

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on the Book of Colossians

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**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled “think” are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation “**b/c/v**” means “book, chapter, and verse.”)

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered “correctly.” Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: “Joe, will you answer number 1?” “Sue, what about number 2?” Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over “What did the author mean by question #5?” My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Note that many of our free online Bible study materials are available for sale in print in a slightly different format at

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Assignments on Colossians 1

Please read the whole book of Colossians at least once as we study chapter 1. Answer the following questions on chap. 1.

1. Who wrote this letter, and to whom is it addressed – 1:1?
2. List some things you know about Paul.
3. List some things you know about Timothy.

4. **Special Assignment:** Study a Bible dictionary or similar book about the city of Colosse. List some things you learned.

5. After you have read the whole epistle, state the theme of the book.
6. List some of the main points discussed in each chapter.
7. What position did Paul claim to have, and who gave it to him – 1:1?
8. Summarize the Bible teaching about apostles. What work did they do? What qualifications did they have, etc.?
9. List other *passages* about saints.

10. **Case Study:** Many people believe that saints are especially good Christians who died and have been appointed by a church so people can pray to them. How would you respond?

Bonus assignment: As we study the book of Colossians, make a list of verses that describe the character or position of Jesus. Summarize what they teach.

11. What motivated Paul to pray for the Colossians – 1: 3-5? (Think: Why is it important for Christians to pray for one another?)

12. List some other **passages** where faith, hope, and love are listed together in Scripture.

13. List some other **passages** about the importance of faith.

14. List some other **passages** about the importance of loving the brethren.

15. List some other **passages** about the hope of Christians. Explain what this hope is.

16. What effect did the gospel have according to 1:6? What can we learn about how people can receive a proper understanding of God's grace?

17. **Define** grace and explain its importance in the gospel.

18. What does this show about the importance of the gospel and the need for teaching it? What should we learn?

19. Special Assignment: How far had the gospel been spread? Explain the significance of this in connection with Matthew 24:14; 28:19.

20. Who had taught the gospel to the Colossians – 1:7,8? How is he described? (Think: What can we learn from how the New Testament describes gospel preachers?)

21. What request did Paul make on behalf of the Colossians in 1:9?

22. **Define** knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. How do they differ?

23. What request did Paul make on behalf of the Colossians in 1:10? (Think: If a person is filled with knowledge, how can he increase in knowledge?)

24. **Application:** What does this show about our own goals in serving God? Is it possible to fully please God and be fruitful in every good work? Explain.

25. What blessings did Paul pray that they would receive in 1:11? List other **passages** about the strength God supplies for us.

26. **Define** patience and longsuffering. Explain why Christians need these qualities.

27. List other **passages** about joy and about thanksgiving – 1:11,12.

28. What inheritance do saints have – 1:12-14? How have we become qualified to partake of that inheritance?

29. What is the power of darkness? Where does God place those who have escaped this power?

30. List other **passages** about the kingdom of Christ. Explain the relationship between the kingdom and the church.

31. **Application:** If these Christians were in the kingdom, what does this prove about the doctrine that the kingdom will not be established until Jesus' second coming? Can we be saved if we are not members of that kingdom? Explain.

32. **Define** redemption. Explain the role of the blood of Jesus in our redemption and forgiveness.

33. According to 1:15, what is the relationship between Christ and the invisible God? Explain the significance.

34. What is the relationship between Christ and creation? **Define** firstborn. (Think: Does this expression prove that Jesus was brought into existence by the Father? Explain.)

35. What things did Jesus create – 1:16? List other **passages** about Jesus as the Creator.

36. What is the relationship between Jesus and all the created things – 1:16,17?

37. **Application:** If Jesus created all things, then was He Himself created? What does this prove about the nature of Jesus? Is He created or eternal? Could the things said here be true of Him if He was anything less than Deity? Explain.

38. List other **passages** about the deity of Jesus.

39. What is the relationship between Christ and the church – 1:18? List other **passages** using this illustration. Explain the significance of the illustration.

40. **Application:** How many heads can one body have, and how many bodies can one head have? What applications does this have to the existence of modern denominations?

41. In what sense is Jesus the beginning, the firstborn from the dead?

42. **Define** preeminence. Explain how the context in general confirms the preeminence of Jesus.

43. **Define** fullness. Explain the sense in which all fullness dwells in Jesus – 1:19.

44. **Define** reconcile. List other **passages** about the concept of reconciliation – 1:20-22.

45. Describe why we need reconciliation. In what sense were we enemies of God, and what are the consequences?

46. How did Jesus bring about reconciliation? Explain how His sacrifice results in our reconciliation.

47. Contrast our condition after reconciliation (verse 22) to our condition before reconciliation (verse 21). Define the various terms used to describe our new condition.

