

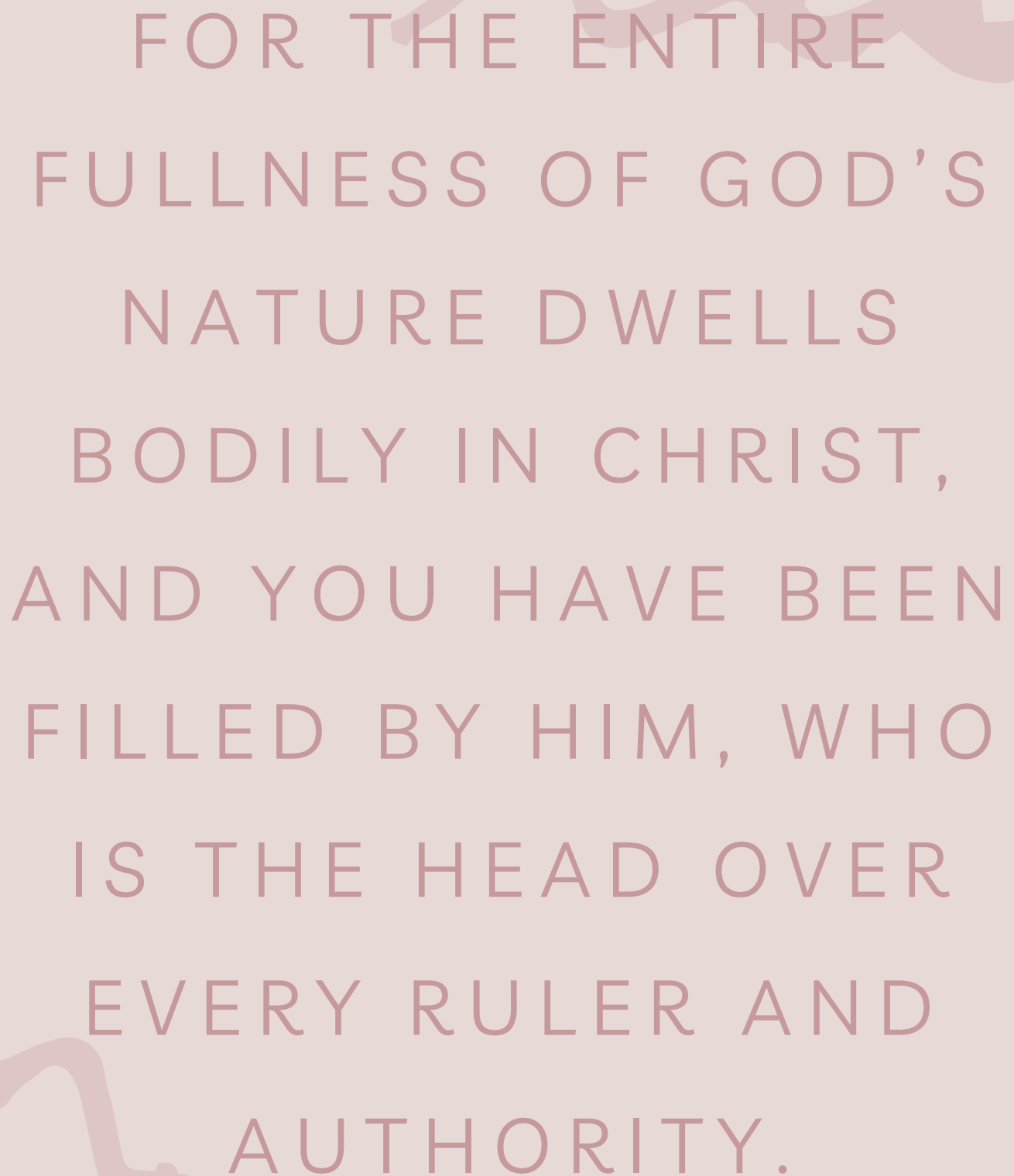
the book of
Colossians



*And whatever you do, in word
or in deed, do everything in the
name of the Lord Jesus, giving
thanks to God the Father
through Him.*

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FOR THE ENTIRE
FULLNESS OF GOD'S
NATURE DWELLS
BODILY IN CHRIST,
AND YOU HAVE BEEN
FILLED BY HIM, WHO
IS THE HEAD OVER
EVERY RULER AND
AUTHORITY.

