



You can have it all!

A Bible Study on the Book of Colossians to encourage teenage girls to focus on the fullness and supremacy of Christ...



Dear	[please insert your na	ıme here]

When considering what Bible study material to focus on next, I knew I wanted to do a New Testament book. My mind kept going back to Colossians ~ the little 4 chapter book in between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.

One of the reasons is that it is a book I have not studied in its entirety. Another reason is because it is about the **supremacy** and **pre-eminence** of Christ...(Look them up ~ they are two wonderful words.) What could be more rewarding than understanding and experiencing the fullness of Christ and what that means for you and me?

When I asked my husband what he knew about Colossians, he said, "It is a good book to study!"

So, here in your hands, you hold a Bible Study on the letter to the Colossians.

It is a book that will teach us about doctrine and about life. It is a book that is God-breathed and therefore useful to us to teach us, encourage us, rebuke us, correct us and train us in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16). It will remind us that we are complete in Christ!

Before you begin Day 1, I encourage you to read through the whole book of Colossians in one go ~ It is only 4 chapters and 95 verses. Remember...it is a letter. So it needs to be read in its entirety first, keeping in mind that Bible translators have added chapter breaks and verse breakdowns.

Paul, the writer of this letter to the Colossian Church, has not met these believers, but has heard about them. He is writing to them from prison to affirm them, commend them, encourage them, warn them and challenge them. Even though this letter was written in about 60AD, the church at Colossae probably looked very similar to your church ~ similar problems and personalities.



Check the box after you have read the entire book of Colossians in 1 sitting.

Now you are ready to begin Week 1, Day1.

I leave this verse with you from Colossians, praying that it will be your attitude as you embark on this new adventure into God's wonderful, living Word.

"Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Colossians 3:17

Yours in Christ,

Leanne

"The message of this letter is greatly needed today. I hear too many voices telling me that I need something more than Jesus Christ – some exciting experience, some new doctrine, some addition to my Christian experience. But Paul affirms that what I need is appropriation of what I already have in Christ. 'And ye are complete in Him.' I also hear voices that want to judge me and rob me of the glorious liberty I have in Christ. How encouraging to hear Paul say: 'Let no man beguile you, let no man spoil you, let no man judge you.' The fullness of Christ is all that I need, and man-made regulations and disciplines cannot replace the riches I have in God's Son." [Warren Wiersbe]

[All passages of Scripture are from the New American Standard Bible]
[Chapter headings are from Warren Wiersbe's outline]

Day 1



Background

"We heard of your faith in Christ Jesus." Colossians 1:4

The book of Ephesians focuses on the church of Christ. The book of Colossians focuses on the Christ of the church.

Ephesians focuses on the body, Colossians focuses on the head.

It is quite probable that Paul wrote Ephesians and Colossians at the same time as there are many striking similarities:

Both letters were written from prison, delivered by Tychius, structured alike, with some parts almost exactly the same

?	How can w	e know	that Paul	wrote t	his lette	r from	prison?
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Colossians 4:3	••••••••••••••••••••••••

[See also Acts 21:17-28:13]

Map of Colossae and surrounding area (Area around Turkey today)



The city of Colossae was 160 km east of Ephesus in Asia Minor. It was very close to Hierapolis and Laodicea. In fact, Paul even asked for the letter to be read to the believers in Laodicea. (See Colossians 4:16)

Hierapolis

Known for health, pleasure and relaxation

Laodicea

Known for commercial trade and politics

Colossae

A simple, small town famous for its fabric dyes. It was a pagan (Gentile) city, but with an intermingling of Jews (This will help us understand some of the problems in this church – problems both of pagan and Jewish origin.)

Colossae is probably similar to East London - A small, relatively insignificant city (apart from Mercedes Benz). But believers and the church there were significant.

Scripture does not tell us when the church at Colossae was started, but it is unlikely that Paul started it:

V	AF.		Deel's

Reasons	<u>Paul</u>	did	not start	Colossian	church:

Colossians 2:1	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•
•••••	••••••••••••••••••••••	

Colossians 1:4

It is possible that it was started by Epaphras:

•	From	what	Paul	writes	in	Col	ossians	1:4-8	3
•	From	what	Paul	writes	ın	COI	ossians	1:4-8	

•	Epaphras has had contact with those in Hierapolis and Laodicea
	(Colossians 4:12-13)

PURPOSE of Paul's letter:

To warn the believers (brethren). See Colossians 1:21-23 / 2:8-10 **To direct their attention to Jesus Christ.** See Colossians 1:13-18

The first century religious environment was much like our own. It was a time of religious mixing, with people borrowing a little from this and a little from that. **Paul dwells on the solution:** a better understanding of Jesus. Knowing the real Jesus helps us to stay away from the counterfeit, no matter how it comes packaged.

THEME of Paul's letter:

JESUS CHRIST... the pre-eminent and all sufficient Saviour.



Chapter 1 - Doctrine

• Read through **chapter 1 of Colossians** printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight "faith/faithful" in blue
- Mark "love" with a pink
- Highlight "bearing fruit" in green
- Block phrases referring to who Christ is and what He has done in purple
- Mark any reference to God with a red △
- Circle the word "hope" in orange
- Underline the word "gospel"

Colossians 1 ~ Christ's Supremacy Declared

- 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;
- because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel
- 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.
- **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.
- **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,
- 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.
- **21** And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,
- yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--
- if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.
- 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.
- 25 Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching of* the word of God,
- **26** that is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints,
- 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- 28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.
- **29** For this purpose also I labour, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.



Weak 🔲

• Re	ad Colossians 1:1-8
	begins his letter in the usual first century manner, by giving his name, to he is writing and a short greeting.
?	How doe Paul introduce himself in verse 1?
?	What else do you know about Paul?
• In A	Find out who Paul is and how he was converted, read Acts 9 . Acts 22:1-21 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Paul described how God se him to be an apostle. <i>So, Paul wrote this letter with God's authority</i> .
?	Who else does he mention in verse 1?
	Timothy was with Paul when Paul wrote this letter. Timothy had travelled and worked with Paul for several years.
?	How does Paul refer to the Colossian believers in verse 2?
?	How doe Paul refer to Jesus in verse 3?
Lord	means that He has complete authority. He is head over everything
Jesu	is his human name. The name Jesus means 'God is the one who saves
Chri	is a Greek word. It means the same as the Hebrew word Messiah, the anointed one
belie	gives thanks to God regarding some things about the Colossian vers \sim some encouraging things that we should copy: were known for:
(i) Th	eir FAITH in Christ (1:4 /2:5)
? Wh	nat was the Laodicean church known for in Revelation 3:15?
1 Ho	w would others describe your faith in Christ?