48. What do our reconciled circumstances require of us – 1:23? Explain the terms involved, and describe what lessons we should learn.

49. **Case Study:** Some people teach that, when a sinner has been forgiven, he can never so sin as to be lost – “once saved always saved.” What can we learn about this doctrine from the context we are studying?

50. List other **passages** about our need to remain faithful or showing that a child of God can so sin as to be lost.

51. How far the gospel been spread at the time Paul wrote – compare verse 23 to verse 6? What does this show about our responsibility to teach God’s word?

52. How did Paul view his sufferings – 1:24? Explain how one can have such an attitude. (Think: In what sense was Paul suffering for the Colossians?)

53. What illustration is again used to describe the relationship of Christ and the church? Where else has it been used? (Think: What was lacking in the afflictions of Christ, and how could Paul fill it up in his flesh?)

54. How did Paul describe his responsibility to preach the gospel – 1:25? **Define** minister and explain how it properly describes this responsibility.

55. **Define** stewardship and explain how it properly describes Paul's responsibility. What lessons should we learn?

56. **Define** mystery – 1:26,27. List other **passages** showing that the gospel is a mystery.

57. In what sense is the gospel a mystery? Is it difficult or impossible to understand? Explain.

58. In particular, what does this mystery reveal according to 1:27? List other **passages**, including Old Testament references, showing that the gospel is for the Gentiles as well as Jews.

59. What is our relationship to Christ according to 1:27? List other **passages** explain what it means for Christ to be in us.

60. What was Paul's goal in preaching and teaching according to 1:28,29? Explain what it means to preach Christ (compare 1:5,25).

61. How many people did Paul want to learn and obey the truth? List other **passages** showing that all people need the gospel.

62. **Application:** What should Paul's goals in preaching teach us about our responsibility in teaching?

Assignments on Colossians 2

Please read the whole book of Colossians again as we study chapter 2. Answer the following questions on chap. 2.

1. What did Paul want the Colossians and Laodiceans to know – 2:1,2?

2. What was his goal or his purpose toward which he preached and labored – 2:2? What does he say would be necessary for their hearts to be knit together or united?

3. **Application:** Is a congregation united simply because they have a loving attitude toward one another? Is a congregation united simply because they have an understanding and knowledge of God's word? What should we learn about unity from this passage?

4. What treasures are hidden in Christ – 2:3? What does this tell us about where we should go to obtain these treasures?

5. **Application:** If all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ, what does this tell us about the nature of Christ? Could this be true if Christ were not deity?

6. What did Paul hope that wisdom, knowledge, and understanding (verses 2,3) would accomplish for the Colossians according to 2:4? How does this emphasize the importance of the proper source of spiritual teaching?

7. List other **passages** about the danger of deceit and false teaching in religion.

8. What does Paul say about his absence and presence in 2:5? In what did he rejoice? Explain.

9. What should we and the Colossians do according to 2:6? Explain the application to us.

10. What can Christ and faith in Him accomplish for us according to 2:7? In what should we abound? (Think: What should this teach us about the danger of other doctrines?)

11. What danger does Paul warn about in 2:8?

12. Explain the meaning of philosophy, tradition, and basic principles.

13. **Special Assignment:** What kind of philosophies and traditions does Paul warn against? Are all philosophies and traditions wrong? What lessons should we learn?

14. What position does Jesus hold according to 2:9? How does this relate to other descriptions of Jesus we have already studied in this letter?

15. **Define** fullness and Godhead.

16. List other **passages** about the deity of Jesus.

17. What position does Christ have according to 2:10? What else is this taught?

18. What blessing do we have because of Christ – 2:10? What should we learn?

19. Explain the meaning of circumcision and the significance it had to Jews.

20. What circumcision should we receive – 2:11? How does this differ from Old Testament circumcision?

21. What is the relationship between baptism and Jesus' burial and resurrection – 2:12,13? Where else does the New Testament teach this?

22. Explain the relationship between baptism and faith in God's work. Is baptism a work of human merit by which we earn our salvation?

23. List other **passages** about the importance of baptism in our salvation. Are we saved by "faith only" without obedience to God, including baptism? Explain.

24. **Case Study:** Many people believe that baptism may be done by sprinkling or pouring. What we learn about this in 2:12? List other **passages** about the action of baptism.

25. What is our condition before baptism, and what does God do to solve the problem – 2:13? Explain the terms "dead" and "alive" as used here. Compare Ephesians 2:1-10.

26. What is the "the handwriting of requirements that was against us" – 2:14? What did Jesus do with it? (Think: In what sense was this law against us?)

