



# *Colossians & Philemon*

A HOPE OF GLORY STUDY

---

## *Table of Contents*

Introduction.....	3	Lesson 5.....	12
Lesson 1.....	4	Lesson 6.....	14
Lesson 2.....	6	Lesson 7.....	16
Lesson 3.....	8	Lesson 8.....	18
Lesson 4.....	10	Notes Pages .....	20

---

FOLLOW THIS STUDY ONLINE:



[SJD.ORG/hopeofglory](http://SJD.ORG/hopeofglory)

# *Introduction*

Why study this tiny book of the Bible called Colossians? Because, like many of Paul's writings, they are just as relevant to Christians today as they were in the first century. Colossians is one of the prison letters along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon. They were written in either his imprisonment in Rome or Ephesus. Although Paul had never met any of the members of the church in Colossae, he had a deep love for them and a paternal heart of protection. This stems from the church being founded by one of Paul's proteges named Epaphras. Evidently, while Paul was languishing in prison, Epaphras either visited him or was imprisoned with him. Either way, he reports to Paul about the spiritual well-being of the church.

Like many of Paul's writings, he works to express his devotion to them and to correct any doctrinal misconceptions. In the infant first century Christian church that was growing like wildfire, false beliefs were seeping in and diluting the message of the Gospel. Paul emphasizes that Jesus is all one needs in their faith walk. He is the all-sufficient one.

We will also look at the letter to Philemon. To me it is a tiny letter packed with the truths of the teachings of Jesus. As we have now completed the study of The Lord's Prayer, we will see how that prayer coincides with the words of Paul.

If I had to put one word to Paul's letters, it is hope. Colossians 1:3-5a "We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints – the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven."

Notice the words faith, hope, and love. In a world where our faith is compromised and diluted, don't we need Paul's words to the Colossians? Where teen suicide, drugs, anxiety, and depression plague us, don't we need Paul's words of hope? In a world that needs the love of Christ more than ever, don't we need the spiritual maturity to make that happen? Paul's words will propel us into that increased spiritual maturity.

Join us as we dive into Paul's letters to the Colossians and Philemon and see what words of encouragement and hope he has for you.

—Meg Rice

# *Lesson 1* COLOSSIANS 1:1-23

## OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Paul, the apostle who wrote the letter to the believers in Colossae, took his role seriously. Apostle means “sent one”. Paul was dubbed by Jesus Himself on the road to Damascus. He left his life of persecuting Christians to become the greatest evangelist of all time. He was constantly communicating and correcting any misinterpreted doctrine so that the gospel would remain true and pure.

1. As you read verses 1-8, how does Paul address God? Why does he thank God? What does Ephesians 2:8 say about faith? Can you think of the time that you realized the amazing grace offered to you through faith in Jesus? Write out a prayer asking your heavenly Father to increase your faith.

---

---

---

---

---

2. In verse 8, who told the Colossians about the gospel? What does Isaiah 52:7 say? Who have you shared your faith with lately? What stops you at times from proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ?

---

---

---

---

---

3. Verse 9 may have a hint of what we do for those who are in our realm of life. What is it? What can be the results of our fervent prayer according to verses 10-12?

---

---

---

---

---

4. Verse 13 speaks about two realities. What are they? What do you think are examples of each one?

---

---

---

---

5. Verse 14 is an affirmation of our standing before God the Father through faith in Jesus Christ. What does it state? Read verses 15-20. These are beautiful words about the character of Jesus. What strikes you as you read this? Can you list his attributes?

---

---

---

---

---

6. Verses 21-23 are the gospel message. What was the circumstance of all of us before we came to faith in Jesus our Lord? What are the results of faith? What is the warning in verse 23? How do we remain steadfast in faith? Read John 15:1-10

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** Read through the verses in this lesson and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a deeper sense of the glory that is ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Glorious and loving Father, we are all lost in a world that contains evil and strife. Yet through your Son we are able to rise above the fray and into the glorious kingdom of your Son. We praise you Father for this amazing grace. Give us eyes to see your glory in our everyday lives. Slow our steps down so that we are mindful of your moment-to-moment presence in our lives. We ask this in the name of your Son who is the image of you. Amen.