Prepare Your Heart

Before you begin each study, take a moment to pause and "get your heart right" before the Lord.

Note: *It helps to write these things out in your journal each time.*

Here are the 4 aspects to remember as you do this exercise:

- Praise -

"Lord, today I praise you because You are _____."

- Thanks -

"Lord, today I thank You for _____."

- Forgiveness -

"Lord, please forgive me for _____."

- Prayer/Lift-up -

"Lord, today I lift up to You _____."



*He has rescued us from the
domain of darkness and transferred
us into the kingdom of the Son
He loves. We have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins, in Him.*

Highlighting System

by Amy Hale

connecting
words/phrases

everything
about God

things that should
apply to my life

things that should not
apply to my life (sins)

actual prayers/prayers
I pray over my life

Tips for using the Highlighter System:

- Colors can vary - choose what works for you!
- It helps to re-read the passage before each new highlighting color.
- Differentiate between God, Jesus, & the Holy Spirit by using a different color for each or using a symbol beside their reference (*such as a cross or dot in the same color you use for God*).
- **Read slowly!!** Each time you read the passage, God will reveal something new to you.

Connecting Words

Mark/highlight “connecting” words.

- For/because (explanation)
- And/and so
- So as/so that/that (purpose/result)
- Therefore/for this reason (conclusion)
- But (contrast)
- Since
- Other words/phrases (depending on Bible translation) that connect words and/or thoughts

Week 1
Introduction to Colossians

Who wrote the book of Colossians?

To whom was it written? Why?

When was it written?

In what style was it written?

READ THE ENTIRE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS EACH WEEK!

Colossians

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will, and Timothy our brother: **2** To the saints in Christ at Colossae, who are faithful brothers. Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Thanksgiving

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, **4** for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints **5** because of the hope reserved for you in heaven. You have already heard about this hope in the message of truth, the gospel **6** that has come to you. It is bearing fruit and growing all over the world, just as it has among you since the day you heard it and recognized God's grace in the truth. **7** You learned this from Epaphras, our dearly loved fellow slave. He is a faithful servant of the Messiah on your behalf, **8** and he has told us about your love in the Spirit.

Prayer for Spiritual Growth

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, 10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. 13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves. 14 We have redemption, the forgiveness of sins, in Him.

Week 2

Colossians 1:1 – 14

Read **Colossians 1:1 – 14** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight “connecting” words.*
 - To better understand connecting words, see the “Connecting Words” tips in front of your participant's guide.

Read **Colossians 1:1 – 14** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to God including pronouns.*
 - READ SLOWLY! The pronouns in Colossians can be tricky!
 - Locate the “God – Character and Actions” page at the back of your guide.
 - List all the things you learn about God in this passage, and be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 1:1 – 14** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to Jesus including pronouns and the phrases: “in Him”, “with Him”, “by Him”, “through Him”, etc.*
 - Again! READ SLOWLY!
 - Find the “Jesus” page located at the back of your guide.
 - On your “Jesus” page list all the things you learn about Him in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Note: *You will continue to add to your “God” and “Jesus” list throughout the study, so if you are writing in your own journal leave lots of space!!!*

Read **Colossians 1:3 – 8**

- Make a list of the characteristics of the church of Colossae.
- Have you seen some of these characteristics mentioned elsewhere in Paul's letters? (Hint check out **1 Corinthians 13**)

Read **Colossians 1:12 – 14**

- What has God done for believers? (Not only in Colossae, but all believers!)

Read **Colossians 1:9 - 14** - Paul's prayer for the believers of Colossae.

Note: *This is where we get to use those "connecting word" highlights!*

Read **Colossians 1:9 - 10a**

On the chart below write Paul's prayer request and its purpose.

Scripture Reference	What did Paul Pray for?	Connecting Word(s)	Scripture Reference	What is the purpose of Paul's request?

Read **Colossians 1:10b - 12**

On the chart below write what is included in walking worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, and its purpose, if given.

Note: *if there is a connecting word, there is a purpose!*

What is included in walking worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him?	Purpose

Questions

1. In Colossians 1:3 – 8, Paul and Timothy thank God for fellow believers, and in their thanks, they encourage them in the faith.

- How would that kind of encouragement impact your walk with Jesus?
- What steps can you take to follow Paul and Timothy's example to pray for and encourage the ladies you are gathered with and others in your life?