Medium 🔲

Strong

Colossians 1:4 highlights their faith in Christ. What a wonderful reputation for a church to have — to be known for their faith! They weren't known for their youth programmes, choir ensembles, worship team, social outreach, large numbers or state of the art technology. **They were known for their FAITH!** They were definitely not lukewarm!

What is your local church known for?
How would you describe your local church to others?



(ii) Their LOVE for all the saints (1:4)

This love was unconditional, sacrificial and was not elective. It was for ALL the believers.

- Summarise how this love would have looked from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
- Is this a characteristic of your local church?
- Their faith was in Christ and this showed by them having the same attitude as Christ. How does Philippians 2:2-4 describe this attitude?

(iii) Bringing forth FRUIT (1:6)

- What are Jesus' words in John 15:8?
- Place In the second of the second Produce fruit? See John 15:4
- What is this fruit according to Galatians 5:22?



2 According to verse 6, since when had they been producing fruit?
How would your explain the truth of God's grace ? (This is basically your salvation testimony – you need to be able to explain it simply and with clarity. You might want to look ahead to v. 13,21-22 as well as Ephesians 2:1-9)
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
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Day 4
• Read Colossians 1:9-14
These verse are Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers. From this prayer we can learn what we should be praying for in ourselves and others.
We can learn not only what Paul desired for the Colossians, but also what God would desire for ALL Christians, including us today!
If you want to know what God's will is for your life, then start here!
Summarise, in point form, what Paul is praying for the Colossian believers in verses 9-14: (i.e. what God's will is for them)
Are these things that you desire for yourself and pray for?
What are we promised in 1 John 5:14-15?

What does Paul ask God to do in verse 9? Fill in the missing words:
" to ask that you may be with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual and
To be filled means to be "not lacking" / to have all we need. To have knowledge of God's will in all wisdom requires prayer - James 1:5 To possess knowledge of God's will with spiritual understanding requires reading the Word - Ephesians 3:3-5
What are 4 the reasons for being filled with this knowledge? (v.10)
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
2 What are we to give thanks to God for according to v.12-14?
• Read Colossians 1:15-20
In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked His disciples a simple question: "Who do you say that I am?"
How did Simon Peter answer Him in Matthew 16:16?
Who do you say Jesus is?
In Colossians 1:15-20, Paul gives a wonderful testimonial as to who Jesus is Write down the 9 phrases that you would have blocked in purple on Day 1, describing who Christ is:
These phrases explain Jesus Christ as the PRE-EMINENT ONE, the SUPREME ONE — the Christ in you!
2 Look up the meaning of:
Pre-eminent
Supreme [A Pible dictionary (even online) is best, otherwise www.dictionary.com will belo you.]
[A Bible dictionary (even online) is best, otherwise www.dictionary.com will help you.] Write out John 1:1

I want you to consider the first phrase in verse 15: "He is the image of the invisible God"	
How would you explain this phrase? (see v.19)	
Image (the ancient Greek word 'eikon') expresses two ide	
First, likeness, as in the image on a coin or the reflection is Second, manifestation, with the sense that God is fully rev	
i. If Paul meant that Jesus was merely similar to the Fo	
have used the ancient Greek word homoioma, which	speaks of similar
appearance. ii. "God is invisible, which does not merely mean that H	e cannot he seen
by our bodily eye, but that He is unknowable. In the	
unknowable God becomes known." (Peake)	
Note Jesus' words in John 14:7,9.	
	•••••
What did Jesus say in John 10:30?	
Day 5	••••
• Read Colossians 1:21-29	
What was the status of the Colossians before their conv	version (v.21)?
What did God do to change that in verse 22? (See also	
•••••••••••••••••••••••••	
God's answer to alienation is reconciliat	
What does that mean for all believers? See verse 5 and	
••••••	
2 How would you describe yourself before salvation?	
What is their status after conversion (v.22)	•••••
"holy" - sanctified, set apart for God's use	•••••
"hlamologe" without being guilty of anything worthy of h	مامسم مم مامسام

[&]quot;blameless" - without being guilty of anything worthy of blame, no blemish "beyond reproach" - guilty of nothing, blameless, free from accusation

In verse 24-29, Paul gets personal and shares with his readers what it means to be a minister of Christ.

Paul took great joy in suffering for the Gospel (v.24)

Glance at 2 Corinthians 11:23-29 and briefly list what Paul had gone through.
• Paul considered himself a servant (v.25-27)
Who or what did Paul consider himself a servant of according to verses 24-25?
2 Who is he doing his ministry for? Who commissioned him?
When it comes to the church, to Christ and the Gospel, do you consider yourself a willing servant?
Summarise Mark 10:42-45 in your own words.
Write out the command in Galatians 5:13b
• Paul had one main goal in life(v.28-29)
What was the reason Paul proclaimed the gospel (good news about Jesus)?
Remember, Paul has just outlined who Christ is in v.15-20. Knowing and sharing this Christ is worth everything to him. His completeness comes from being in Christ. Without Christ, he is nothing. In Christ, he has everything!

• Are we imitators of Paul?

 Are we concerned about whether or not our brethren and others are being presented "perfect in Christ"?

 Are we willing to make the effort and to sacrifice so that others will hear the gospel and become disciples of Christ?

Are we praying for the maturity of the church?

• Do we understand the hope of glory? (v.27)

• Can we say with Paul, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

He was not out just to preach, just to make converts...he wanted to make mature disciples, who had become complete in Christ!



Chapter 2 - Danger

• Read through **chapter 2 of Colossians** printed below.

