

Study Questions

For New Testament Books of the Bible

Colossians

Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of Colossians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? What was the purpose of this letter? Why did the author write this letter?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** On a modern day map, which contemporary city, village or town would be closest to where the ancient city of Colosse was once located.
3. When did Paul go to Colosse to found the church there?
4. **DICTIONARY SEARCH:** Paul often identified himself as an “Apostle of Christ.” Define Apostle. What is an Apostle?
5. Who was Epaphras?
6. If Paul was imprisoned in Rome when he wrote Colossians, what do you think prompted Paul to write to the church at Colosse?
7. **REFLECTION:** In verses 9-14, Paul prays for the Colossian Christians whom he’s never met. What lessons can we learn about praying for others we don’t know, from Paul’s praying in Colossians 1.
8. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Verse 16 says that Christ made “.....kings, kingdoms, rulers and authorities.” There are today, and have been in the past, many evil men who have committed atrocities against the people they rule. Why do you think God placed these men in power knowing they would perpetrate their subsequent actions?
9. Paul says Christ is the first of all who will rise from the dead. What then is the true meaning of Christ’s resurrection?
10. What does Paul mean by his statement in verse 24?

Colossians Chapter 2

1. What does Paul say he wants for the church at Colosse and Laodicea in verses 2 and 3?
2. **GEOGRAPHY:** Where was Laodicea in relationship to Colosse when Paul wrote this letter?
3. In Colossians 1, we established that Paul wrote Colossians to correct false doctrine, or heresy, that had entered the church at Colosse. Name at least three of those heresies that Paul addresses in this chapter (2).
4. What does Paul tell us is all we need to receive salvation (v.9, 10)?
5. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior is the beginning of our salvation. How do we become “rooted” in Christ as Paul suggests in verse 7.
6. How do we avoid being fooled by heresies and false doctrines today?
7. What does Paul mean when he says, When you came to ChristChrist performed a “spiritual circumcision?” (v.11)
8. Why do many believe that baptism is the New Testament sign of the Covenant (see v.12)?
9. What does Paul mean when he says, “He canceled the record of charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross.” (v.14)
10. Why does Paul tell us not to let anyone condemn us for what we eat or drink or for not celebrating the Sabbath or certain Holy Days (v.16)?
11. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Where in the Bible does God forbid the worshipping of angels?

Colossians Chapter 3

1. What does Paul mean when he tells us to set our sights on things above or on the “realities of heaven?” (v.1)
2. What does Paul mean when he says our real life is “.....hidden with Christ in God?” (v.3)
3. Name those sinful, earthly things within us that Paul tells us to “put to death” in verse 5.
4. In verse 11, what does Paul say matters and what does he say doesn’t matter in our new life?
5. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** The previous question implies we should be accepting, not judgmental of all who come to Christ. Think about and recite the last time you emotionally embraced/accepted someone totally different from yourself (could be different in race, social status, religious or non-religious beliefs, etc.)
6. As the chosen of God, how does Paul tell us to behave, i.e., what we should “clothe ourselves with” in verses 12-17?
7. **BIBLE SEARCH:** We know that we are to forgive others for their trespasses against us. In your Bible, find and quote the scripture (Jesus’ parable of the Unforgiving Debtor) which gives that example of the man who received forgiveness, but refused to give forgiveness.
8. What happened to the man in the Parable of the Unforgiving Debtor? In the last sentence of the parable how does Christ say this parable applies to us?
9. Paul uses the last part of this chapter, verses 18-25 to instruct Christian households on how to behave in relationships with one another. He gives rules for three sets of household relationships. How does Paul say each person in those relationships should behave?
10. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Are there any relationships in your own household that needs repairing? When and how do you plan on repairing the relationship(s)?

Colossians Chapter 4

1. Paul refers to God's secret or mysterious plan in verse 3. What is God's secret plan?
2. **REFLECTION:** Paul asked the Colossians to pray that he might proclaim the Gospel clearly (v.4). What steps can we take to be sure that we clearly proclaim the gospel to others?
3. In verse 5, Paul tells us to "live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity." Implying that we should interact with non-believers. Do you have relationships with non-Christians? Explain.
4. If you do not have (a) relationship(s) with non-Christians explain why not.
5. Who is Aristarchus (v.12) and why was he in prison with Paul?
6. Who was Paul referring to in verses 10 and 11 as the only "Jewish" Christians among his co-workers in the Kingdom of God?
7. **GEOGRAPHY:** Paul refers to Laodicea and Hierapolis in verse 13. Where is Hierapolis in relationship to Laodicea and Colosse?
8. **GEOGRAPHY:** In which modern day country would Hierapolis, Laodicea and Colosse be located if those ancient towns were viable cities today?
9. **REFLECTION:** In his closing statements, why do you think Paul told the Colossians to, "remember his chains?"
10. **REFLECTION:** Also in Paul's final instructions and greetings (v.7-18) Paul sent greetings to the Colossians from eight of his compatriots which he named individually and mentioned three other Christians by name as well. He seemed to name more co-workers in this letter than in previous letters. Why do you think Paul mentioned so many people by name in this particular letter?