



# Colossians

...how to  
have it all...

# Study 1

## 1:1-14 How do you pray?

Read Colossians 1:1-14.

Paul wrote this letter in AD 60 or 61, while a prisoner in Rome. He had never been to Colossae, but had come to know of these believers while living in Ephesus on his second missionary journey. He was concerned because he heard of some strange pagan theories that were creeping into the church. The views that were troubling the Colossians were a mixture of astrology, magic, and Judaism, which downgraded Christ to being just some sort of angel. Paul wrote to correct this error by showing that Christ is none other than God and possesses the fullness of the eternal God. Then he gives them instructions in how to live as followers of this great Jesus.

1. When Paul prays for the Colossians, what does he thank God for?  
w3-4

2. How did they come to have faith, love & hope? w5-8

In what ways are you, and your church family, helping others hear this word of truth?

3. Paul is happy to hear of their faith in Jesus! What does he pray for them in v9?

4. From verses 10-11, knowledge of God's will leads believers to:

live a .....

please.....

bearing.....

growing.....

being.....

have.....

joyfully.....

How can you, and your church family GROW in the ways listed above?

5. What things does Paul point out in verses 12-14 to be thankful for?

6. Who thanks God for you as you display the authentic signs of belief from v4-5?

Who do you thank God for in this way when you are praying?

7. How can you pray each day modelling your prayers on Paul's prayer here in 1:1-14?

Pray:

what has Paul said?

what did he mean?

what should you do about it?

## Study 2

### 1:15-23 Supreme Jesus

Read Colossians 1:15-23

1. Who created all things, and is superior to all things? 15-17

2. What is Jesus the head of in v18?

3. What does Paul mean that Jesus is “the firstborn from among the dead” in v18?

4. How has God the Father reconciled all things to himself?

5. Verses 21-22 describe an amazing reversal! How is this being evidenced in your life, and in the life of your Christian friends and family?

6. What is the only ‘condition’ to make sure you will be saved in v23?

What are some things that can move people (distract) away from Jesus?

7. List ways you can help others stay firm in the gospel Truth, and list ways you can help others hear about Jesus.

Pray:

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what did he mean?

what should you do about it?

## Study 3

### 1:24-2:5 The battle goal

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5

1. Jesus Christ, by suffering on the cross, achieved everything needed for salvation and life, so nothing is lacking in that regard! (See 1:19-22) What suffering might Paul be speaking of?

2. From verses 28-29, what is Paul's major goal in his day to day living?

3. As Paul labours and struggles with all his energy, who is giving him power?

4. What is Paul's purpose for those he's working hard for, in 2:1-2?

5. In verses 2-3, Paul says the mystery is no longer a mystery, but out in the open. What is it?

Why is this the place to find "all treasures"?

6. What is your day to day energy spent doing? Why is this so?

7. What is the most important thing you can struggle for with all your energy, and why is it the most important thing in God's eyes?

Pray:

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## Study 4

### 2:6-23 False spirituality of achievement.

Read Colossians 2:6-23.

It seems a spirituality of achievement (contemplation, silence, solitude, and going without basic necessities) with an emphasis on spiritual insights and mysteries threatened the church in Colossae. People were claiming that while it was ok to start the Christian life through simple faith in Christ, to continue to grow you needed “more”.

1. What do verses 6-7 say about Jesus being Lord, and ongoing obedience to him?

Why is thankfulness the proper response?

2. In v8, what things is false teaching based on, and what does Paul say to do? (See 1:25-27; 2:2-4)

How would this bad teaching create spiritual elitism within the church family?

3. What has every believer been given in verses 9-10?

4. How do verses 11-12, and v14 prove Judaism superceded?

5. Who makes us alive in Christ? (v13)

How does this disprove the spiritual self achievement lobby?

6. What religious regulations and disciplines does Paul say “do not” about in v16-17? (compare 2:11-12)

Why is boasting about angels and stuff a blockage to being saved by Jesus? (v18 – compare 1:16, 2:10, 15)

Why is this kind of religion like being a chook with its head cut off? (v19)

7. What basic principals have believers died to in v20-23. Why are they of no value to Christians?

Pray:

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what should you do about it?

## Study 5

### 3:1-14 Dressed for Success!

Read Colossians 3:1-14

Genuine Christians live in a very strange way - with one foot in this world and the other in the next! This affects our thoughts, our decisions, and our behaviour.

1. When you became a believer, what do verses 1 and 3 say happened to you?

2. Where should believers have their minds and hearts set?

What is going to happen in v4?

3. What must we put to death, rid ourselves of, and take off in verses 5 to 9?

Why?

4. What should genuine believers clothe themselves with once they've taken off the old clothes? (verses 10-14)

5. Who is there in your life (present or past) that you need to forgive?

Are you as gracious to others as God is to you? Why?

6. How do verses 3:1-4 change the way we prioritise our day to day choices and commitments?

7. In what ways can you, and your church family, do this better and better as we grow in Christ?

Pray:

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# Study 6

## 3:15-4:1 Jesus is Lord. Obviously?

Read Colossians 3:15-4:1

1. In what ways does Paul say the rule of Jesus will be evident in genuine Christian lives?

15 Let the .....

15 And be .....

16 Let the .....

17 Whatever .....

17 Giving .....

2. How are these ways so “unreligious” as compared to the false spirituality teaching of 2:6-23?

3. How do the people in verses 18-22 display the Lordship of Jesus in their relationships?

Wife v18

Husband v19

Child v20

Father v21

Slave v22-25

Master 4:1

4. We can be in several of these different relationships at the same time! How do verses 3:12-14 and 3:23-25 help us behave properly?

5. What does it mean in our relationships with other people if we do not accept the Lordship of Jesus, and do not let his Word dwell in us richly?

How will it be obvious when we do live under the Lordship of Jesus?

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## Study 7

### 4:2-18 A family that prays together...

Read Colossians 4:2-18

1. In v2, Paul says that when praying the Colossians should what?

D.....

W.....

T.....

2. What does he ask them to pray for him in verses 3-4?

Why is he so focused on Jesus and his message, and not his incarceration? (See 1:28 for example)

How could you pray like this for yourself?

For others?

Your church family?

3. How does his prayer request link to his instructions to the Colossians in verses 5-6?

4. Paul doesn't say 'what' to answer everyone, just how to answer everyone. In what ways can we be better in our walk (v5), and our talk (v6), as real Christians?

5. How does Epaphras pray for the Colossians? (v12-13)

6. In what ways are you can you pray the same way for your unbelieving friends

church leaders

church family members

people in other countries speaking about Jesus (The Lihou family)

7. After reading Colossians, why is it crucial for our churches and for individual believers to stick with Jesus no matter what is going on around us?

Pray:

what has Paul said?

what did he mean?

what should you do about it?