The Fullness Of Christ (Chapters 1-2)
      A. Paul prays for saints to be filled with Christ, and manifest the fruits of saving knowledge (1:9-14)
      B. Know Christ as Creator (1:15-18)
      C. Know Christ as Redeemer (1:9-23)
D. Know Christ as Head of the Church (1:24-2:7)
E. Know Christ as expressing God fully (2:8-23)

III. The Worthy Walk (Chapters 3-4)
A. Walking as individuals alive from the dead (3:1-11)
B. Walking with brethren (3:12-17)
C. Walking as families (3:18-21)
D. Walking as servants and masters (3:22-4:1)
E. Walking before the world (4:1-6)

IV. Personal Greetings (4:7-18)
COLOSSIANS: LESSON 1

I. SALUTATIONS AND THANKSGIVING (1:1-8)

A. From Paul with Timothy (v. 1)
   1. Paul – an apostle of Christ by the will of God
   2. Timothy – brother in Christ

B. To Saints and Faithful Brethren (v. 2)
   1. In Christ
   2. At Colossae
   3. With grace and peace from God

C. Paul’s Thanksgiving for Brethren (v. 5-8)
   1. Continual thanksgiving (v.3)
   2. Upon hearing of brethren’s faith, love and hope fostered which are fostered by the gospel message (v. 4-8)
      a. Message bearing fruit and increasing
      b. Message of grace and truth
      c. Message learned from Epaphras
         (1). Beloved fellow-servant
         (2). Faithful minister of Christ
         (3). The brethrens’ love

QUESTIONS:
1. Paul was an “apostle” by whose authority?
2. Who was “the brother” with Paul during his imprisonment in Rome?
3. The faithful brethren in Colossae were _________________.
4. Paul always was praying for his brethren with thanksgiving. (T) (F)
5. Christianity can be summed up in the following three areas:
   Faith in __________ ; Love toward ______________; and Hope for ___________.
6. What will the Gospel do anywhere in the world?
7. Growing spiritually comes through:
   (a). the truth of God’s grace.
   (b). hearing the truth.
   (c). knowing the truth.
   (d). all of the above.
8. From whom had the Colossians learned of God’s grace?
9. What does it mean to “love in the Spirit”?
COLOSSIANS: LESSON 2

I. PAUL’S INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND EXALTATION OF CHRIST (1:9-23)

A. Paul’s request on behalf of brethren (v. 9-14)
   1. Be filled with knowledge.
   2. Walk worthily of the Lord.
   3. Be Strengthened with God’s might.
   4. Give thanks for redemption.

B. Christ: The Pre-eminent One (v. 15-18)
   1. Creator
   2. Sustainer
   3. Head of church

C. Christ: The Fullness of God (v. 19)

D. Christ: The Reconciler of All Things (v. 20-23)
   1. In body of Jesus’ flesh through death
   2. Purpose: present people holy and unreprovable
   3. Condition: continue in the faith

QUESTIONS:
1. Which one of the following manifests the requests of Paul’s prayer when his prayer was answered?
   a. Filled with knowledge:
      (1). Knows much about the Bible
      (2). Understands with will of God
      (3). Understands that wisdom does not promote humble Christianity
   b. Walk worthily:
      (1). Gives one’s time to serve in various service organizations.
      (2). Understands that increased knowledge and a worthy walk are separate facets of life.
      (3). Continually increases in good works and knowledge of God.
   c. Be Strengthened:
      (1). Has strength to endure persecution
      (2). No longer has to expect tribulation in Christ
      (3). Has strength to overcome persecutions with joy

2. Why should we be thankful to God for transferring us to another kingdom?
3. How can we know the invisible God?

4. How is the word “firstborn” used in describing the Son of God in verse 15?

5. Who or what holds all things together?

6. Why is it important for Paul to connect the fullness of God and the Creator of all things together in the one Son of God?

7. Reconciliation or peace with God is made only through what?

8. Describe the one who continues in the faith?

9. To what extent had the gospel been preached at the time of this letter?
COLOSSIANS: LESSON 3

I. PAUL’S MINISTRY IN THE MYSTERY (1:24-2:7)

A. Paul rejoices in sufferings for those to whom the mystery has been manifested through the word.
   1. For Christ’s body – the church’s sake
   2. The Mystery:
      a. hidden but now made known
      b. among the Gentiles
      c. Christ in you – the hope of glory

B. Paul labors to present every man perfect in Christ (1:28-29)
   1. By proclaiming Christ
   2. Through admonition and teaching
   3. According to God’s power

C. Paul earnestly desires that all have unity, and the riches of full understanding of the mystery of God (2:1-3)
   1. In Christ – all treasures of wisdom and knowledge

D. Paul encourages all brethren to remain in Christ and not be deluded with persuasiveness of speech (2:4-7)

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did Paul rejoice in his sufferings?

2. The afflictions of Christ that Paul “filled” were:
   a. afflictions that Christ died too soon to suffer for on the cross.
   b. afflictions that Christ promised would come upon Paul (Acts 9:16)
   c. afflictions that come upon one in standing for the cause of Christ.