# *Lesson 2* COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

## THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

In the first part of Colossians 1, Paul is praying for the church. The message of the gospel is a gift from a loving Father. It is like a beautifully wrapped gift. Every person receives that gift, but it is up to each of us to open it and use it. The second part of Chapter 1 has a personal meaning for me. I named this Bible study “Hope of Glory” because of the majesty of Colossians 1:27.

1. Read verse 24. Paul seems to be rejoicing over suffering. This is the antithesis of what our culture projects. Also read Romans 8:18 and 2 Corinthians 4:17. What do these tell you about the journey of a Christian? Has there been a time in your life when trouble and sorrow seemed overwhelming? How did those times affect your faith?

---

---

---

---

2. Paul identifies the church as the “body” of Christ. It is for the church that Paul willingly suffers and rejoices in that suffering. To understand this concept, see also Ephesians 1:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. Write out a prayer asking the Lord to reveal to you the role you play as part of the body of Christ. In other words, what is the eternal purpose of your life?

---

---

---

---

3. Read Colossians 1:25. Paul has willingly become a servant (or slave) for the church. What do you think was the mindset of a slave at the time of Paul? Do we have that kind of commitment to the body of Christ....the church? How do we achieve that kind of commitment?

---

---

---

---

4. What is the purpose of Paul’s commission?

---

---

---

---

5. Read Colossian 1:26-27. What is the mystery? What does ‘Hope of Glory’ mean to you? Can you relate that concept to Revelation 3:5b?

---

---

---

---

6. Read Colossians 1: 28-29. Paul’s goal is that all Christians reach maturity in their faith. What things does Paul consider necessary in achieving that maturity?

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** Reread verse 29. Who provides the energy for us to be servants of the church as Paul was? If there is an area in your life that is a struggle, commit it to the Lord. Let him help bear the weight of that struggle. See Matthew 11:28-30.

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Precious Father, we desire to be living and contributing members of your body – the church. Show us how to do your will on earth as it is in heaven. Give us the gentle nudges of the Holy Spirit as to which way we are to go and who we are to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. Help us to lean into your strength and energy to achieve all you have called us to do. We ask this in the name of our Savior, the head of the church. Amen.

# Lesson 3

## COLOSSIANS 2:1-10

### LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Paul reminds me of a doting grandfather or big brother. He seems to be struggling in prayer for the newfound churches. Remember, Paul has not met the members of the church in Colossae. He knows them through the reports of Epaphras who had possibly come to faith through Paul. He was his protégé. Epaphras in turn proclaimed the gospel to the pagans of Colossae. Paul seems to have a love for this church as one of his offspring churches. The Greek word used for “struggling” in verse 1 is one of continual pressing forward, constant straining, much like an Olympic athlete’s training.

1. Read Colossians 2:1-2. What two things does Paul specifically pray for? What is the result for the church of having these two conditions met?

---

---

---

2. Paul knows that to commit to Jesus Christ as Lord of your life is akin to signing up for warfare. His own missionary trips were full of torture, imprisonment, and conflict. To be equipped for life as a Christian means to not be discouraged but have the eternal hope offered in Jesus Christ. It also means to have a community of believers who are tied together in love. Relate this to 1 Corinthians 13:4-13 and Ephesians 4:11-16. How can we as a church achieve this kind of unified love? Hint: Colossians 2:3.

---

---

---

3. Think about a time in your life when conflict or division occurred. How could knowing the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that come through Christ be an asset to you? (Example: a supernatural awareness of underlying circumstances)

---

---

---

4. There are a lot of perks in being a Christian. There will also be struggles. What are some of the struggles of the mind spoken about in Colossians 2:4,8? What are some of the deceptive arguments used today to dilute faith in Jesus? What do human traditions and basic principles of the world look like today that contradict the power of Jesus Christ?

