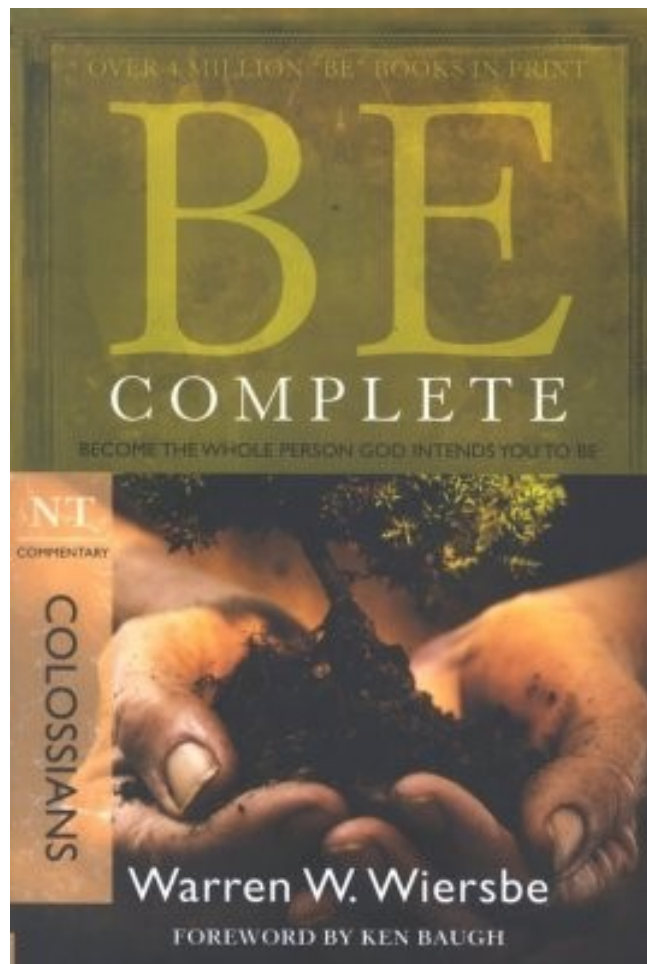


# Greater Pleasant Branch Baptist Church

Fall 2024 – Winter 2025  
Bible Study

## The Book of Colossians

Theme: Complete in Christ – “And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.” – Col. 2:10



# SIX STEP MEDITATION GUIDE FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



## **Meditation on scripture**

Meditation on scripture is one of the spiritual disciplines that is key to believers becoming complete in Christ. You are encouraged to utilize this meditation guide as we study the book of Colossians.

- 1 READ
- 2 REVIEW
- 3 REWRITE
- 4 RECAP
- 5 RELATIONSHIP
- 6 REFLECTION

# Six Step Meditation Guide

Practicing this Spiritual Discipline can result in a deeper understanding of Scripture, answer the question: What does this passage of Scripture teach and lead to spiritual growth.

Suggestions for meditating on Scripture from the book: “Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life”, by Donald S. Whitney

## Bible Study Tools

You may want to acquire these books to aid your study of God’s Word.

- Vine’s Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words
- Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible

**Meditation:** Deep thinking on the truths and spiritual realities revealed in Scripture for the purpose of understanding, application and prayer.

## SIX STEPS TO MEDIATION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### Step #1 – Reading

- Select a passage of Scripture to read, a verse, several verses or a chapter.
- Begin to identify phrases, words, or terms that impress you from the passage of Scripture.
- Select something specific from the passage of Scripture that can be the focus of your meditation.
- Meditate on what you have read.

### Step #2 – Review

- Review the passage of Scripture repeatedly, looking more deeply into what impresses you in the passage.
- Review a verse or verses several times (at least 7 times) focusing on a different word or phrase in the passage. Seven times is only a suggestion, and you should review as many times as you are led.
- Meditate on what you have reviewed.

