

FREEING YOUR CHURCH TO MINISTER

A Bible Study on Colossians

Colossians 1:1-8

To whom did Paul write this letter? (2)
Why did Paul give thanks? (4-6)
How do you imagine "Faith and love springs hope"? (5-6)
Describe the impact of the gospel. (6)
How did the people in Colossae hear the Gospel? (7)

Colossians 1:9-14

What motivated Paul to pray for Colossian Christians? (8-9)
How did Paul and others pray? (9-)
Toward what purpose did Paul pray? (10-11)
Why did Paul give thanks to the Father? (12-13)
What was Paul's testimony? (13-14)

Colossians 1:15-23

What most impresses you about Jesus from this description? Why?
What is the value or importance of Christ?
What is the purpose of reconciliation? (22-23)
According to 21-22, what is the gospel?
What is the human aspect of holiness? (23)
What does it mean to become the servant of the gospel?

Colossians 1:24-2:5

Describe the mystery Paul discloses (26-27).
How is Christ the hope of glory? (27)
Why was Christ proclaimed? (28)
In verses 1:29-2:1, why do you imagine Paul speaks of his sufferings?
What is Paul's purpose? (2)
What are hidden in Christ? (3)
Describe being "present in spirit". (5)

Colossians 2:6-23

How would you explain vs. 6-7?
How does our start with Christ affect our continued living in Him?
What do we learn from each of the metaphors in verse 7?
What deceptive philosophies are present among our acquaintances? (8)
From 9-10, describe Jesus.
Circumcision, a Jewish ritual, became symbolic language for taking off the flesh, meaning the physical drives and the psychological needs found in our humanness (11).
Sinful nature is an unfortunate phrase and now corrected word (flesh) in the NIV.
What value is to be found in identifying with Christ? (12)
In 13-15, what has God done for us?
How can we keep people from judging us? (16)
How do we handle someone who believes he has an inside track with God? (18-19)

Paul's thinking about freedom:

You died with Christ.

You no longer live to serve the principles of this world.

So do not submit to these human regulations.

While these rules appear to be wise, they hold no value.

Even harsh treatment of the body does not restrain sensuality.

Colossians 3:1-11

From verses 1-4, describe Paul's reasoning with the Colossae Christians?

How does this differ from exchanging one set of rules for another?

Define from vs. 6, what is idolatry?

How does the earthly nature connect with idolatry?

What brings the wrath of God?

How does the "put to death" list differ from the "rid yourself" list?

Why stop lying according to vs. 9?

Describe the renewal of the new self (10).

What is the meaning of vs. 11?

How might we apply that meaning in our world?

Colossians 3:12-17

What is a Christian's new identity? (12)

What are the results of a new identity?

How does love unify these virtues? (14)

Why do you suppose we are to permit peace to rule in our hearts? (15)

How is thanksgiving lived out? (15-17)

Colossians 3:18-4:1

Why do you suppose advice for families is necessary?

When Paul tells us we are free from human regulations why does he put down family rules?

By giving guidelines for behavior on the part of slaves and masters, isn't Paul supporting slavery?

To what contemporary relationship might the guidelines for the slave/master relationship apply?

Colossians 4:2-6

What would devoting yourself to prayer look like for you?

What are Paul's prayer requests?

Which of these requests would be most helpful for you?

If you were wise in how you act toward outsiders, what changes would take place?

What in your conversation would differ?

Why do you imagine Paul does not request release from prison?

Colossians 4:7-18

What is the importance or value of these greetings?

Why the special mention of Mark, the cousin of Barnabas? (10)

Why do you suppose Paul mentions the Jews (11)?

What is the reference to Epaphras? (12-13)

Colossians is a circular letter (16).

We know nothing of the letter to Laodicea.

Consider the alternative readings for vs. 17.

Why "remember my chains"? (18)