---

---

---

5. According to Colossians 2:9, how do we overcome these hollow arguments and deceptive philosophies?

---

---

---

---

6. What is the theme of Colossians as stated in Colossians 2:6,7?

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** Christian maturity is vital to combating forces that try to waylay a believer in Jesus Christ. How is your faith walk? Are you still in the same place you were in when you first came to faith? I applaud you for being in Bible Study. It has changed my life and I pray it changes yours.

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, it is by Your grace that we are not only saved from our sinfulness but saved from an empty way of life. Lead us not into the temptation of being halfhearted Christians. Guide our steps in all areas of our lives with the knowledge and wisdom that comes through knowing Jesus. Give us hearts to go deeper in our faith and commitment to You. We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Amen

# *Lesson 4* COLOSSIANS 2:11-23

## DELIVER US FROM EVIL

Our lives change when we come to faith in Jesus as our Savior. The old way of life is gone, and God begins the business of transforming us into the likeness of His Son. This is the work of the Holy Spirit living within us. However, there is always that urge to “go back” and to regress into the old way of life.

1. What does 2 Corinthians 3:17,18 say? What does freedom through Jesus Christ look like in your life? Have you sensed the transforming power of Jesus in yourself or seen it in someone you know?

---

---

---

---

The Jewish rite of circumcision was an outward sign of an inner reality.

2. What do you learn in Genesis 17:1-11 about the rite of circumcision? According to Deuteronomy 10:16, Romans 2:29 and Psalm 51:10, what is important to God?

---

---

---

---

The mission of John the Baptist was to prepare the way for the Messiah, Jesus. John baptized with water as an outward sign of repentance.

3. What does Matthew 3:11 say about baptism? What do you think baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire mean? See John 3:5 and 1 Peter 1:6,7.

---

---

---

---

4. According to Colossians 2:11-14, what did the cross of Jesus do for us?

---

---

---

---

5. Who do you think the “powers and authorities” are in verse 15? See Ephesians 3:10,12 and 1 Peter 3:21-22.

---

---

---

6. The power of the cross frees us from what things according to Colossian 2:16-23?

---

---

---

7. 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 6:15 speak of our being new creations in Christ. What does Colossian 2:20 say about reverting to the old rules of life?

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** It is not heavy lifting to be all God has called you to be....the image of His Son. It is His work done in you by the power of the Holy Spirit. Write out a prayer asking the Lord to quicken to you any area of your life that needs the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

---

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Most loving Father, how can we begin to thank you for your amazing grace and loving kindness to us. We stand before you with open hearts to be transformed into the image of your Son. You deliver us from the evil that surrounds us and cover us with your love. Continue to work in our hearts so that we can be the sons and daughters that resemble our brother, Jesus. Amen.

# Lesson 5

## COLOSSIAN 3:1-11

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

What is your focus in life? I remember I always wanted to be a cheerleader. I practiced and practiced, then auditioned again and again but never made it. Paul has affirmed that we are new creations in Christ, but how do we make sure we are moving towards that new creation? How do we make sure we are in God's will?

1. Read verse 1. It begins with "Since then" we are raised with Christ. This is already accomplished by God's grace. It's not by works but by faith. What does Ephesians 2:8-9 say about this? No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, do you accept the fact that you are raised with Christ? What does raised with Christ look like in your life?

---

---

---

---

2. Many times, we don't feel or recognize our salvation as real. What does Colossians 3:1 say about our hearts? In what areas do you need to recalibrate your heart to the reality that you are a kingdom dweller now? (Hint: think about those heart desires or your passion in life)

---

---

---

---

3. What does Colossians 3:2 say about our minds? This involves our will, reshaping our thought process to align with God's will. How does focusing on "things above" reshape our minds? Can you think of an example in your life where this happened? What are we promised in verse 4?