2. Paul and Timothy's prayer was very specific. It listed the request and the reason/benefit for that request. Using their prayer as an example, write two prayers.

- As a group, write a prayer for your group to pray each time you gather for your collective spiritual growth and that you will bond and grow together in community during this study.
- Write a personal prayer that reflects how you want to grow in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord.

Take it Deeper

When you reflect on their encouragement to the church in Colossae, what area(s) of your faith-walk measure up, and what area(s) might need improvement? 13

The Centrality of Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation.

16 For everything was created by Him,
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the 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 by Him all things hold together.

18 He is also the head of the body, the church;
He is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
so that He might come to have
first place in everything.

19 For God was pleased to have
all His fullness dwell in Him,

20 and through Him to reconcile
everything to Himself
by making peace
through the blood of His cross—
whether things on earth or things in heaven.

21 Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds because of
your evil actions. 22 But now He has reconciled you by His physical
body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and
blameless before Him— 23 if indeed you remain grounded and
steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the
gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all
creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

Week 3

Colossians 1:15 – 23

Read **Colossians 1:15 – 23** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight “connecting” words.
 - To better understand connecting words, see the “Connecting Words” tips in front of your participant's guide.

- Mark/highlight all references to God including pronouns.
 - On your “God – Character and Actions” page list all the things you learn about God in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

- Mark/highlight all references to Jesus including pronouns and the phrases: *in Him, with Him, by Him, through Him, etc.*
 - On your “Jesus” page list all the things you learn about Him in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

- Mark/highlight the words: first, all, and everything.

Read **Colossians 1:21 – 23** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight what believers are to do (Our Identity and Actions)
- Mark/highlight the things that do not/should not apply to you – (Sin)

Fill in the chart below. **Verse 23** has an important connecting phrase that shows that “Who we are now” requires further action. In the last section write what that action is.

Before Christ	In Christ (now)
If indeed we	

Questions

1. In Colossians 1:23 Paul gives very specific instructions to the believers in Colossae. How can you apply those instructions to your own faith walk? Give practical steps and their benefits.

2. When a word is used repeatedly (all, everything, first) the author is emphasizing something.

- What is Paul emphasizing by using these words?
- Why is that important?

Take it Deeper

Paul went to great lengths to describe Who Jesus is and what He has done for the church. Pick two or three of those descriptions and write what that means to you. It's okay to not think you have the "correct" answer, we will discuss this in our video. This is a chance for you to really stretch and consider the significance of each of these characteristics.

Paul's Ministry

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for His body, that is, the church. 25 I have become its servant, according to God's administration that was given to me for you, to make God's message fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to His saints. 27 God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 I labor for this, striving with His strength that works powerfully in me.

2 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you, for those in Laodicea, and for all who have not seen me in person. 2 I want their hearts to be encouraged and joined together in love, so that they may have all the riches of assured understanding and have the knowledge of God's mystery—Christ. 3 All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Him.

4 I am saying this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive arguments.
5 For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ. 6 Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude.

8 Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elemental forces of the world, and not based on Christ. 9 For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, 10 and you have been filled by Him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. 11 You were also circumcised in Him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of the Messiah. 12 Having been buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him and forgave us all our trespasses. 14 He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; He triumphed over them by Him.

16 Therefore, don't let anyone judge you in regard to food and drink or in the matter of a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of what was to come; the substance is the Messiah. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on ascetic practices and the worship of angels, claiming access to a visionary realm and inflated without cause by his unspiritual mind. 19 He doesn't hold on to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, develops with growth from God.

20 If you died with the Messiah to the elemental forces of this world, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world? Why do you submit to regulations: 21 "Don't handle, don't taste, don't touch"? 22 All these regulations refer to what is destroyed by being used up; they are commands and doctrines of men. 23 Although these have a reputation of wisdom by promoting ascetic practices, humility, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value in curbing self-indulgence.

Week 4

Colossians 1:24 - 2:23

Read **Colossians 1:24 - 2:23** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight “connecting” words.
 - To better understand connecting words, see the “Connecting Words” tips in front of your participant's guide.