3. Christ’s body is the ________________.

4. Paul regarded his ministry as a _____________ of ________________.

5. The “mystery” is:
   a. incomprehensible or obscure.
   b. manifested and known.

6. Explain how the mystery is connected with the following:
   a. the word of God:
   b. the Gentiles:
   c. Christ:
   d. Hope:
7. How “inclusive” was Paul’s ministry?

8. What comfort or encouragement does “love” bring a church?

9. What type of understanding did Paul desire for all his brethren?

10. Can Christ tolerate the idea of making a religion out of the best of all religions? Why or why not?

11. What was Paul beholding with joy while absent from the Colossians?

12. “As therefore ye _______________ Christ Jesus the ______ so _________________ in Him.”

13. Being established in the faith comes through teaching. (T) (F)

14. A Christian should be ________________ in thanksgiving. Why?

15. **Summing Up:** From this section of Scripture, write down how every facet of Paul’s ministry is related to Christ:
I. VAIN DOCTRINES OPPOSED TO THE PERFECT CHRIST (2:8-23)

A. Philosophy (2:8-10)
   1. Takes you away as captive slaves
   2. Vain deceit
   3. Tradition of men
   4. Rudiments of the world
   5. Not after Christ
      a. In him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
      b. In him we are complete.
      c. Christ is head of all principality and power.

B. Judaism (2:11-17)
   1. Christ provides a circumcision not made with hands.
      a. through baptism
      b. made alive
      c. forgiveness
   2. Christ provides nailing of ordinances to the cross.
   3. Christ triumphs over all principalities and powers.
   4. Let no man judge you over Jewish ordinances.
      a. All are a shadow.
      b. Christ is the body.

C. Angel Worship (2:18-19)
   1. Robs you of your heavenly prize
   2. Devotees puffed up
   3. Does not hold fast the Head.

D. Asceticism (2:20-23)
   1. We died with Christ from rudimentary ordinances of the world.
   2. Ordinances deal with perishing things.
   3. Such has no value against fleshly indulgence.

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does Paul warn Christians to beware of philosophy?

2. The “rudiments of the world” describe a philosophy:
   a. which is elementary when compared with the wisdom of Christ.
   b. emphasizing the spiritual powers in the heavenly bodies.
   c. both (a) and (b)
   d. none of the above
3. Why do we not need any other doctrine than Christ’s?

4. In Christ we have what kind of circumcision?

5. How does faith relate to the action in baptism?

6. God has made us ___________ together with ________________ having ________________ us our trespasses.

7. What was taken out of the way through the cross?

8. What triumph did Jesus experience through the cross?

9. Why are not the various Jewish observances, including the Sabbath Day, not essential for Christians to obey?

10. What were some worshipping that robs you of your prize?

11. Why is such worship appealing?

12. How do we grow with God’s increase?

13. Keeping one’s self from physical pleasures is the life of a Christian (T) (F)

14. We can be severe to the _____________ and not be profitable at the same time in fighting against the _____________ of the _________________.


COLOSSIANS: LESSON 5

I. IMPLICATIONS OF THE NEW LIFE WITH CHRIST (3:1-17)

A. Seek The Things Above – Where Christ Is Seated (3:1-4)
   1. Ye Died
   2. Life Hid With Christ In God
   3. Will Be Manifested With Christ In Glory

B. Put To Death Therefore…Your Members On Earth (3:5-7)
   1. Fornication
   2. Uncleanness
   3. Passion
   4. Evil Desire
   5. Covetousness – Idolatry
   6. Things You Lived In

C. Put Them Away… (3:8-11)
   1. Anger
   2. Wrath
   3. Malice
   4. Railing
   5. Shameful Speaking
   6. Lies
      a. Reason:
         (1). Have put off old man – His doings
         (2). Have put on new man – Renewed after image of Creator
         (3). No social distinctions

D. Put On Therefore… (3:12-14)
   1. Heart of compassion
   2. Kindness
   3. Lowliness
   4. Meekness
   5. Longsuffering
   6. Forbearing one another
   7. Forgiving each other
   8. Love – Bond of perfectness

E. Things To Allow… (3:15-16)
   1. Peace Of God Rules Hearts
   2. Word Of Christ Dwells Richly
      a. In all wisdom
      b. Teaching and admonishing one another in song
F. Do All Things In The Name Of The Lord – With Thanksgiving (3:17)

QUESTIONS:

1. When are we “raised together with Christ”?

2. What should we do because we are raised with Christ?

3. Our life is “hid” with Christ in the sense:
   a. we are to “hide” the fact that we are Christians in difficult times.
   b. we “died” to this world and are looking forward to be “manifested” in glory when Christ returns.
   c. we are protected or “hid” from persecutors

4. To the Christian ________________ is our life.

5. Since fornication is a single illicit sexual act, it is impossible to live or continue in such sin. (T) (F)

6. “Passion” relates to “evil desire” as desire out of control which lust or evil desire arouses (T) (F)

7. Covetousness is ____________________. Why?

8. What are “our members” that we are to put to death on the earth?

9. “Anger” is distinguished from “wrath” in:
   a. anger is never a divine emotion while wrath sometimes is.
   b. anger is a more settled condition while wrath is a sudden outburst.
   c. anger quickly subsides while wrath leads to revenge

10. What sin can lead to the sin of “railing” or “blasphemy”?

11. What three sins of speech are we to put away from our lives?

12. The Christian life manifests the PUTTING __________ the __________ man and the PUTTING __________ the __________ man.