"You have been given fullness in Christ" Colossians 2:10

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight "faith/faithful" in blue
- Mark "in Christ/in Him/with Christ/by Christ" with a +
- Highlight "full/fullness/complete" in green
- Block any commands (v.6,8,16,18) in purple
- Mark any reference to God with a red △
- Circle the words "died with Christ" in orange
- Underline all verbs describing God's actions in v.13-15

Colossians 2 ~ Christ's Supremacy Defended

- **1** For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,
- that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is,* Christ *Himself*,
- **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
- 4 I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument.
- **5** For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.
- **6** Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him,
- **7** having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.
- **8** See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.
- **9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,
- **10** and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;
- and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

- 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- 13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
- 14 having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- **16** Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--
- **17** things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.
- **18** Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in selfabasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
- and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.
- 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
- **21** "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"
- **22** (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)--in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
- 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Any	<u>other</u>	<u>r personal (</u>	observations:	
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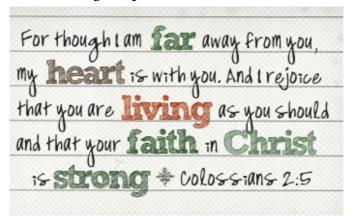
• Read Colossians 2:1-8

In Colossians 1:28-29, we saw that Paul's primary goal was to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus." (that they be spiritually mature in Christ.)

"See to it that no-one takes you captive..." Colossians 2:8

With that in mind, it is not surprising that the first 7 verses of chapter 2 express:

- a. His great concern for them Colossians 2:1-3
- b. The reason for this concern Colossians 2:4-5
- c. Some exhortations in light of his concern Colossians 2:6-8



Before we look at the dangers that Paul warns the Colossians believers about – let us look at what it means to be spiritually mature in Christ. This was Paul's goal, and striving to be mature and strong in Christ is the armour needed to recognise and ward off false teaching and heresy (which we will see was creeping into the Colossian church).

From verses 2-3, what are some elements of being mature in Christ?
How does 2 Timothy 2:15-16 add to our responsibility in being mature?

Paul is commending the Colossian believers for their strong faith, but encouraging them to continue to grow and not to become lazy and apathetic. Otherwise they will easily be led astray by false teaching and wrong philosophies. They need to be united in love and to encourage one another in the Truth.

diligence n. (14c): 1. persevering application; acciduity 2. the attention and care legally expected or require of a person (is warty to a contract) diligent dj. a diligent waker: hardworking, industratus, persevering, earnest, in ring, painstaking, careful de rough diligent and (14c) caracterized by steady, earnest, and energetic application and effort

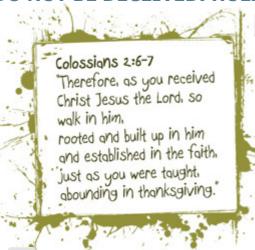
Paraphrase Colossians 2:6 in your own words.	445
	ROC

Paul's concern is that the Colossian believers are being deceived by "fine sounding arguments."

How often have you been "persuaded" by someone else who has the gift of the gab, or who speaks with fancy eloquence using sophisticated vocabulary in a confident manner?

We have all been there. We feel intimidated and they mentally bully us. They seem to show up our lack of knowledge. Because we cannot hold our own, and are not firm and strong in what we believe, we end up doubting what we do know and start believing them, or adding some of their philosophy to our truth. This is a very dangerous place to be, and it is the exact place that Satan wants us to be - doubting God and doubting Christ. He did it in the Garden of Eden with Eve, and he uses the same modus operandi today!

DO NOT BE DECEIVED! HOLD FIRM TO YOUR FAITH IN CHRIST!



Read **Psalm 1** to confirm this.

According to Acts 17:11 – what set the Berean believers apart?

Do not easily believe philosophies that come from man's wisdom. Oprah promotes this philosophy and it sounds good on the surface, but it will always disappoint, because man's wisdom is faulty, and detracts from Christ!

Is this a practice/habit of yours — to test what others say against the truth of Scripture? How often do you ask those with "fine sounding arguments" to show you where they get that from in Scripture? Scripture has to be your yardstick for the Truth, otherwise you will be tossed backwards and forwards.

Paul is affirming that no-one should confuse or intimidate us with mysteries or hidden knowledge, because all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ and he will show us that we are in Christ and the fullness of Christ is in us!

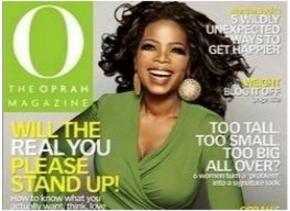
What did Paul remind the Colossians that they were being filled with in Colossians 1:9-10?

Day 3

Before we continue in the rest of Colossians 2 - I want you to browse through your magazines and make a collage below.

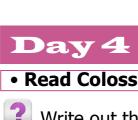
Cut out any worldly philosophy phrases or sayings that we so easily buy into and that take us captive, and stick them below.

(You probably won't have to look much further than the covers)









 Read Colossians 2 	:8-10	
Write out the comr	mand Paul gives in verse 8	
How does Paul des in Colossae?	scribe the philosophy that v	was infiltrating the Church
	Shelosophy	
•	-	ons that we are faced with ome across or heard about:
Atheism	Mormonism	Catholicism
Evolution	Jehovah' s Witness	G ☐ Orthodoxy ☐
Humanism 🗌	New Age Moveme	
Any other not me	entioned above	
truth, it is the error pure and simple d Bereans, testing ever	iritual knowledge and unde	one away from the ! We need to be good ns, holding firm to our faith
	erse 9, what is the reason erse 8?	Paul gives for his command
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
We have fullness in Conclow, deceptive and	g else, any new teaching on the common that the common that the Tesus according to Colo	t says CHRIST + is ruth! BEWARE!
Triac do We Have		

The false teachings or "philosophies" that the Colossian believers were facing can be broadly summarised by the term **GNOSTICISM**.

Please stick with me here and put on your concentration caps.

GNOSTICISM, as a philosophy, can be quite complicated and is a very broad term to refer basically to a blending of elements of different religions.



"GNOSTIC" comes from the Greek Word "gnosis" which means "knowledge."

Simply put: Gnosticism was a religious philosophy that taught that salvation could only be achieved through a secret, higher knowledge. (Spiritual elitism)

(Do you immediately recognise man's wisdom here in the concept of Christ+something else?)

This expressed itself in many different forms:

- Knowledge is superior to faith and therefore was for the more enlightened. Ordinary Christians did not possess this secret/higher doctrine or knowledge. (Christ + higher knowledge)
- A denial of the true humanity of Christ
- A separation of the physical and the spiritual. All matter is evil.
- A denial of the personality of the supreme creator God.
- A blending of Christian doctrines with various elements from Jewish, Greek and other religious (Synchronism) (Christ + rituals and ceremonies)
- Often included extra experiences.

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How does Ephesians 2:8-19 described how we are saved?.

GRACE ALONE by FAITH ALONE in CHRIST ALONE

Do you remember the **theme** of Colossians?