---

---

---

---

The idea of being transformed into the image of Christ is called sanctification. Justification happens once and it is when we accept Jesus as our Savior. We are justified or "just as if we had not sinned" and we are saved (salvation). We can stay in that place of salvation because of our faith; it is secured. Or we can embrace the sanctification process. This is a lifelong, day by day, year by year process. It is the Holy Spirit's work within us to transform us into the image of Christ.

Read Colossians 3:5-11

4. Looking at Colossians 3:5, what are we to “put to death”? Why do you think Paul began with this list? How do these vices intertwine? What does Romans 12:1-2 say? How important is our physical purity to God?

---

---

---

---

5. In Colossians 3:8-9, what are we to “put away”? What is the common thread in these vices?

---

---

---

---

6. There is a sense of putting on a new self. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Galatians 6:15 and Romans 13:11-14. What do you learn from these verses?

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** Reread Romans 13:11-14. These verses remind me of my life. Has there been a time in your life when you awakened to the love of Jesus in your life and were renewed in heart and mind?

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Most loving Father, you desire that all would come to you through your Son. We praise you that you made a way for each of us to return to you by the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Give each of us a new sense of your passion so that we have a renewing of our hearts and minds to align with your heavenly kingdom. In a world that needs your love and mercy, use us to reflect your light to others. We pray this in the holy name of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

# Lesson 6

## COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

THY KINGDOM COME THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

Paul emphasizes that our salvation is secure. We are raised with Christ, not only in the future at His second coming when our resurrected bodies unite with Jesus for our eternal home, or at death when Jesus comes to take us to heaven, but also in our life today. We are already “new creations”, “born again” by God’s grace when we come to faith in Jesus. Now we need to apply that to our everyday lives.

Last week, we studied the things we need to “put to death” and “rid ourselves of”. Now Paul focuses on how we are to live our life.

1. In verse 12, what are we to clothe ourselves with? What does Exodus 34:6 and Matthew 9:36 say about God? Compare these attributes to the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-25.

---

---

---

---

---

2. Forgiveness is a cornerstone of Christian behavior. What does Matthew 6:12-15 say about this? Who modeled this in Luke 23:34? Who in your life do you need to forgive? It is an act of the will and not a feeling. Write a prayer asking your Heavenly Father to move in your heart to obey Him and to forgive others. There is freedom in forgiving.

---

---

---

---

---

3. Compare verse 14 to 1 Corinthians 13. What do you notice about “love” in these verses?

---

---

---

---

---

4. Read Colossians 3:15. What does it say is the result of clothing ourselves with the attributes discussed? What does John 14:27 and Philippians 4:4-7 say about peace? If there is a certain area in your life where you do not have peace, ask your heavenly Father for peace because we worship the Prince of Peace, Jesus.

---

---

---

---

5. What does verse 16 say about the Word of Christ? What does Hebrews 4:12-13 state? How important is the word of Christ in a community of believers? How have you seen these attributes play out in your church? In your workplace?

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** We are told to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Which of these are a particular issue for you? Pray everyday this week for the Lord to help you clothe yourself with this virtue. (You will see a change in yourself)

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Father of all compassion and mercy, we desire to be all you call us to be. Give us a deeper revelation of your love for us so that our hearts are moved by your love. Help us in those areas where we fall short. We praise you for your patience with us. May we show that same patience with one another. We thank you for our savior, the Prince of Peace, Jesus. Amen

# Lesson 7

## COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:6

### THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

The last part of Colossians deals with our interpersonal relationships. Colossians 3:1-4 speaks to where our hearts and mind need to be focused. Verses 5-11 speak to how we are to behave as Christ's own. Verses 12-17 speak of how we are to relate to our fellow believers. In verse 18, Paul addresses our interpersonal relationships and how our faith should guide us.

1. Read Colossians 3:18-19 with Ephesians 5:21-33 and 1Peter 3:1-7. What should be the attitude of the wife according to these verses? What should be the attitude of the husband? In our world of women's lib, how do we justify these verses? If marriage is to be a mirror of Christ and his beloved church, how important is Christian marriage to the wider world? How do we as women achieve the calling from the Lord? Is it dependent on how our husband behaves?