Read **Colossians 1:24 - 2:23** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight all references to God including pronouns.
 - Locate the “God - Character and Actions” page at the back of your guide. List all the things you learn about God in this passage, and be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 1:24 - 2:23** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight all references to Jesus including pronouns and the phrases: in Him, with Him, by Him, through Him, etc.
 - Find the “Jesus” page located at the back of your guide. On your “Jesus” page list all the things you learn about Him in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 1:24 - 2:23** and as you do:

- Find the “What Jesus Has Done for Believers” page, in the back of your guide. List what **Jesus has done for believers**. *This is different from the Jesus list.*

Read **Colossians 2** - Mark/highlight “no one/anyone”

- Complete the chart below from **Colossians 2**.

Paul's Warning	How it applies today

Questions

Read Colossians 2:6

1. Does our spiritual activity stop when we accept Jesus as our Savior? According to Colossians 2:6 why/why not? Break down the verse to support your answer.

2. What are some practical steps we/you can take to protect yourself and your faith from all these outside influences?

Take it Deeper

If Paul were writing this letter today what are some other warnings he might add to this passage?

The Life of the New Man

3 So if you have been raised with the Messiah, seek what is above, where the Messiah is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on what is above, not on what is on the earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with the Messiah in God. 4 When the Messiah, who is your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

5 Therefore, put to death what belongs to your worldly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, God's wrath comes on the disobedient, 7 and you once walked in these things when you were living in them. 8 But now you must also put away all the following: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and filthy language from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self. You are being renewed in knowledge according to the image of your Creator. 11 In Christ there is not Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all.

The Christian Life

12 Therefore, God's chosen ones, holy and loved, put on heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, 13 accepting one another and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive. 14 Above all, put on love—the perfect bond of unity. 15 And let the peace of the Messiah, to which you were also called in one body, control your hearts. Be thankful. 16 Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Week 5

Colossians 3:1 – 3:17

Read **Colossians 3:1 – 3:17** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight “connecting” words.*
 - To better understand connecting words, see the “Connecting Words” tips in front of your participant's guide.

Read **Colossians 3:1 – 3:17** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to God including pronouns.*
 - READ SLOWLY! The pronouns in Colossians can be tricky!
 - Locate the “God – Character and Actions” page at the back of your guide. List all the things you learn about God in this passage, and be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 3:1 – 3:17** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to Jesus including pronouns and the phrases: in Him, with Him, by Him, through Him, etc.*
 - Find the “Jesus” page located at the back of your guide. List all the things you learn about Him in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 3:1 – 11**

- On the “What Jesus Has Done for Believers” page list what Jesus has done for believers.

Note: *This is different from the Jesus list.*

This list is to show you what He has done for believers.

Read **Colossians 3:1 – 4**

- *Mark/highlight what Paul's instructions to believers*
 - Go to the “Our Identity and Actions” page in the back of your guide. From Colossians 3:1 – 4 fill in the chart with:
 - Paul's instructions
 - The “why” - often, this is the connecting word.
 - What happens next? Is there a consequence of the action?

Week 5

Read **Colossians 3:5 - 11** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight Paul's instructions to believers.
 - Add these items to your "Our Identity and Actions" page.

Note: This section doesn't include a lot of "whys" so you can leave that part blank.

Read **Colossians 3:5 - 11** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight the things that do not/should not apply to you - **sin**
 - What are we to 'put to death'?

 - What are we to 'put away'?

Read **Colossians 3:5 - 12** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight who we are in Christ.
 - Write out who we are in Christ.

Read **Colossians 3:12 - 17** and as you do:

- Mark/highlight what believers are to "put on" - anything that should apply to my life.
 - Add these items to your "Our Identity and Actions" page.

Questions

1. In Colossians 3:5 Paul used the phrase “put to death.” Why do you think he chose those words?

2. Colossians 3 has a lot of instructions for believers – review your list and ask the Lord to reveal areas He would like to develop in you. What are practical steps you can take to apply those things to your life?

Take it Deeper

In Colossians 3:12, Paul uses beautiful words to describe believers. In Paul’s day, sending a letter was an expensive endeavor *there were no wasted words*. Paul thought long and hard about what he would inscribe on that papyrus. Each and every word was carefully chosen and edited to make sure it fit the scroll. So, those descriptors are not throw-away words, they were written in the final copy for a reason and on purpose. Stop for a moment and consider each of those words. If you are in Christ, they apply to YOU!! Let that sink into the deepest part of your heart and grab hold of it with both hands. How will you live this week knowing, that if you are in Christ, those words apply to you?

Christ in Your Home

18 Wives, be submissive to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

19 Husbands, love your wives and don't be bitter toward them.

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won't become discouraged.