The supremacy and sufficiency of Christ!

We are going to see that the Gnostics were detracting from Christ's sufficiency and supremacy. They were adding other elements to Christianity.

We see the same in our churches today. BEWARE!

The book, *THE SECRET*, *by Rhonda Byrne*, is a good example of New Age philosophy posing as a form of Christianity with spiritual elements, but with new ways of finding spirituality and the god and power within yourself. It is all about positive thinking to create or attract your own reality. It is marketed as

revealing a NEW TRUTH. It promises much, but is man's wisdom and so is hollow, empty and deceptive! It draws away from Christ and the fullness we have in Him. BEWARE!



• Read Colossians 2:11-23

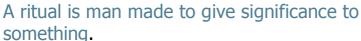
So let's get down to the nitty gritty of how this philosophy of Gnosticism was manifesting itself in the Colossian Church, and hence Paul's need to warn his Christian brothers and sisters.

The Gnostics (false teachers) were spiritual elitists and were denying that being in Christ was enough – rituals, ceremonies, knowledge, experiences and rules held the key to freedom.

What did Jesus say in John 8:31-32
What did Jesus say in John 14:6
What can we conclude, without a doubt, from the above two verses?
There were 4 areas that the Gnostic philosophy was playing out: (Note: the same is happening today in various forms)
i. Ceremonialism (v.11-15)
Many Jewish Christians felt it necessary for Gentile Christians to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses in addition to following Christ (See Acts 15:1-11)
How does Paul counter this argument in verse 11-15? Explain in your own words.
2 How is this confirmed in Romans 7:4-7?

ii. Ritualism (v.16-17)

A *ritual* is a set of actions, performed mainly for their symbolic value. It may be prescribed by a religion or by the traditions of a community.





The Gnostic false teachers were judging the Colossian believers because they were not observing the Old Testament Jewish dietary laws and religious observances. They were being urged to go back to these rituals. This was all inclusive –

Monthly = Religious festivals (e.g. Passover, Pentecost etc.) **Weekly** = New Moon and Sabbath Day **Daily** = Daily prayers



What religious rituals are you aware of people celebrating today?

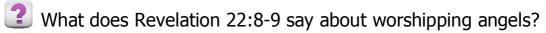
iii. Mysticism (v.18-19)



Mysticism is a way to find new or higher knowledge. Warren Weise defines Mysticism as follows:

"Mysticism is the belief that a person can have an Immediate experience with the spiritual world, completely apart from the Word of God or the Holy Spirit."

The Gnostics were relating spiritual experiences and communing with angels and worshipping them as a means of gaining access to God.



What does Hebrews 4:14-16 say about our access to God?

iv. Legalism (v.20-23)

Legalism means we believe we have to keep man-made rules or have a certain conduct to earn God's favour.

?	What 3	3 broad	l rules	were th	ne Gnos	tics impo	osing on	the Christ	ians in v	.21?
••••	• • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • •	•			

?	What does Paul remind the Colossians of in v.22?	RULES 1. YOU CAN'T. 2. YOU CAN'T. 3. YOU CAN'T
• • • • • •		2. YOU CAN'T
• • • • • •		3. YOU CAN
		4. YOU CAN'T
?	What is Pauls' final conclusion and warning in verse 23?	
• • • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
• • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • • •
?	In Galatians 3:24-28 we have a wonderful summary of w been saying to the Colossians. Rewrite these verses in si	hat Paul has mple steps.
• • • • • •		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Even though Paul wrote this letter to the Colossian believers about 1950 years ago, we are experiencing the same heresies and false teachings in our society and churches today.

They make take different forms, but the results are the same: They detract from Christ and His supremacy.

They add to salvation (Christ + something else.)

Be warned...Beware...Be prepared!

We have died to the world – why would we choose to go back to living with the World's rules and buying onto the world's

wisdom? PARDONED



He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. — Col. 2:13-14 NIV



Chapter 3 - Duty

• Read through **chapter 3 of Colossians** printed below.

"... As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved." Colossians 3:12

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight all commands in blue
- Mark "in Christ/in Him/with Christ/by Christ" with a +
- Highlight any groups of people in green
- Block who we are called in v.12 in purple
- Mark any reference to God with a red \(\Delta \)
- Highlight what believers are to put away in v.8 and what believers are to put on in v.12,14 in pink.
- Circle the following phrases in orange
 have been raised with Christ (v.1)
 have died (v.3) / your life is hidden with Christ (v.3)
 have put off the old self (v.9)
 have put on the new self (v.10)
- Underline the following phrases:

 as the Lord (v.13)

 in the name of the Lord (v.17)

 in the Lord (v.18)

 through Him (v.18)

 pleases the Lord (v.20)

 fearing the Lord (v.22)

 for the Lord (v.23)

 from the Lord (v.24)

 serving the Lord (v.24)

Colossians 3~ Christ's Supremacy Demonstrated

- If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,
 - where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.
- **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

- **5** Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming.
- 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.
- **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.
- **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices
- **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.
- **11** Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; **but Christ is all, and in all.**
- **12** Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
- **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.
- **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
- **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.
- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- **17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- **18** Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- **19** Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.
- 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- **21** Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
- 22 Slaves, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
- 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,
- **24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.
- **25** For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.
- **4:1** And masters, treat your servants considerately. Be fair with them. Don't forget for a minute that you, too, serve a Master--God in heaven.



We've seen a progression in Paul's letter to the Colossians. He started by laying a good foundation of **solid doctrine**, talking about who Jesus is and what He's done for us. Then he laid out some warnings concerning the **heresies** that were beginning to form in Colossae.

"But Christ is all, and in all." Colossians 3:11

Now, in chapter 3, he moves onto the practical.

Correct doctrine leads to correct living.

• F	Read Colossians 3:1-11			
Pe	rsonal Purity:			
?	What are the 2 similar com	mands that Paul g	ives in verses 1	and 2?
	•••••••		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
?	"To set you minds on" mear heading:	ns "to think on." G	ive examples u	nder each
	Things above		Things on	earth
			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
	•••••••••	VS	•••••••	•••••
			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • •
				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
?	From Philippians 4:8-9 (printhink on and underline the i		ght all the thing	gs we are to
8	Finally, brothers, whateu is just, whatever is pure, if there is any excellence, about these things.	whatever is lovel	y, whatever is o	commendable,
9	What you have learned a practice these things, and			
?	Colossians 3:3 gives us the commands of verses 1 and	-		y the
?	What "earthly" things our lives? (see v.5,8)	are we to <i>put to</i>	death in	

Put to death is very strong terminology.