### Step #3 – Rewrite

- Rewrite the Scripture passage, a verse or verses in the passage in your own words.
- Rewriting can be connected to what impressed you in the passage, especially what impressed you as you reviewed the passage of scripture repeatedly.
- Rewriting all or part of the passage of Scripture does not have to be precise, at this point you are beginning to gain insight regarding the passage of Scripture.
- Meditate on what you wrote.

#### **Step #4 – Recap**

- Formulate a biblical principle from the text, asking the question: What does this particular passage of scripture teach?
- Think of an illustration that would help you to explain the passage of Scripture, perhaps a story, event or object.
- Think of applications for the passage of Scripture – What would you do in response to the teaching of the passage of Scripture?
- Meditate on what the passage teaches and your response to that teaching.

#### **Step #5 – Relationship**

- Ask how the passage of Scripture points to some aspect of God's law or to the gospel.
- Ask how the passage of Scripture points to something about the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Ask what question is answered or what problem is addressed by the passage of Scripture.
- Meditate on the answers to each of these questions.

#### **Step #6 – Reflection**

- Pray through the passage of Scripture. Turn the words of the passage into prayer. Pray to God about the things that come to mind as you consider the passage of Scripture.
- Memorize the passage of Scripture, a verse or verses from the passage.
- Identify a minimum number of insights into the passage of Scripture. Ask how the passage of Scripture speaks to your current issue or question.

## LESSON INTRODUCTION

### KEY DOCTRINES IN THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE DECLARED, DEFINED AND DEMONSTRATED

#### TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT COLOSSIANS

1. The Apostle Paul identifies himself as the author of Colossians (Col. 1:1; 4:18).
2. Epaphras likely planted the church at Colossae after bringing the gospel he heard under Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:10) back to his home city (Col. 1:7; 4:12).
3. Paul writes the letter from a Roman prison around 60-62 AD (Col. 4:16).
4. Colossae was a small but diverse city in Rome's Asia province, which corresponds to modern-day Turkey.
5. The Colossians were immersed in a cultural environment full of pluralism and syncretism. Most people borrowed bits and pieces from the religious and philosophical ideas of the day.
6. Throughout the book Paul hints at a "Colossian heresy." However, he focuses on Christ-centered, correct teaching rather than the content of the false teaching.
7. Whatever this false teaching is, it is "not according to Christ" (2:8), and it undermines the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus.
8. John Calvin summarizes Colossians as follows: "this Epistle...to express it in one word, distinguishes the true Christ from a fictitious one."
9. Like other Pauline letters, the first half of this book builds a rich theology that the second half exhorts us to live out the truths that have been established.
10. Ephesians and Colossians are companion books, written around the same time, that have a lot of overlap and often help explain one another.

**"Unfortunately, sin quickly entered the picture and ruined everything, seemingly halting the purpose of God through His people". (Genesis 3)**

## THE GOSPEL COLOSSIANS 1:1-8

### The Big Idea

The Gospel of Christ when applied by believers creates unity and spiritual growth within the body of Christ.

### Key Thoughts

1. Do we have any heresy today? Yes, we do; and it is just as deceptive and dangerous! When we make Jesus Christ and the Christian revelation only part of a total religious system or philosophy, we cease to give Him the preeminence. When we strive for “spiritual perfection” or “spiritual fullness” by means of formulas, disciplines, or rituals, we go backward instead of forward.
2. Christian believers must be aware of mixing their Christian faith with such alluring things as yoga, transcendental meditation, Oriental mysticism, and the like. We must also be aware of “deeper life” teachers who offer a system for victory and fullness that bypasses devotion to Jesus Christ. In all things, He must have the preeminence!
3. The church today desperately needs the message of Colossians. We live in a day when religious toleration is interpreted to mean “one religion is just as good as another.” Some people try to take the best from various religious systems and manufacture their own private religion. To many people, Jesus Christ is only one of several great religious teachers, with no more authority than they. He may be prominent, but He is definitely not preeminent.
4. Have you ever experienced the miracle of salvation? If you have, then keep growing and being fruitful for the Lord. The same Word that gave you life when you trusted Christ will continue to nourish that life and make you a faithful, fruitful Christian.
5. Are there any “Gospel miracles” of grace taking place where you live?