27. List other **passages** about our relationship to the Old Testament law.

28. What did Jesus do with the principalities and powers – 2:15? (Think: To what principalities and powers does this refer? Compare Ephesians 6:12.)

29. What application does Paul make in 2:16 to the removal of the law as described in 2:14? What is meant by the reference to food and drink? What conclusion should we reach?

30. **Application:** What is meant by a festival, a new moon, or sabbaths? (Note: Check Old Testament references where similar expressions are used together.) What application should be made to those who claim that we should still keep the seventh-day Sabbath today?

31. In what sense were these practices a shadow of things to come in contrast to the substance that is of Christ – 2:17? List other similar **passages**. (Think: What should we learn?)

32. What danger does Paul warn about in 2:18 that may cheat Christians of their reward? List other **passages** about whom we should or should not worship.

33. What is false humility? Explain how one can be puffed up even while professing to be humble. (Think: What can we learn about the possibility of a Christian losing his reward?)

34. What does following these human doctrines do to our relationship to Jesus – 2:19? What does the Head do for the body that shows it is important to hold Him fast?

35. **Application:** Describe other ways people can be guilty of failing to hold fast the Head, and give other examples.

36. What should be our relationship to the basic principles of the world – 2:20? Where else have we read about these basic principles?

37. What applications should this have to following man-made rules and regulations? What did some of these rules and regulations say – 2:21?

38. How does Paul describe the nature of these rules in 2:22? What was the basic and primary problem with them?

39. How else does Paul describe these rules in 2:23? In what other ways were these rules useless?

40. **Application:** Does this mean there are no rules under the gospel that restrict what we may handle, touch, or taste? How do we distinguish proper rules in these matters from improper ones?

41. **Application:** Give some examples of modern-day rules in which man-made doctrines forbid touching, tasting, or handling, but the rules are not according to Christ's rules.

Assignments on Colossians 3

Please read the whole book of Colossians again as we study chapter 3. Answer the following questions on chap. 3.

1. What things should we seek, and where should our minds or affections be set – 3:1,2? To whom is this instruction addressed? Explain the meaning.

2. List other *passages* about the importance of spiritual as compared to material concerns.

3. Explain why our thought processes – the way our minds are set – are so important in proper service to God.

4. **Application:** List some examples that illustrate the importance of proper priorities in serving God.

5. List other *passages* and discuss the significance of Jesus being at the right hand of God.

6. Where else have we studied the concept that we died and were raised or given life through Christ – 3:3,4? Summarize what the book has taught about this.

7. Explain the concept that our life is hidden with Christ. What significance does this have in the context?

8. What will be the consequence of this new life when Christ appears?

9. If we died (verse 3), what should happen with our earthly members – 3:5? Explain the significance.

10. List and define each of the kinds of conduct listed in verse 5.

11. What consequence is caused by these kinds of conduct – 3:6? How did the Colossians relate in the past to this conduct – 3:7?

12. List and define other characteristics we should put away – 3:8.

13. Is anger always wrong? Proof? Why is anger a danger?

14. **Application:** List other passages about the dangers of improper speech, and describe examples of ways people are often wrong in their speech.

15. What form of improper speech should be eliminated according 3:9? Define it.

16. List other *passages* about lying.

17. What reason is given why we should put this off – 3:9,10? Explain the concept of the old man and the new man.

18. How is the new man different according 3:10? Explain what lessons we should learn.

19. Explain the different categories of people that Paul lists in 3:11.

20. **Application:** Explain the sense in which none of these differences should exist in Christ. What lessons should we learn?

21. **Define** elect – 3:12. List **passages** that show that man has a choice and/or must meet conditions in order to be saved.

22. **Case Study:** Many people teach that God chooses who will or will not be saved unconditionally, regardless of man's will or choice. How would you respond to this view? Give illustrations showing that a choice or election can be conditional.

23. List each of the qualities we should put on according to 3:12. **Define** each one, and list another **passage** about it.

24. Explain what it means to forbear or bear with one another – 3:13. Give examples that illustrate the application.

25. List other **passages** that teach us to be willing to forgive others.

26. **Application:** Explain the sense in which we should forgive others as Christ forgives us. Does this mean we should forgive others even when they have not repented? Explain and prove your answer.

27. What else should we put on according to 3:14? In what sense is this “above all things”?

28. In what sense is this the bond of perfection?

29. To what were we called according to 3:15? Explain the relationship between peace and the one body.

30. Where other quality do we need to please God according to 3:15? Explain why this is important. (See also verse 17.)

31. What form of worship is discussed in 3:16? Explain what the passage says that teaches us how to properly participate in this worship.

32. **Case Study:** Many churches use instrumental music in worship. Does an instrument teach and admonish? Does it sing? Does it have grace in its heart? Does the New Testament passage teach us to use instruments in worship? What should we learn about instrumental music?