22 Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, in order to please men, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord.

23 Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong he has done, and there is no favoritism.

4 Masters, supply your slaves with what is right and fair, since you know that you too have a Master in heaven.

Speaking to God and Others

2 Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving. **3** At the same time, pray also for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of the Messiah, for which I am in prison, **4** so that I may reveal it as I am required to speak. **5** Act wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. **6** Your speech should always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you should answer each person.

Christian Greetings

7 Tychicus, our dearly loved brother, faithful servant, and fellow slave in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. **8** I have sent him to you for this very purpose, so that you may know how we are[a] and so that he may encourage your hearts. **9** He is with Onesimus, a faithful and dearly loved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you about everything here.

10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, as does Mark, Barnabas's cousin (concerning whom you have received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and so does Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcision are my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is always contending for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. 13 For I testify about him that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. 14 Luke, the dearly loved physician, and Demas greet you. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her home. 16 When this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And tell Archippus, "Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it."

18 This greeting is in my own hand—Paul. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.

Week 6

Colossians 3:18 – 4:18

Read **Colossians 3:18 – 4:18** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight “connecting” words.*
 - To better understand connecting words, see the “Connecting Words” tips in front of your participant's guide.

Read **Colossians 3:18 – 4:18** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to God including pronouns.*
 - READ SLOWLY! The pronouns in Colossians can be tricky!
 - Locate the “God – Character and Actions” page at the back of your guide.
 - List all the things you learn about God in this passage, and be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 3:18 – 4:18** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight all references to Jesus including pronouns and the phrases: in Him, with Him, by Him, through Him, etc.*
 - Find the “Jesus” page located at the back of your guide.
 - On your “Jesus” page list all the things you learn about Him in this passage, be sure to note the chapter and verse references.

Read **Colossians 3:18 – 4:18** and as you do:

- Add to your “What Jesus Has Done for Believers” list.

Read **Colossians 3:18 – 4:6** and as you do:

- *Mark/highlight what Paul's instructions to believers.*
 - Go to the “Our Identity and Actions” list and fill in the chart with: Paul's instructions, and if included:
 - The “why” - often the connecting word(s).
 - What happens next? Is there a consequence of the action?

Read Paul's closing **Colossians 4:7 – 18** and as you do:

- Make a list of the descriptions Paul uses as he refers to those mentioned in his closing. *Add those descriptions to your “Our Identity and Actions” list.*

Questions

1. What did you learn about Jesus in this study?

2. What words would Paul use to describe you to others in the closing lines of his letter?

3. In Colossians 3:18 – 4:1, Paul gives instructions on behavior/actions in our daily relationships. He emphasizes the importance of our relationships and actions at home and in the workplace. Look over your “Our Identity and Actions” list and list three of those actions and, if acted on how they would positively impact your family, job, and community.

Notes

Week 7
Review Video



Jesus

character and actions

Jesus

God

character and actions

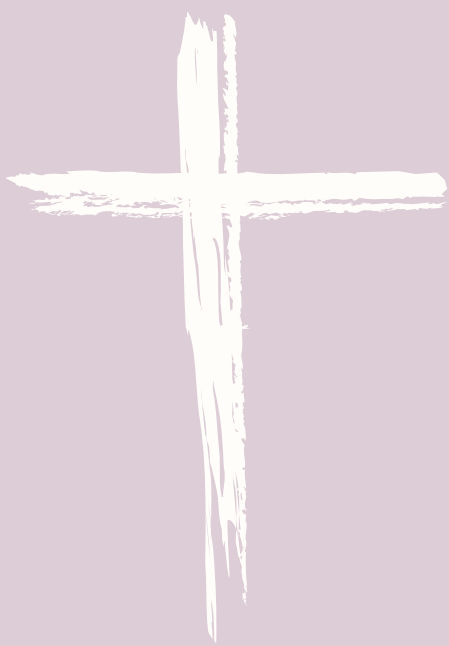
God

HE DISARMED THE RULERS AND
AND DISGRACED THEM PUBLICLY;
HE TRIUMPHED OVER THEM BY HIM!

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what Jesus has done for the

Believers

Our identity and actions:
Paul's instructions to believers

Instruction	Connecting Word	The Result

Our identity and actions:
Paul's instructions to believers

Instruction	Connecting Word	The Result

Set your minds on what is above



not on what is on the earth

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