### Key Questions

1. Read Colossians 1:1-2. What is significant about the way Paul described himself?
2. What is significant about the way Paul addressed the recipients of this letter?

### Key Challenges and Applications

1. The church is pictured as a grace-receiving and grace-giving community. They receive grace from God (1:2), they learn the gospel of grace (1:7), and the gospel

transforms them so that they can give grace to one another. (1:8) How does the gospel help us be a grace-giving community? How can this small group create a grace-giving culture so that struggles are shared rather than covered – where do we fight sin together, rather than pretend it doesn't exist?

## PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

### The Big Idea

Prayer is a spiritual discipline that helps believers know Christ, grow in Christ and demonstrate the character of Christ.

### Key Thoughts

1. Two words summarize the practicality of the Christian life, walk and work. The sequence is important: first, wisdom; then walk; then work. I cannot work for God unless I am walking with Him; but I cannot walk with Him if I am ignorant of His will. The believer who spends time daily in the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4) will know God's will and be able to walk with Him and work for Him.
2. Knowledge, conduct, service and character must always go together. We know God's will that we might obey it; and, in obeying it, we serve Him and grow in Christian character. While none of us is perfectly balanced in these four factors, we ought to strive for that balance.
3. Only God's Spirit, working within us, can give us joy in the midst of problem, circumstances and problem people. "The fruit of the Spirit is...joy" (Gal. 5:22). Joy is not something that we ourselves "work up"; it is something the Spirit Himself "works in" – "joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17, NIV).
4. As we review this marvelous prayer, we can see how penetrating it is. We need spiritual intelligence if we are going to live to please God. We also need practical obedience in our walk and work. But the result of all of this must be spiritual power in the inner man, power that leads to joyful patience and longsuffering, with thanksgiving. Have you been praying this way lately?

### Key Questions

1. Read Colossians 1:9-12. On what did Paul focus when he prayed for the Colossian believers?
2. How can we be "filled with the knowledge of [God's] will"?
3. Why does God show us His will?

4. How do we walk in a manner that pleases God? How can you improve on this in your daily life?
5. What kind of fruit does God expect His children to bear?

## Key Challenges and Applications

1. What stands out to you in this prayer? How does it motivate your own prayer or help you see a way that you might pray differently?

## THE SUPREMACY AND SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

### The Big Idea

The preeminence of Christ, His role as the head of the church, His nature and work of reconciliation through the cross calls believers to continue in faith, grounded in the hope of the Gospel.

### Key Thoughts

1. The term “firstborn” does not refer to time, but to place or status. Jesus Christ was not the first being created since He Himself is the Creator of all things. “Firstborn” simply means “of first importance; of first rank.”
2. “Firstborn of every creature” means “prior to all Creation.” Jesus Christ is not a created being; He is eternal God.
3. Since Christ created all things, He Himself is uncreated. The word *for* that introduces this verse could be translated “because.” Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of all because He created all things.
4. When it comes to creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).
5. Only God exists before all creation, and only God can make creation cohere. To make Jesus less than God is to dethrone Him.
6. Jesus Christ made all things, He controls all things, and by Him all things hold together. Indeed, this is my Father’s world!
7. Each Christian is a member of this spiritual body, and Jesus Christ is the Head. In Greek usage, the word head meant “source” and “origin” as well as “leader, ruler.” Jesus Christ is the Source of the church, His body, and the Leader.



8. The church had its origin in Him, and today has its operation in Him. As the Head of the church, Jesus Christ supplies it with life through His Spirit.
9. "I am going to make Jesus Christ so attractive," he said, "that men will turn to Him." – Evangelist D.L. Moody
10. Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Creator, the Head of the church, and the Beloved of the Father. He is eternal God...and in our lives He deserves to have the preeminence.
11. Is Jesus Christ preeminent in your life?