---

---

---

---

---

2. Read 1 Corinthians 7:10-17. Remember, Paul is answering questions that had been sent to him from the church at Corinth. What do you glean from his message? In our world where more than 50% of all (including Christian) marriages end in divorce, how do we reconcile divorce? Read Ephesians 2:4-9.

---

---

---

---

---

3. Read Colossians 3:20-21 and Ephesians 6:1-4. As you look back on your life, how has obedience to your parents been an advantage? What do Proverbs 22:6 and Exodus 20:12 say about children?

---

---

---

---

---

4. What does Colossians 3:22-4:1 and Ephesians 6:5-9 talk about? How can you relate this to employer and employee? What is the impetus for our behavior in these relationships?

---

---

---

---

---

5. By Colossians 4:2-4, Paul has personal requests for himself and his ministry. Do you pray for the growth of the church in places where Jesus is not preached? How important was this request to Paul? In verse 5-6, what does Paul say is important as far as the spread of the gospel? As we are called to spread the gospel, we are to make sure our conversations are full of grace and seasoned with salt. What do you think that means?

---

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** Are you ready to give your testimony ( or story) of how God has worked in your life and how a relationship with Jesus has changed you? Write down bullet points of what that story would entail?

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** God of all mercy and grace, you call each of us to grow in our faith. Continue to propel us to seek you with passion and endurance. Use our lives to be a light shining for you and your Son, Jesus. We praise you for equipping us to be all you have called us to be. We thank you for your love for each of us. Draw each of us into a deeper love with you. We pray this in the holy name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

# *Lesson 8* COLOSSIANS 4:7-4:18 AND PHILEMON

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US

Paul is closing his letter to the church at Colossae. However, there is another letter called the sister epistle to Colossians. It is the letter to Philemon. They are sisters because they are connected and to separate them is to miss part of the important message Paul is trying to teach his churches.

1. Read Colossians 4:7-18. Make a list of those names Paul mentions and their characteristics.

---

---

---

---

2. Whose name appears in Colossians 4:9? Read Philemon. Who is it about?

---

---

---

---

3. In Colossians 4:16, where else was this letter to be read? What do you read about the Laodiceans in Revelation 3:14-22? What does the rereading of this letter tell you about the early church?

---

---

---

---

4. In Paul's letter to Philemon, what are the circumstances? What do you notice are the characteristics of Philemon and Apphia (probably husband and wife)?

---

---

---

---

5. What does Paul ask of Philemon and what does he say should be the motivation of his heart? (verse 9). Has there been a time in your life where you needed to forgive someone who was clearly guilty and found the strength to forgive because of the love you have received from the Lord Jesus? Write out a prayer thanking God for his power at work in you.

---

---

---

---

6. What changed in the relationship between Onesimus and Philemon once Onesimus met Paul?

---

---

---

---

7. In verses 18-21, what does Paul offer to do? How do you see Paul imitating his Lord and Savior with this promise?

---

---

---

---

**APPLICATION:** To forgive another who has wronged you is possible. When we do that the kingdom of God invades the earth through our obedience to Him. Then his power is manifested in our lives, and we bring God glory. Colossians 1:27 becomes a reality. The mystery of God is revealed in our lives...Christ in you, the hope of glory. We no longer have to wait on death to take us to that glory..... we are living in it.

---

---

---

---

**PRAYER:** Glorious and loving Father, you desire to use each of our lives to bring the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Continue to guide our hearts and minds to be obedient to your will. Create in each of us a desire to do your will no matter where that leads us. We praise you for your Son Jesus that opened the door to a richer and more righteous way of living. Thank you, Father, for your amazing grace and mercy. May we continue to be lights for your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



THE CHURCH OF  
ST JOHN THE DIVINE  
CHANGING LIVES FOR GOD IN CHRIST

2450 RIVER OAKS BLVD — [SJD.ORG](http://SJD.ORG)