

Christians on Campus
Fall 2020 Bible Study
The Heart of the Bible
Colossians (5)

Colossians 3:17–4:18

^{3:17}And whatever you do in word or in deed, do all things in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. ¹⁸Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter against them. ²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing in the Lord. ²¹Fathers, do not vex your children, that they may not be disheartened. ²²Slaves, obey in all things those who are your masters according to the flesh, not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart fearing the Lord. ²³Whatever you do, work from the soul as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as recompense. You serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵For he who does unrighteously will receive what he unrighteously did, and there is no respect of persons. ^{4:1}Masters, grant to your slaves that which is just and equal, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

²Persevere in prayer, watching in it with thanksgiving, ³praying at the same time for us also, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ (because of which also I am bound), ⁴that I may make it manifest as I ought to speak. ⁵Walk in wisdom toward those who are without, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

⁷All the things concerning me, Tychicus, the beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow slave in the Lord, will make known to you, ⁸whom I have sent to you for this very thing, that you might know the things concerning us and that he might comfort your hearts; ⁹with Onesimus, the faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all the things here. ¹⁰Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, greets you, as well as Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, (concerning whom you received commandments, If he comes to you, receive him), ¹¹and Jesus, who is called Justus; these alone of the circumcision are my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, ones who have become a consolation to me. ¹²Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. ¹³For I testify of him that he labors much for you and for those in Laodicea and for those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke, the beloved physician, greets you, as well as Demas. ¹⁵Greet the brothers in Laodicea, as well as Nymphas and the church, which is in his house. ¹⁶And when this letter is read among you, cause that it be read in the church of the Laodiceans also, and that you also read the one from Laodicea. ¹⁷And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it. ¹⁸The greeting in my own hand—Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you.

Questions:

1. Based on the passage, what kind of prayer should we persevere in (consider 1:9; 4:3, 12)? What is your experience of prayer?
2. In Colossians 4, although there are many believers sending greetings through Paul, he does not mention their background; rather, we see Paul's consciousness of the new man. Fill out the table below to see how we can see this in the apostle Paul's writings here. Consider also Colossians 3:10-11 "And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who

created him, ¹⁴where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.”

Person	Verses	Background
Tychicus	Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21; 2 Tim. 4:12; Titus 3:12	
Onesimus	Philemon 16	
Aristarchus	Acts 19:29; 20:4; 27:2; Philem. 24	
Mark	Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37, 39; 2 Tim. 4:11	
Jesus (Justus)	Acts 1:23; 18:7	
Epaphras	Col. 1:7	
Luke	Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philem. 24	
Demas	2 Tim. 4:10; Philem. 24	
Nymphas		
Archippus	Philem. 2	

- After listening to the podcast and reading through this last section of Colossians, consider how this section connects to the rest of the epistle, especially the profound aspects of Christ brought out previously (i.e., Christ as the preeminent one, the one in whom all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden, the body of all the shadows, Christ our life, Christ the new man).

Group Activity: Conclusion to Colossians

After having gone through the book of Colossians, consider the question: who or what is Christ to you? In your groups, please record a short video showcasing what Christ is to you. Props welcomed. :)

- Examples: “Christ is my real water and quenches all of my thirst.” “Christ is my real umbrella, He protects me from the rain.”
- Instructions: designate one person to record, have them turn on “hide non-video participants” and then have everyone turn off their camera. For the recording, turn cameras on one at a time and say/demonstrate what Christ is to you.
- At the end, everyone turns on their cameras and the recorder should be in gallery view, have everyone say in unison-ish “Christ is everything!” (don’t try too hard to sync, just say it. Practice a few times if you’d like.