## **Key Questions**

1. What verses/phrases in this passage focus on the person of Christ? What verses/phrases focus on Christ's work?
2. How did Paul explain Christ's deity and refute Gnosticism in this passage?
3. What is the significance of Christ as the "head of the body, the church?"
4. Knowing these facts about Christ, what difference can it make in the way you live? How can you make Christ preeminent in your life this week?
5. How does God reconcile rebellious people to Himself?

## **Key Challenges and Applications**

1. "All things were created through him and for him" (1:16). Read Rom. 11:36; and Eph. 3:20-21. What does it mean that all things are created (1) through Him and (2) for Him? How can this help you see Christ's glory in the world around you more?
2. Verse 23 characterizes our walk as, "stable, steadfast, and not shifting," from the gospel. What things in your life pull you away from Christ? In what areas are you tempted to turn to "functional" gods for what you want or need?
3. How does seeing the supreme glory of Jesus' person (1:15-19) and the sacrificial love in His work (1:20-23), "ignite a passion to follow Jesus"? What's one thing you can do this week to keep Christ's glory over all things and His grace to you in mind on a personal level?

## MATURING IN JESUS COLOSSIANS 1:24 – 2:5

### The Big Idea

Jesus Christ is the center in all aspects of the Christian faith and life. As believers we are called to pursue spiritual maturity, promote unity and love within the church and be vigilant against the teachings that undermine the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ.

### Key Thoughts

1. A Christian should never suffer “as a thief, or as an evildoer,” but it is an honor to “suffer as a Christian” (1 Peter 4:15-16). There is a special blessing and reward reserved for the faithful believer who suffers for the sake of Christ (Matt. 5:10-12).
2. The Head of the Church in heaven feels the sufferings that His people endure. (“Saul, Saul, why persecutes thou me” [Acts 9:4])? Paul was taking his turn in sharing these afflictions, and others would follow his example.
3. “Teaching every man in all wisdom” was Paul’s concern (Col. 1:28). Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. The false teachers promised to give people a “hidden wisdom” that would make them “spiritually elite.” But all true spiritual wisdom is found only in Jesus Christ.
4. God wants us as His children to have “understanding” and “wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:2-3). The word translated “understanding” literally means “to place together.” It is the ability to defend what we understand. Knowledge suggests the ability to grasp truth.
5. True prayer is directed to the Father (Matt. 6:9), through the Son (in His name, John 14:13-14), in the power of the Holy Spirit (Jude 20).
6. When the Spirit is at work in our lives, then we can pray mightily in the will of God.
7. Prayer is not our trying to change God’s mind. It is learning what is the mind of God and asking accordingly (1 John 5:14-15).
8. All of us are not called to be apostles, but each one of us does have a God-given ministry. We can share the gospel and be soul winners. We can suffer for Christ and fulfill the ministry God has given us. We can strive in prayer for God’s people and encourage them to mature.
9. Are you fulfilling your God-given ministry?

### Key Questions

1. Read Col. 1:21-2:3. How were the Colossians estranged from God? What did God do about this alienation? Why?

2. What are the results of salvation?
3. What are the goals of discipleship?
4. Compare Col. 1:24-2:5 with Ephesians 4:9-16. What words and ideas are shared in these two passages? What does maturity look like in each passage? What causes maturity to happen (in part)?
5. What do you learn about the nature of effective prayer from this passage?
6. What relationship do you see between Paul's praying, his preaching, and his suffering?
7. How can you fulfill your God-given ministry this week? Take some time right now to ask God for help in this.

## **Key Challenges and Applications**

1. There's a connection between our suffering and opportunities we have to make Christ seen and the Word known. How does suffering provide such an opportunity? How do we endure afflictions while cultivating a mind focused on Christ's glory and ministering to others through the affliction.
2. Read Col. 1:24-2:5 and Eph. 4:11-16. What does it mean to mature in Christ? How does Paul say we grow or help others mature in Christ? What do you think maturity looks like for you personally?
3. Read Eph. 3:16-19; Col. 2:2; 3:15 about unity in love. How can the church be united in Christ's love for us? How can the church be united by our love for one another?
4. When and why do you start to trust your own wisdom rather than God's? How can you lean into Christ's as the One who gives understanding, knowledge, and wisdom? What practical things can you do to grow in this area?

## THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST COLOSSIANS 2:6-15

### The Big Idea

Abiding in Christ is a spiritual discipline that helps every believer - when practiced daily - to "...see His fullness and then let His fullness overflow into every part of..." their life.

### Key Thoughts

1. Our life is so wrapped up in Jesus that both His death is ours and His resurrection is ours. This reality means that our sin and old identity are exchanged with who we are now in Christ. He is our head, our salvation, our forgiveness, our life, our fullness, our Lord, and the soil in which we flourish.
2. We have seen the word "fullness" (Pleroma) before (1:19). It means "the sum total of all that God is; all of His being and attributes."
3. Christ is the fullness of God, and that fullness dwells continually and permanently in Him bodily.
4. When a person is born again into the family of God, he is born complete in Christ.
5. As the believer draws on Christ's fullness, he is "filled unto all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19).
6. Jesus Christ alone is sufficient for our every spiritual need, for all of God's fullness is in Him. We are identified with Jesus Christ because He is the Head of the body (Col. 1:18) and we are the members of the body (1 Cor. 12:12-13).
7. The practical application is clear: since we are identified with Christ, and He is the fullness of God, what more do we need?

### Key Questions

1. What are some of the consequences of being spiritually stagnant?
2. Read Colossians 2:4-15. What pictures of spiritual progress did Paul use in this section? What principle does each picture teach?
3. How can we recognize in practical ways each of these criteria for progress in our own lives?

### Key Challenges and Applications

1. What are the implications of Jesus being/having the whole fullness of God (2:9): If Jesus lacks nothing as God and possess all fullness (2:9), how are we made full "in Him" (2:10)?

2. Throughout Colossians we see the fullness, sufficiency, and glory of Christ. How do we experience the fullness of who Jesus is in our own lives? How can we lean into and abide in His fullness?
3. Col. 2:6-10 focuses on how we're filled up in Christ, and 2:11-15 focuses on how our old self is stripped away in Christ. Why do we need to both starve our flesh and feed on Christ?

## THE BELIEVER'S LIFE IN CHRIST COLOSSIANS 2:16 – 3:4

### The Big Idea

When Christ is your life; it will change your life.

### Key Thoughts

By way of reminder, in 2:6 Paul told us that the Christian life isn't about being the best version of you that you can be. We do not live out of our own strength, and we have not won our own victories. Rather, the Christian life is about realizing that our life is now tied to – or united with – Jesus so that He wins our victories (2:15), we live out of His strength (2:7, 10), and we are re-fashioned into a whole new person based on our identity in Jesus (2:6, 11-13). When we received Him (2:6) we received new life in Him. Baptism (2:12) is a picture of going down into the grave (being submerged in water) and then being resurrected (coming up out of the water) to a new life, as a new person in Jesus. This dying and rising not only frees us from the penalty of our sin, but it also frees us from the enslaving power of sin (2:11-15).

### Key Questions

1. Which words were emphasized, repeated, or connected in this passage? What are 2-3 themes or key ideas that emerge?
2. What do you think Paul is suggesting when he says that the empty practices and traditions (2:8) puff people up (2:19), but those who hold to Christ are nourished and knit together (2:19): How do additional practices, traditions, or experiences puff people up but not actually lead to growth?
3. Paul identifies ascetic regulations of others in 2:21 and then lists reasons why the regulations are empty and powerless in 2:22-23. List 3 reasons he gives.
4. Look up John 1:4; 6:57; Rom. 6:10-11; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 1:21. What parallels to Col. 3:3-4 (Christ is our life) exists in these texts? What does it mean that our life is hidden with Christ, or that Christ is our life?