33. **Application:** Explain ways that people often fail to sing properly in worship.

34. Explain what it means to act in the name of Jesus – 3:17. How many things should we do in this way?

35. **Application:** List some ways that people often fail to act in the name of Jesus.

36. What instruction is given to wives in 3:18? List other passages that teach that the husband is the leader in the home and the wife should follow his lead.

37. List other examples in which the Bible instructs people to practice submission in various relationships. (Think: Does submitting to authority mean that a person is somehow less important or less valuable than those who exercise authority? Explain.)

38. What instruction is given to husbands in 3:19? What does it mean to not be bitter?

39. Explain the meaning of love. Give examples that show what love requires of us.

40. **Application:** Make applications and give examples that show what lessons husbands and wives should learn from the instructions in these verses.

41. What instruction is given to children in 3:20? List other **passages** that describe the responsibility of children to obey their parents or to learn from their instruction.

42. **Application:** Explain some ways children benefit from the guidance of their parents.

43. What instruction is given to parents in 3:21? List other **passages** about the responsibilities of parents in training their children.

44. **Application:** List some ways that parents are sometimes guilty of provoking and discouraging their children in violation of the Scriptures.

45. Who is addressed in 3:22, and what are they instructed to do? List other **passages** about the responsibilities of servants and masters.

46. **Define** eyeservice and men-pleasers.

47. How do a servant's responsibilities to his master relate to his responsibilities to the Lord – 3:23-25? What is the significance?

48. List other **passages** describing the work ethic the Christian should have on their jobs.

49. Who gives the ultimate reward that we receive for the work done in service on our jobs? What lessons should we learn?

50. **Define** partiality. Describe some ways that people sometimes receive or expect partiality on their jobs? (Think: What should we learn about God's judgment?)

51. **Application:** What lessons should Christians learn from these instructions about their responsibilities to work on their jobs?

Assignments on Colossians 4

Please read the whole book of Colossians again as we study chapter 4. Answer the following questions on chap. 4.

1. Who is addressed in 4:1, and what instructions are they given?

2. What is meant by giving servants what is just and fair? Explain some applications this would have to masters.

3. In what sense do masters on earth have a Master over them? What lessons should masters learn?

4. **Application:** What lessons should modern employers learn from this discussion of masters? What should we learn about the practice of slavery in general?

5. What practice does Paul urge in 4:2? What does it mean to be steadfast in prayer?

6. What should characterize our prayers according to 4:2? Explain the significance of watching in prayer.

7. List other **passages** about thankfulness, and explain the importance of thanksgiving in prayer.

8. For whom did Paul request prayers in 4:3,4? For what did he specifically request prayers?

9. What is the significance of an open door as Paul discusses here? What should we learn from this discussion about the responsibility of those who preach the gospel?

10. What can we learn from this discussion about the responsibility of those who support gospel preachers?

11. 4:5 discusses our relationship toward what kind of people? How should we conduct ourselves toward them? Give examples of applications.

12. Explain what it means to redeem the time (check other translations). Explain why it is important to use our time wisely.

13. What instruction about speech does Paul give him 4:6? List other *passages* about the importance of proper speech.

14. **Define** grace. What does the grace of God offer to mankind?

15. List other passages about salt in the life of a Christian. What lessons should we learn about our speech?

16. Application: List some proper applications of verse 6 regarding our speech. Does this mean we should keep quiet about sin? How does the grace of God treat people's sins?
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17. Whom had Paul send to them – 4:7? How is he described? List other *passages* about him.

18. For what purposes had Paul sent Tychicus to them – 4:7,8?

19. Whom else had Paul sent to them – 4:9? What else do we know about him according to other passages?

20. How is Aristarchus described in 4:10? List other *passages* about him.

21. Who else sent greetings to them according to 4:10? What information and instructions did Paul give about him?

22. List other things that we know about Mark. List other things we know about Barnabas.

23. Who sent greetings in 4:11? How does Paul describe these men who sent their greetings?

24. Who greeted them according to 4:12? What else have we read about this man?

25. How does Paul describe this man in 4:12,13? What lessons can we learn from him?

26. Who sent their greetings according to 4:14? List some other things we know about these men.

27. What request did Paul make in 4:15? Where else do we read in Scripture about Laodicea?

28. **Special Assignment:** What does 4:16 tell us about the circulation of Paul's letters? List some lessons we can learn from this and other passages about how Paul's letters were viewed and used.

29. What instruction is given to Archippus in 4:17? What lessons can we learn?

30. How does Paul conclude the letter in 4:18? What is the significance of the fact that he concludes with a salutation in his own hand?

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