It does not mean we hide these sinful things for a while and take them out when no-one is looking. It means getting rid of them forever – it is intentional. (It is pre-meditated murder). It is deliberate! We are burying our past because we have died with Christ and now we are in Him and so we will walk as He walks. We want to be like Christ. We don't have to do this in our own strength, we have the Holy Spirit who is our helper.



What are the 2 contrasting actions in verses 9 and 10?



Paul uses clothing as a picture of our character in Colossians 3. The old clothing which consists of habits and practices of the old sinful nature are to be stripped off and we are to put on and wear the garment of the new nature. (Righteousness)

We are talking 'fashion' here, girls, but fashion of the <u>heart</u> and the name brand is "Christ is all!"

The new man is renewed in knowledge, he is hungry to know what *God says* in His Word. The new man is part of a family, which favours no race, nationality, class, culture or ethnicity. It only favours Jesus, because in this new family, **Christ is all and in all.**





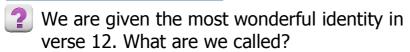
Memorise this truth

?	So far, in each chapter of Paul's letter, he has contrasted who we were
	with who we are now. This is our SALVATION testimony.
	(Colossians 1:12-14, 21-22 / 2:11-15 / 3:1-3,7,10)
	Using these passages, explain in diagram form, what happens at salvation



• Read Colossians 3:12-17

Christian Fellowship:





Because of wh	o we are, what are we to clothe our hearts with?(v.12,14)
	behaviour and actions will identify us and will
	e belong to. At the fashion show of our hearts, will be obvious who our designer is.
	What are our responsibilities as believers towards other believers in the church according to v.13-16?
? Verses 13 talks	s about forgiveness. How would you define forgiveness?
What does Chi	rist's forgiveness of you entail?
Colossians 2:13-12	4
Romans 6:23	••••••
1 John 1:9	•••••
Psalm 103:12	••••••••••••••••••••••••

Verses 15-16 talk about giving thanks. Why are we to be thankful to God, according to Colossians?
"Silent gratitude isn't much use to anyone." ~G.B. Stern Take what you have answered above, and right now, pray that to God with a thankful, worshipful heart.
Colossians 3:17 is a <i>life verse</i> . Rewrite it below in the form of a resolution. resolve to
• Read Colossians 3:18-21
Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. (Psalm 127:1) Paul now gets very close to home! In fact, he enters the home. The home is the testing ground for the principles laid out before. Practical Christian duty and love start in the
home. Remember - the way Paul approaches anything is to set the foundation and show us Christ first. So our hearts should be right as we come to these verses - ready to heed and obey - out of love for Christ, who is all and in all!
Let's look at the 4 groups of people and the verb (command) linked to each: Group of people Command (verb)
v.18
v.l9
v.20

We will briefly look at each group separately.



I am hoping that one of your desires and hopes for the future is to be a wife. I am sure you dream of the handsome groom, the beautiful dress, the feeling like a princess, the flowers etc. I am hoping that your main desire is to be a *godly wife* – one that will honour the Lord in your role as wife. Paul addresses the role of wife here with one word: *Submit!*

Now Paul probably knew that we would react strongly to that word, so, by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, he qualified the verb with the words: "...in the

Lord."

submit: hupotasso ("under" + "to put in order") = to arrange under, to subordinate

The commentator, David Guzik, explains it as follows:

(Please take time to work through this — I couldn't explain it any better!) The ancient Greek word translated submit is essentially a word borrowed from the military. It literally means "to be under in rank." It speaks of the way that an army is organized among levels of rank. There are levels of rank, and you are obligated to respect those in higher rank.

We know that as a person, a Private can be smarter, more talented, and a better person than a General. But he is still under rank to the General. He isn't submitted to the General so much as a person as he is to the General as a General. In the same way, the wife doesn't submit to her husband because he deserves it. She submits because he is her husband.

The idea of submission doesn't have anything to do with someone being smarter or better or more talented. It has to do with a God-appointed order.

"Anyone who has served in the armed forces knows that 'rank' has to do with order and authority, not with value or ability." (Wiersbe)

Submission does not mean inferiority.

Submission does not mean silence.

Submission means "sub-mission."

There is a mission for your marriage, and that mission is obeying and glorifying God. The wife says, "I'm going to put myself under that *mission*. That *mission* is more important than my individual desires. I'm not putting myself below my husband, I'm putting myself below the *mission* God has for our marriage, for my life."

When a wife doesn't obey this word to submit to your own husband as is fitting in the Lord, she doesn't just fall short as a wife. She falls short as a follower of Jesus Christ. So girls, look for a man you can respect and submit to!



What does Ephesians 5:20-23 say to confirm this?

Husbands are to *love* their wives and not be harsh with them. Paul qualifies this further in Ephesians by saying that husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the church.

Christ sacrificed Himself for the church and died for the church. That is the love a husband is to have if he is a godly husband.



love: agapao – love that is based on choice

=choosing to value another person, God's kind of love



This kind of love is outlined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. How is it described?

This love is a sacrificial, giving, absorbing, love. The word has little to do with emotion; it has much to do with self-denial for the sake of another.



At this point, the text is speaking directly to you. Obeying your parents and showing your parents honour is a way of learning to honour and obey God. Paul again qualifies this command with the words, "...this pleases the Lord."

hupakouo ("under" + "to listen") Obey:

=to listen, to obey

How does Paul elaborate on this in Ephesians 6:1-3?

Fathers here would also include mothers, but as the father is the spiritual head of the home, the responsibility falls to him to set the tone in the home.

Parents can provoke their children by being too harsh, too demanding, too controlling, unforgiving, or just plain angry. This harshness can be expressed through words, actions, or non-verbal communication. They are to



exemplify Christ, thus teaching their children and pointing them to Christ.

Provoke: erethizo – to stir up, to provoke;

=to nag as a habit; from eris - contention, strife, wrangling

athumeo ("not" + "passion") - to be disheartened, Discouraged:

=dispirited, broken in spirit



• Read Colossians 3:22-4:1

In Daily Work:

If you are ever to be an employee or boss – then these verses apply to you. Paul is talking about our work ethic. Once again, I use David Guziks' Commentary on these verses:



"This is another sphere of God's order of authority. Employees have a God-ordained role of obedience and submission to their employers or supervisors. Not with eye service (only when you are watched), as menpleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God: We are always tempted to work just as hard as we have to, thinking we only have to please man. But God wants every worker to see that ultimately, they work for Him.