## Key Challenges and Applications

1. We're nourished by and grow because of Christ (2:19-20) – the head – but this also happens as we are knit together as the body. How do we grow because of Christ? How does the body of Christ help us grow (Compare to Eph. 4:11-16).
2. In 2:23 Paul says our rules and rigorous discipline cannot stop the passions of our sinful hearts. How does Col. 3:1-4 (3:1-17) point us to an answer for the sinful passions of our heart?

We are now at the halfway point in our study of Colossians, let's reflect on what we have learned so far – everyone should have something to share.

## RENEWED IN THE IMAGE OF CHRIST COLOSSIANS 3:5-17

### The Big Idea

What does it mean to be renewed in the image of Jesus Christ?

### Key Thoughts

The theology that Paul establishes in chapters 1-2 is a theology that lives and breathes in chapters 3-4. It is not a theology of works, but it is a theology that works. Seeing Jesus should provoke worship, but it should also produce maturity. Our text for this week (3:5-17) is one of Paul's famous put-off and put-on sections (see also Eph. 4 or Rom. 6) and is essential to the Christian life.

This section extends the line of thinking from 3:1-4 where Paul proclaimed our identity - who we are now that our life is hidden with Christ. As our knowledge of Jesus has expanded in Colossians, so has our understanding of ourselves, since our identity is tied to Him. Our theology of Jesus directly informs our identity in Jesus, which drives how we live. Our ethics and morality are based on our identity in Christ (3:5-17). The community we belong to is based on our identity in Christ (3:15-16). Our mission (4:2-6) is based on our identity in Christ.

What Paul is saying here (and elsewhere in the New Testament), is that the Christian life—or sanctification—is a matter of living out what is true of us. It is a life of learning to walk in our new identity. This means that Christians should take sin and holiness seriously while resting on grace, instead of returning to our own works. We do confess our sins and repent of (turn from) practices, thoughts, deeds, and sins that are part of our old self enslaved to sin, Satan, and self. But, we do so with assurance that the sins we confess are forgiven and that we can stop doing the sins we are repenting of because the Spirit is renewing us to be formed in Jesus' image (3:10).

## Key Questions

1. What connections exist between the sins listed in 3:5? What connections exist between the sins listed in 3:8-9?
2. Look up the following verses about putting off our old selves and putting on our new selves: Rom. 6:4, 13; 8:13-14; Gal. 5:24-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 2:11-13. Write down your observations and any repeated ideas.
3. What does 3:14-17 say we can do to help us put on the new man and image Christ?
4. Giving thanks is mentioned three times in verses 15-17. How does thankfulness connect to the exhortations around it?
5. What qualities does God want us to have in our spiritual wardrobes, and what does each mean?
6. Why is love “the bond of perfection”?
7. What are the evidences of letting Christ’s peace rule in our hearts?
8. How can we tell that Christ’s word is dwelling in us?

## Key Challenges and Applications

1. Col. 3:16 tells you to let the word dwell in your richly so that you speak it to others. What is one verse from Colossians that you can memorize to help create a gospel-reservoir that can easily be shared with others? Memorize that verse this week and look for ways to share it with someone.

# THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST COLOSSIANS 3:18 – 4:6

## The Big Idea

All believers are called to live all of life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

## Key Thoughts

The heart of every problem is the problem of the heart, and only God’s Spirit and God’s Word can change and control the heart.

Can the people who live with you detect that you are filled with the Spirit and the Word?

In 3:18 – 4:1 Paul explains how Jesus’ lordship should affect relationships, including relationships between spouses, between parents and children, and between master and servants. In 3:14-17 Paul talked about how Jesus’ kingdom brings peace and unity

in the church, and here we see that His kingdom restores order in our relationships, our families, and our workplaces. When we say yes to Christ's rule and ways for us – and no to our own rule or someone else's rule over us – we are letting Jesus lead us in righteousness. As He reigns in this way He not only helps us walk in a way that pleases Him, but He restores our lives.