13. How is the Christian renewed?
14. Why are there no social distinctions in the kingdom of Christ?


16. Our Christian expressions of “kindness” should come out of hearts of _______________ instead of just a sense of duty.

17. Putting on “lowliness” as a Christian is:
   a. to have a low opinion of oneself.
   b. to have room in his mind to think of the needs of others.
   c. to never acknowledge one’s superior talents.

18. “Meekness” is:
   a. a combination of gentleness and submission to authority.
   b. weakness.
   c. none of the above

19. “Longsuffering” will manifest itself in ________________ one another.

20. How are we to forgive one another?

21. What holds these Christians qualities together?

22. What is to be “the umpire” in the thoughts of our hearts?

23. How does the word of Christ dwell richly in the Christian?

24. In our singing we are ________________ and ________________ one another.

25. What type of songs are we to sing in our worship?
26. What is to be in our hearts when we sing?

27. What should always be connected with our words and deeds?
COLOSSIANS: LESSON 6

I. INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIPS (3:18-4:6)

A. Wives and Husbands (3:18-19)
   1. Wives be in subjection to husbands
   2. Husbands love wives.

B. Children and Fathers (3:20-21)
   1. Children obey parents.
   2. Fathers do not provoke children.

C. Slaves and Masters (3:22-4:1)
   1. Obey Masters
   2. Masters render what is just and right to slaves

D. Christians and the World (4:2-6)
   1. Continue steadfastly in prayer
   2. Walk in wisdom toward non-Christians

QUESTIONS:

1. What fact should encourage a wife to submit to the authority of her husband?

2. A husband who constantly offers his wife sharp criticism does not _____________ his wife.

3. Why should children obey their parents?

4. When should children NOT obey their parents?

5. What must a father be careful of in disciplining his children?

6. HOW should a slave who is a Christian obey his master?

7. The Christian is serving the _________________ when he obeys his master in the flesh.

8. Why should a master be just and fair with his servants?
9. The institution of slavery was instituted by God (T) (F).

10. What should all Christians continue to be strong in all their lives?

11. For what did Paul want his brethren to pray in his behalf?

12. The Christian life should be a _______________ in _______________ toward non-Christians.

13. What wise treatment of our opportunities must we manifest towards the world?

14. Why must our speech be always with grace seasoned with salt before the world?
COLOSSIANS: LESSON 7

I. PAUL’S FINAL INSTRUCTIONS AND SALUTATIONS (4:7-18)

A. Tychicus and Onesimus to inform brethren of Paul’s condition (4:7-9)

B. Greetings from Paul’s companions (4:10-14).

1. Aristarchus (v.10)
2. Mark (v.10)
3. Jesus called Justus (v.11)
4. Epaphras (v. 12-13)
5. Luke (v. 14)
6. Demas (v. 14)

C. Instructions to the Colossians (4:15-17)

1. Salute brethren in Laodicea (v. 15)
2. Salute Nymphas and church (v. 15)
3. Read this letter in Laodicea (v. 16)
4. Read letter from Laodicea (v. 16)
5. Tell Archippus to fulfill his ministry (v. 17)

D. Paul’s salutation and benediction (4:18)

1. Continue steadfastly in prayer
2. Walk in wisdom toward non-Christians

QUESTIONS:

1. MATCHING:

   a. Tychicus  (1) A Macedonian once captured by a Mob
   b. Onesimus  (2) A close friend of Peter who once left Paul
   c. Aristarchus (3) Delivered the Ephesian letter
   d. Mark      (4) Will later desert Paul in prison
   e. Epaphras  (5) A run-away slave
   g. Demas     (7) Needs to finish his special task
   h. Archippus (8) A doctor who was with Paul to the end

2. Tychicus making known Paul’s state in prison will bring _____________ to the brethren.
3. Why should Onesimus being described as a faithful brother give us all encouragement as we strive to share the gospel with others?

4. Who also was a prisoner with Paul in Rome?

5. Mark was a ___________ to Paul in prison.

6. ___________ was called Justus and helped ___________ Paul.

7. What was Epaphras always doing for his brethren?

8. Who was Nymphas (or Nympha)?

9. Where did the Laodicean church meet?

10. What letter was to be read in Laodicea?

11. The Colossians were to read what letter?

12. What was Archippus to do regarding his ministry?

13. Paul wrote the whole letter to the Colossians with his own hand. (T) (F)

14. Paul wants his brethren to remember his ________________.

15. How would this remembering be done?