Therefore, they should do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. God promises to reward those who work with that kind of heart."

"The Christian who is a dishonest, lazy or unreliable worker has something far worse to deal with than a reprimand from his earthly supervisor. His heavenly supervisor may prepare a reprimand as well."

"Christian masters or supervisors (employers) need to remember that they have a Master in heaven that they must answer to. Would they like God to treat them with the same measure of justice and fairness they have treated their workers with?" **Verse 11 would be significant to this situation.**

- Look carefully at verse 23. What other verse in Colossians 3 is very similar?
- Paul has outlined every area of life we may find ourselves in and told us in very simple terms how we are to behave as Christians in each of those areas. What is the overarching motivation to obey these commands? Look up 2 Corinthians 5:14
- Write out 1 John 3:16

IT IS ALL FOR CHRIST, IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST IT IS ALL BECAUSE OF CHRIST, IT IS ALL IN CHRIST!

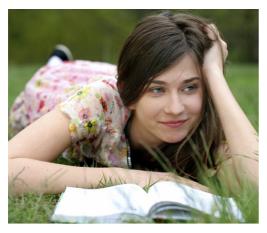
- What is our reward according to verse 24?
- What does 1 Peter 1:4 say regarding our inheritance?



Chapter 4 - Diligence

• Read through **chapter 4 of Colossians** printed below.

Take your coloured markers and mark the following:



- Highlight all commands in blue
- Mark any references to Christ/Lord with a+
- Highlight any individual's names in green
- Block the word "faithful" in purple
- Mark any reference to God with a red
- Circle the words "prayer" and "pray" in orange
- **1** Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.
- **2** Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;
- **3** praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;
- **4** that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
- **5** Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
- **6** Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.
- **7** As to all my affairs, Tychicus, *our* beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.
- **8** For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;
- **9** and with him Onesimus, *our* faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your *number*. They will inform you about the whole situation here.
- **10** Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and *also* Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);
- and *also* Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

- 12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bondslave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, **that you** may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
- **13** For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- **14** Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and *also* Demas.
- **15** Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.
- **16** When this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter *that is coming* from Laodicea.
- **17** Say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
- **18** I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.



• Read Colossians 4:2-4

How to talk to God:

In Colossians 3 and 4, the apostle Paul exhorts the Colossian believers to live the kind of life that demonstrates their faith in Jesus Christ as the

"All-sufficient and Pre-eminent Saviour"

All that we are commanded to do in chapter 3 regarding how we are to live, we cannot do in our own strength. So Paul logically moves onto **prayer**.

We are to pray for ourselves and for opportunities for evangelism – for the lost. Paul is first of all concerned with his readers'



prayer life, and he commends *characteristics of effective prayer* to them:



What are the first 2 words in verse 2?

Other translations translate this command as "continue steadfastly" or "pray diligently"

This would suggests a gritty determination not to give up until God's response comes.

What does 1 Thessalonians 5:17 say about how we are to pray?
What is the second command in verse 2?
Other translations translate this command as "being watchful" PRAYER is our responsibility, duty and privilege.
What did Jesus say in Matthew 26:41?
What is the third command in verse 3? of
Romans 12:10-12 is a good summary of what Paul has been saying so far in Colossians. Record what these verses say:
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Let's look at some Biblical role models who were prayer warriors:
Record characteristics of their prayer lives
David: (Psalm 55:16-17) A Man after God's own heart
Daniel: (Daniel 2:17-18/6:10) A Man Beloved By God
Anna: (Luke 2:36-38) Widow Blessed to see the Christ child
Anna: (Luke 2:36-38) Widow Blessed to see the Christ child



So Paul tells us that our prayers need to be **faithful, watchful and thankful** in verse 2. In verses 3 and 4, he adds another element: Our prayers need to be **purposeful.** Our prayers are often very general and vague. Paul encourages us to pray specifically

What did Paul ask the Colossian to pray specifically for in verses 3-4?

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	,
	es, record either what our <i>attitude</i> should be regarding cally what /who we should pray for:
Matthew 5:44	
Matthew 6:7	
Mark 11:25	
Luke 18:13	
Acts 12:5	
Romans 12:12	
Ephesians 1:18	
Philippians 4:6	
2 Thessalonian	

There are many more verses to look at it, but I think you get the picture. There is plenty that we can pray for that is according to God's will and that is purposeful. So when you are asked to pray, you don't have to panic because you cannot think of anything to pray for – now you have a whole list! **And you know you are praying according to God's will!**

Let's look at how Jesus taught us to pray in Matthew 6:9-13

- 9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- 10 'Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
 - 11 'Give us this day our daily bread.
 - 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- 13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

Take the prayer from Matthew 6:9-13, and paraphrase it into modern day language.
e.g. Dear heavenly Father I praise Your holy name
•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
Day 3
• Read Colossians 4:5-6
How to walk and talk:
The Christian life is lived out in the world. We are not to be of the world and we are not to be conformed to the image and pattern of the world, but we do live in the world and the world is watching us! We are different and that makes them feel uncomfortable, because it exposes their own sinfulness.

2 What two-fold command does Paul give us in verse 5?

How does "being wise in the in the way you act" look?			
••••••			• • • • • • • •
•••••••			• • • • • • • •
		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
What does "m	naking the most of every o	pportunity" mean?	
	••••••••		• • • • • • • •
			• • • • • • • •
What comman	nd are we given in verse 6	?	
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • •
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		• • • • • • • •
	our words need to be puthink before we speak arwords that will build other we speak the truth, we need to be puthink before we speak the truth, we need to be puthink before we speak the truth.	re and wholesome. We not and to only speak, text or seems up and encourage there eed to speak it in love. We have you said things or sted?	eed to ms m. If ords
hardly ever \Box	sometimes \square oft	en \square most of the t	ime 🗌
What does Pro	overbs 4:24 sav?		
			• • • • • • • •
			• • • • • • • •
What does Proverbs 22:11 say?			
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
	clesiastes 5:6a say?		
What does Ec		erbs 15:1?	

so that you may know how to answer everyone..."

This assumes that these Christians seek answers in God's Word, and they work at knowing how to communicate those answers to those who are outside, or are unbelievers.