## **Key Questions**

1. Which words were emphasized, repeated, or connected in this passage? What are 2-3 themes or key ideas that emerge?
2. What are some of the roles (single, husband, wife, parent, child, roommate, friend, employee, boss, etc.) you have in life right now? What does it look like for you to live out your specific roles under the lordship of Jesus (3:17)?
3. What does it mean to work, “by way of eye-service” or as “people-pleasers”? What does it mean to work heartily for the Lord and how do we practically do that?
4. Read Col. 4:2; Eph. 6:18; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:16-18. What do you think it means to “continue steadfastly” in prayer or to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17)?
5. What are the imperatives (commands or instructions) Paul gives in 4:2-6? How are these imperative commands related?
6. How many times does Paul mention “the Lord” in Col. 3:18-25? Why do you think he would emphasize Christ's lordship so much in a section about roles and relationships?

## **Key Challenges and Applications**

1. This lesson challenges us to use our influence in personal relationships. Be prepared to discover how you view your level of influence in your marriage, with children, with friends, co-workers, etc.



## THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH: A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

### The Big Idea

What it means to be a community of believers.

### Key Thoughts

In this final section (4:7-18), we read the names of these normal brothers and sisters who were living the Christian life together in Colossae. The names and the descriptions serve to remind us of a few key things. First, the church, Christ's messy but glorious bride, is the place where believers belong to one another and build one another up. The goal of gathering together and living life together outside of formal gatherings was to promote maturity in Christ in one another. There is nothing more beautiful than making disciples as we share the gospel with someone and then helping to mature disciples as we walk with them in their journey of growing in Christ. Paul knows that the Christian life is lived in community. Church should not just be a Sunday morning destination to get what you need and then leave. Instead, it should be a tight-knit group of people caring for and encouraging one other toward maturity.

Second, there is a wonderful unity that exists within the church of Colossae and among the different churches in the region. We know that Christian love produces this type of unity (3:14). Notice how believers from one church and city are greeting believers in other cities in this passage. They love Christ and they love to hear exciting news about how the gospel is spreading and bearing fruit in other places.

Third, everyone has a role to play. Each person serves a different purpose, but they work together as one, for the good of the whole body. Certainly, there were many believers not mentioned in this section, but we still get a glimpse of the body taking ownership for one another's spiritual health. We need to ask ourselves, "What role would I play in a letter to our church or small group? Am I receiving from and pouring into others?" Those questions should lead us to think about how we would even want to be known when it comes to our character, our ministry, and our relationships.

As we close out Colossians, we must remember that Paul struggled with all the energy that Christ was producing in him for the good of these people, because of his love for them (1:29). He points the people over and over again to the glory, grace, and goodness of Jesus. He reminds them that Jesus is supreme over all things and that Jesus alone is sufficient for everything they need. He proclaims Jesus so that we might see Him, and in seeing Him we might become like Him.

## **Key Questions**

1. In 4:7-17, how does Paul describe the character and service of the believers he mentions?
2. Demas is mentioned (Col. 4:14) as being with Paul as he wrote Colossians, a letter that emphasizes staying with Christ. However, we later see in 2 Tim. 4:10 that Demas has turned from Christ because of a love for this world. How might Demas' example warn us and humble us?
3. The closing sentence (4:18) has at least three personal elements in it. How do each of those elements convey a personal care and bond to the Colossians?

## **Key Challenges and Applications**

1. The people described in 4:7-18 are real people in the Colossian church. Each of them is described by their character, contribution, or how they served as opposed to being described by their gifts. If a letter was written from your church, what would you want it to say about you? Write down a goal for what you want your life and involvement in serving other Christians to be.
2. Evangelism and discipleship are two key ways to love others so that they come to know Jesus or are able to grow in Jesus. While these things may feel intimidating, the Word tells us that God wants us to have relationships where our faith is stretched as we proclaim Jesus (1:28). Ask God to bring unbelievers who you can share the supremacy of Jesus with into your life. Or, ask Him to bring believers into your life who you can disciple by pointing them to Jesus in the Word.







