



JESUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

**A STUDY OF PAUL'S LETTER TO
THE CHRISTIANS IN COLOSSAE**

SESSION 1

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**JESUS IS MORE THAN ENOUGH:
COLOSSIANS BOOK STUDY, Session 1**
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OBJECTIVES

1. To learn how to study whole books of the Bible.
2. To have a full and functional understanding of Colossians.
3. To apply principles from our study to our personal life.
4. To be able to share our study to our small group.

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the fourth decade of the Christian church the apostle Paul found himself under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28). In spite of the uncertainties of his personal situation Paul's concern was the well being of the growing Christian communities in house churches throughout the Roman Empire. This includes churches that he did not personally start.

The citizens of Colossae heard the gospel from Epaphras, a Colossian and one of Paul's co-workers in missions and church planting (1:7, 4:12). When Paul learned about the Christians in Colossae from Epaphras (1:8) he decided to write them a letter to encourage them and address their concerns.

This letter was sent by Paul from Rome to Colossae through Tychicus and Onesimus (4:7–9). Onesimus was the runaway Colossian slave Paul met in Rome (Philemon 1:10). The letter of Paul to Onesimus' master, Philemon, was also sent at the same time. Along with Ephesians and Philippians, these four letters are collectively called the Prison Epistles.

There was apparently an unpreserved letter of Paul to the Christians in Laodicea (4:16), a nearby city. More than thirty years later the apostle John would write a letter to seven churches including to the Laodiceans (Revelation 1:11). The clean and cold waters of Colossae and the soothing hot springs of nearby Hierapolis will be compared and contrasted to the impure and tepid water supply in Laodicea as a commentary on the spiritual condition of the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:15–16).

PARTIAL NEW TESTAMENT TIMELINE

(Book of Acts and Paul's first 10 letters)

30 AD	34 AD	45 AD	46–49 AD	49–53 AD	53–58 AD	62 AD
Ascension of Christ Advent of the Spirit	Conversion of the Saul		Paul's First Missionary Journey	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	Paul's Third Missionary Journey	Paul imprisoned in Rome
		Letter of James		Letters of Paul to: Thessalonica	Letters of Paul to: Corinth (1) Galatia Rome Corinth (2)	Letters of Paul to: Ephesus Philippi Colossae Philemon
Acts 1–2	Acts 9		Acts 13–14	Acts 15–18	Acts 18–21	Acts 28



HOW TO STUDY NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

“*The Bible is written for you but not to you*” is a fundamental principle in Bible study. Before we can understand what a passage means to us we must first understand what it meant to the original audience. This means we need to find out what the author was trying to say, which includes both the content and intent of his writing.

When it comes to the New Testament letters the more we know about the background the greater our understanding will be. We need to find out about the following:

Author	Audience	Time and Place of Writing	Occasion for Writing
Purpose for Writing	Problems and Solutions	History and Geography	
Culture and Religious Climate	Vocabulary and Idioms	Emotion / Tone	

SIMPLE STEPS IN STUDYING THE BIBLE

Step One – Read the Book (multiple times in diff. trans.)

Step Two – Research the Background (context)

Step Three – Restructure the Book (outlining)

Step Four – Recover the Basis (principles)

Step Five – Relate your Business (relevance, needs)

Step Six – Recalibrate your Behavior (apply in life)

Step Seven – Remember the Beliefs (memorize verses)


Please take this time to read through Colossians 3x in one sitting

What did you discover from simply reading through the book multiple times?

List down your observations which include important people and places, repeated words, key terms, main verbs, points of emphasis, and other ideas tha caught your interest.

Research as much as you can on the things you have discovered from your readings.

Use the following tools

- Different translations (NASB, NIV, NLT, Amp, etc.)
- Concordances (key word search)
- Bible handbooks
- Bible dictionaries and encyclopedias
- Bible lexicons (OT Hebrew, NT Greek)
- Bible Atlas
- Books on Bible culture and history
- Background commentaries (not devotional nor interpretative)
- Study Bibles designed for research (lexical, cultural, historical, archeological, etc.) 

Restructure the book by coming up with your own logical outline



	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	
Opening Greetings (1:1–8)					Closing Greetings (4:7–18)
Prayer for Colossians (1:9–12)	Person of Christ (1:13–20)	Paul's Concern (1:21–2:5)	Principles of Christianity (2:6–23)	Principles of Christlike-ness (3:1–4:6)	

OPENING GREETINGS (1:1–8)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

PRAYER FOR COLOSSIANS (1:9–12)

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

What can you learn from Paul's prayer about knowing God's will?

Read and reread the passage and think about what Paul is trying to say. Look at the grammatical construction and the logical argumentation. Rewriting the passage will also help you understand it better.

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What?

- Be filled with the knowledge of His will

How?

- In all spiritual wisdom and understanding

Why?

- So that you will:
- Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- To please Him in all respects

How?

- Bearing fruit in every good work
- Increasing in the knowledge of God
- Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience
- Joyously giving thanks to the Father





WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?



PERSON OF CHRIST (1:13–20)



13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

List down as many descriptions of Christ as you can get from the passage.

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Who is Jesus Christ?

He is:

- God the Father's beloved Son (v. 13)
- The ruler of the kingdom Christians belong to (v. 13)
- The provider of redemption and forgiveness of sins (v. 14)
- The image of the invisible God (v. 15)
- The firstborn of all creation, the creator of everything (vv. 15-16)
- Before all things (v. 17)
- The one holding the universe together (v. 17)
- The head of the church (v. 18)
- The beginning, the firstborn from the dead (v. 18)
- First place in everything (v. 18)
- In whom the fullness (of God) dwells in (v. 19)
- Through whom all things are reconciled to God (v. 20)

What can you learn about the Person of Christ?

Summarize what you have learned. Use your own words. You can state it in a paragraph or enumerate it in bullet points. You can also use memory aides like acrostics and alliterations.



According to Colossians 1:13-20 Jesus is:

- Son (beloved Son)
- Sovereign (kingdom)
- Savior (redemption, forgiveness)
- Semblance (image of the invisible God)
- Source (firstborn, creator)
- Self-existent (before all things)
- Sustainer (all things hold together)
- Superior (head of the church, firstborn from the dead, first place)
- Supreme Being (fullness to dwell in Him)
- Solution (reconcile, made peace)
- Sacrifice (blood of His cross)

What do you think Paul was trying to tell the Colossians?

Why did he focus on who Jesus is?

Let us find out together in Session Two.

In the meantime, before our next meeting:

- Pray Paul's prayer (1:9-12) for yourself and evaluate your current life situation and personal pursuits in light of Paul's prayer
- Research further on who Christ is based on 1:13-20
- Read 1:21-2:5 in various translations in preparation for our next study

Thank You!

God Bless!!

See you next week!!!

NOTES

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NOTES

A series of 24 horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