Our speech can draw others to Christ or turn them away.

Nellie Pickard is a woman who loves to tell people about Jesus Christ.

She makes the most of every opportunity to witness in everyday situations. She tells about her phone call to a health-food store. She had noticed that bee pollen was on sale, so she asked the manager about the benefits of using it. "You'll live forever," he replied.



To Nellie, the words "live forever" were an open invitation. "I know you're joking," she said, "but I know I'm going to live forever, and not because I buy your bee pollen."

His response was encouraging. "I'd like to hear about it. I'm really interested in why you think you're going to live forever." Although he did not trust Jesus as Saviour at that time, Nellie had planted the seed by being wise "toward those who are outside" (Colossians. 4:5).

Our opportunities are endless, yet our words are often powerless. Instead of directing our conversations with unbelievers toward spiritual matters, we tend to stay in the safe zone. Doing as Nellie did is a skill we need to develop and a challenge that comes straight from God's Word.

We must look for those openings. With sincere kindness and genuine concern we can turn most conversations to eternal matters even if the subject is bee pollen. The best place to witness is where God has placed you. Shoring the Gospel



Take control of my words today, May they tell of Your great love; And may the story of Your grace Turn some heart to You above

CARPE DIEM - SEIZE THE DAY!



Write out 1 Peter 3:15:



How ready are you? Note Jesus' words in Luke 9:26:



• Read Colossians 4:7-17

How to be faithful:

Paul ends off his letter with some personal comments about some individual persons. These individuals have all been faithful in some area of ministry and God has chosen to have their names recorded in Scripture. Paul commends them. We may think we cannot be used of God because we have no particular talents or gifts – but even carrying a letter to the church at Colossae is commended as faithful and is seen as doing God's work!

(i) TYCHIUS

Apparently, the Colossian Christians didn't know who Tychicus was. But he would carry this letter to them ("will tell you all the news about me").

It seems that Epaphras, who brought the news from Colossae to Paul in Rome (Colossians 1:7), would not return to Colossae soon, so Paul sent Tychicus.



?	How	įs

How is Tychius described in v.7?

What are his two purposes according to v.8?

(ii) ONESIMUS

Onesimus was a slave owned by a believer in Colossae, but he ran away and came into contact with Paul in Rome. There, Onesimus became a Christian and a dedicated helper to Paul. His story is continued in Paul's letter to Philemon 1:10-20. Philemon was Onesimus' former owner from whom Onesimus escaped.

2 How is Onesimus described in v.9?

(iii) ARISTARCHUS, MARK, JUSTUS

What relationship do they each have to Paul?

(iv) EPAPHRAS



Prayer is hard work, and Epaphras worked hard at it, especially knowing the danger of the false teaching in Colossae. So, Epaphras prayed that the Colossian Christians would stand perfect and complete in the will of God. That's a great prayer to pray for anyone. Epaphras prayed well because he cared well. If he lagged in

zeal, he certainly would have lagged in prayer. How is Epaphras described in v.12-13?
(iv) LUKE and DEMAS What was Luke's profession?
Luke wrote two other New Testament books. He was a follower of Christ and he wrote the Gospel of Luke (see Luke 1:1-4) and the book of Acts which is the account of the start of the New Testament Church after the coming of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1)

(v) NYMPHA



What is significant about Nympha?

Having no buildings of their own, the early church met as "house churches." Because few houses were large, there were usually several "house churches" in a city, with a "pastor" over each one.

(vi) ARCHIPPUS

This man Archippus must have been at a point of special need, because he needed this word of encouragement from Paul. It also shows Paul's tender concern for this individual.

All these believes are commended for their faithfulness in various areas of Church ministry. (Col 3:17)

2	If you were mentioned in a sermon or letter by your pastor to another
	church, what would you like to have said about you? How would you
	like to be commended with regard to ministry and God's work?

Greetings from	she is
	[Your name]



• Read Colossians 4:18

Conclusion





?	What greeting does Paul end his letter with in Colossians 4:18?
?	Why do you think Paul asks them to remember his imprisonment?
Pro righ Who	I is asking that when they think about him, they would pray for him. yer has been a key concept in this chapter and Paul assured them it at the start of his letter that he was praying much for them. (Col.1:9 at better way is there to remember the afflictions and sufferings of the word was believers than to take their circumstances to the Lord in prayer! How does Hebrews 13:3 reinforce this?

Imprisonment refers to a bond or band and then to a chain or shackle (of a prisoner). Paul was chained to a Roman guard during his imprisonment at which time he wrote epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Timothy, Titus and Philemon, the "prison epistles".

How often do you think about or pray for the *Persecuted Church?* On *pages 41-43* you can read **9 accounts** from the persecuted church around the world. *Make a commitment to pray for each of these countries regularly, for the believers there and for boldness as they preach the Gospel*.



Grace *charis* here most likely refers to sanctifying grace, that transforming power which alone makes it possible to carry out Paul's instructions and commands in this epistle. *God's undeserved favour, manifest in a believer's life.*

Does this grace belong to you? Explain how you are a recipient of it.

3RACE

It is appropriate that Pauls' concluding words are about **Grace**, since the theme of his whole letter is about the pre-eminence of Christ and God's **grace** is exhibited gloriously in Christ's Work on the cross, for us, **whereby we gain everything in and through Christ**.

- This **grace** is illustrated clearly in Philippians 2:5-11 where Christ's work is outlined.
- This **grace** motivates us to love Him, obey Him, find our joy in Him and tell others about Him! It will ensure that no-one will lead us away from Him through false teachings from man's wisdom.
- This **grace** motivates us to be dependant on Him in prayer and to be faithful.
- This **grace** motivates us to know the Truth, experience the Truth, and keep the Truth.
- This **grace** shows us that Jesus is supreme and pre-eminent and there is nothing more important in this life than trusting in Him. Knowing Him and serving Him because He is the creator and sustainer of all and all authority in Heaven, on earth and under the earth has been given to Him.

Using the word **GRACE** as an *acrostic*, come up with your own poem

• This grace is a gift of God. Amen!

	or prayer of praise to God for who you are in Chr grace to you.	ist because of His
G	••••••	•••••
	•••••	
A	••••••	
	•••••	
	•••••	
?	Let your closing words to this study be those of Jeremiah 10:6-7 .	Colossians
	••••••	

Highlighting the Persecuted Church [from www.kidsofcourage.com]

The following stories tell about kids and families who continue to serve God in the face of dangers and hardship. Please pray for them and for other Christians around the world who face the same kinds of struggles.

Nigeria: The Pastor

Workers from The Voice of the Martyrs visited a church service in Nigeria. The pastor that day was a 15-year-old boy! He preached from 1 Thess. 5:18, which says, "In everything give thanks. "The young pastor has no father. He lives at a boarding school called the Stephen Centre during the school year. Other children at the Stephen Centre are also fatherless.



Their fathers died when Muslims attacked homes, churches, and families in their towns. Now kind Christian teachers help them get an education. The pastor has reasons to be sad, but he has learned to thank God "in everything." He shares what he has learned with other students at the Stephen Centre when they gather together on Sundays to worship God.

2. India: No Record of Wrongs

Oved lives in a camp in India with his mother, Lydia. Two years ago, radical Hindus attacked their town. Oved's dad, Akabar, told him and Lydia to hide in the bushes. Akabar hid somewhere else, but the Hindus found him. After he refused to become a Hindu, the attackers hit him. He died from their attack. Lydia and Oved were glad that the Hindus did not find their hiding place. They were sad when they learned that Akabar had died, but they

continue to trust God. "God was with him," Lydia said of her husband. The Bible says that love "keeps no record of wrongs" (1 Corinthians 13:5), Lydia found out who attacked Akabar, but she did not write down their names, so she does not remember them. She kept "no record of wrongs." "God will deal with them," Lydia said. "I am giving forgiveness to them. I pray they come to Christ." Ask God to comfort Oved, Lydia, and all

those who still do not have permanent homes after the Hindus' attack.

3. Laos: Hard Time for Christians

Vannee is a 12-year-old Christian girl in Laos. "Kids tell me not To be their friend," Vannee said. "They don't want me to come to school because I'm a Christian. "People threaten and curse us and tell us to stop being Christians," Vannee continued. "The police came and forced us to leave our home. I was scared. They



threw my sister and me into a truck, then pointed a gun at my dad. My family has been kicked out of our home and village three times because we are Christians." Local officials in Laos try to stamp out Christianity among some groups in their country. They raid church meetings, arrest Christians, and take away their property. Pray for strength for Vannee and her Christian

friends and relatives.

4. Vietnam: A Joy to Suffer

Brad Konemann and seven other youth travelled to Vietnam to help and meet with persecuted Christians. In 2010, Brad returned to Vietnam to spend time with Vietnamese Christian youth at a Bible school. **Rache**l was one of the students he met. Rachel was 14 when she was arrested for Her faith by Vietnamese officials. The police treated her harshly and were not kind to her. Rachel told Brad that it



was a joy to suffer with the Lord Jesus. She said God was using her troubles to make her a brave soldier for the gospel.

How is Rachel like the apostles described in Acts 5:40-41?

5. North Korea: No Longer a Throwaway

"When I was in North Korea, I didn't know anything about Christianity," said a North Korean youth who escaped from his country. "After I escaped to China, I went into a church by chance. "I am a sinful person, and I deserve to be thrown away by the side of the road," the boy said. "But the Christians treated my life as a precious thing. I want to become like the Christians."

treated my life as a precious thing. I want to become like the Christians who live their life by the Ten Commandments and who pour out their love on people like me."

Like other North Koreans in China, the boy is in danger of being sent back to North Korea if Chinese police find him. In North Korea, Christians are treated harshly. *Pray for North Koreans in China and Christians in North Korea*.

6. Pakistan: Accident Causes Trouble



Nadimah was scared. Like many other Christian teenagers in Pakistan, she worked as a maid for Muslims to help support her family. One day earlier this year, the owner of the house forced a Quran into Nadimah's hand.

(TheQuran is the Muslim holy book.)

"You follow a false religion," the owner said. "Become a

Muslim and I will teach you to read the Quran."

"I won't read the Quran," said Nadimah. "Please let me go home."

The owner was angry. She slapped Nadimah and the Quran fell out of her hand. "You did that on purpose," the owner said. In Pakistan, it is against the "blasphemy laws" to treat a Quran roughly. Many Christians are falsely accused of breaking the laws and are sent to jail when Muslims are angry with them. Nadimah was scared that might happen to her after she accidentally dropped the Quran. Ask God to strengthen and protect Nadimah and other Christians in Pakistan who fear the blasphemy laws.

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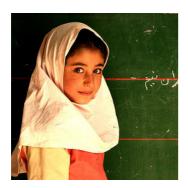
7. Sudan: Bold Storyteller

Sarah is a 6th-grader in Texas. She and her family used to live in Sudan, where her dad taught Sunday school under a mango tree near a mosque. (A mosque is a building where Muslims worship.) The leader of the mosque told Sarah's dad to quit preaching about Jesus. Sarah said that the Muslims would have given her dad a house, a car, and other presents if he had denied Jesus.



But he did not. Muslims put Sarah's father in prison, and he was treated very roughly. After he got out, he returned to his family. But sadly, he died from injuries he received in prison. Sarah was born after her father died. She later came to the U.S., and she has started boldly sharing the story about her father with other Christians.

8. Iran: Saved from Destruction



Ten-year-old **Pariya** and her brother were afraid that their mother would leave them. She seemed to be angry with them all the time. She and Pariya's father fought and argued a lot. They planned to get a divorce. Then Pariya's mother, who was a Muslim, saw a Christian program that came to their home in Iran by satellite TV. She called a Christian counsellor on the programme for help.

"After that phone call, my mother started to change and became kind and gentle," said Pariya. "She became a Christian and my brother and I are not scared anymore! God saved my family from destruction, and I want to become a Christian, too." *Pray for Pariya and her family. Muslims in Iran who decide to follow Jesus are often treated badly by their neighbours and by the government.*

9. Burma: Praying for the Soldiers

Pasada is a 7-year-old orphan in Burma. Villagers found him outside after soldiers attacked their village. They took him to a Christian orphanage in another town. The government of Burma tries to control Christian activities. They are especially harsh toward minority tribes. Many of the tribal members are



Christians. Pasada did not talk for a year after he got to the orphanage. He was too traumatised after the Burmese soldiers' attack. Now Pasada has decided to live for Jesus, and he talks! The children in the orphanage get up at 4 a.m. to read the Bible and pray. They pray that the Burmese soldiers will come to Jesus.

Locate these 9 countries on a world map

THE WORLD / LE MONDE

