



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

Thank You

Thank you for ordering from www.TeachSundaySchool.com. We strive to offer you top notch Bible teaching tools. Feel free to contact us with any questions at marykate@teachsundayschool.com.

How to Print

If you are having any trouble printing, here are some helpful tips:

- 1) Adobe Acrobat PDF Reader is the most universal PDF reader and comes standard on most computers. If you are having issues, check to make sure you are using a recent version of Adobe, which is available free online here.
- 2) If for any reason a page is being cut off, when you push the “print” button and the dialogue box pops up, check the box “fit”.

Terms of Use

The material enclosed is copyrighted. You do not have resell rights or giveaway rights to the material provided herein. Only customers that have purchased this material are authorized to view it.

Allowed:

You are able to print as many times as you would like for personal, family, or single church/school use. (Please show this to any printer you may take this to in order to prove that you are not infringing on the copyright by printing this file).

If you would like to use this file for multiple schools or churches, please email us at marykate@teachsundayschool.com for information on a bundle purchase price.

Not Allowed:

This digital file cannot be given to anyone else. In order to own a digital file, it must be purchased. This file is never to be emailed to anyone else for the purpose of giving it to them or sharing it with them. In order to own a file, it must be purchased.

Do not post this file, or images from this file on a blog, website, or anything like it for the purpose of giving it away or selling it.

Do not change this file in any way.

Do not use all or part of this file for commercial use in any way.

Anything that is not meant for the intended use of this file, which is for personal, family, or single church/school use is not allowed. We are offering this as a digital file for the convenience of our customers. Any abuse of that is not allowed.

If you feel you have obtained an unauthorized copy of this material, please email us at marykate@teachsundayschool.com.

Legal Notice

While all attempts have been made to verify information provided in this publication, neither the author nor the publisher assumes any responsibility for errors, omissions or contrary interpretation of the subject matter herein. The publisher wants to stress that the information contained herein may be subject to varying state and / or local laws or regulations. All users are advised to retain competent counsel to determine what state and / or local laws or regulations may apply to the user's particular operation.

The purchaser or reader of this publication assumes responsibility for the use of these materials and information. Adherence to all applicable laws and regulations, federal, state and local, governing professional licensing, operation practices, and all other aspects of operation in the US or any other jurisdiction is the sole responsibility of the purchaser or reader. The publisher and author assume no responsibility or liability whatsoever on the behalf of any purchaser or reader of these materials. Any perceived slights of specific people or organizations is unintentional.



TABLE OF CONTENTS



Introduction: All About This Study	4
Study Tools	
Study Tool #1: Map of Apostle Paul's Ministry	7
Study Tool #2: Timeline of New Testament Activities	8
Week 1	
Week 1, Day 1: Introductory Materials for Philippians	11
Week 1, Day 2: Philippians 1:1-11	13
Week 1, Day 3: Philippians 1:12-30	15
Week 1, Day 4: Philippians 2:1-18	17
Week 1, Day 5: Philippians 2:19-30	19
Week 1 Answer Key	21
Week 2	
Week 2, Day 1: Philippians 3:1-14	24
Week 2, Day 2: Philippians 3:15-21	26
Week 2, Day 3: Philippians 4:1-9	28
Week 2, Day 4: Philippians 4:10-20	30
Week 2, Day 5: Philippians in Review	32
Week 2 Answer Key	34
Week 3	
Week 3, Day 1: Introductory Materials for Colossians	37
Week 3, Day 2: Colossians 1:1-14	39
Week 3, Day 3: Colossians 1:15-29	41
Week 3, Day 4: Colossians 2:1-12	43
Week 3, Day 5: Colossians 2:13-23	45
Week 3 Answer Key	47
Week 4	
Week 4, Day 1: Colossians 3:1-11	50
Week 4, Day 2: Colossians 3:12-25	52
Week 4, Day 3: Colossians 4:1-18	54
Week 4, Day 4: Colossians in Review	56
Week 4, Day 5: Philippians & Colossians: Most Beloved Verses of Today	58
Week 4 Answer Key	60

INTRODUCTION

The Bible often provides answers to common challenges and questions we face today. Have you ever found yourself searching for scriptures sure to bring peace, comfort and joy? Try reading Philippians! Have you ever questioned, “How do we KNOW that Jesus is the Messiah? Could all the other faiths be wrong?” Try reading Colossians!

Welcome to this one-month study that will take you on a journey through comfort, joy, and wisdom!

Philippians and Colossians are special

Paul wrote to both churches while he was imprisoned, under house arrest in Rome, around 61-62 AD. Both books surge with the hopes Paul has for the seedling churches, but the point of each letter was quite different.

The Philippians had sent Paul a care package. He had spent three months with them during his second missionary journey. A care package may sound like a nice gesture, but it was so much more in those days! There were scant stores, no postal service, and the people of Philippi were sending Paul things precious to their own households and thoughtfully submitted.

His letter to the Philippians was part thank-you note, part encouragement, and all hope and joy. Philippians would be considered one of the “feel good” books of the New Testament, where one famous verse follows another.

The Colossians were believers whom Paul had never visited; yet, a church leader showed up in Rome to serve Paul. He also wanted Paul’s God-given wisdom about some heresies that were creeping in, especially the one falsely stating that Jesus was a great man but not God. Do you ever have thoughts like, “Why does it make me uncomfortable when nonbelievers call Jesus a great teacher or prophet? That’s a compliment...isn’t it?” Colossians is the book for you!

This study includes both practical and spiritual wisdom, to help fend off discouragement and doubt along your spiritual journey. This book will bring you peace and great wisdom as you follow the Apostle Paul through his inspired thinking.

How this Study Works?

Philippians and Colossians contain only four chapters each. However, both teem with life and contain enough materials for a gratifying month of study. Most days you will be reading a portion of a chapter, though several days will cover background material. The first two weeks will cover Philippians, and the second two weeks will cover Colossians. Additional days will cover reviews and overviews.

That is the equivalent of a Monday-through-Friday study, for one month. But take more or less time as needed. The goal is to finish and come to know these works for your daily walk.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, the study is neither difficult nor terribly time consuming. A day’s work can be done in half an hour, but it can take up to an hour, depending on how much time you’d like to give to the Application Questions about that day’s chapter. The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for small groups and cell groups, but also fine for an individual just looking to improve their knowledge base.

What's to Be Done Each Day?

Our Table of Contents, following this introduction, shows the comprehensive list of chapters that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following mini-segments:

1. **DAILY READING:** You will read either a portion of a chapter or background materials.
2. **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given four or five questions that require either filling in the blanks or answering true/false. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found, and the answers are also included for the short answers.
3. **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive two each day of these longer questions requiring thought and written answers. These are often an effort to get students to think of the passage in terms of how it affects them in postmodern times. These are highly subjective, so they don't come with answers, but you'll find some are covered in the ANSWERS section under APPLICATION HELP. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations, or further information.
4. **MAP OF PAUL'S JOURNEYS FEATURING PHILIPPI, COLOSSAE, AND ROME:** We are providing a valuable study tool, a MAP of Paul's journeys and adventures, not just with the Philippians and Colossians, but with the communities surrounding them so the big picture of Paul's ministry comes clear. If you use the MAP faithfully, these places will get into your heart. These places will become familiar and endearing to you.
5. **TIMELINE:** You'll see a timeline of Paul's Missionary journeys, featuring dates that are important to understanding his context.
6. **FURTHER READING:** Several scriptures are presented as recommended reading on one of the subjects covered in the day's chapter. The readings often include one passage from the Old Testament and one from the New. But sometimes both further reading passages are from the New Testament as Apostle Paul is busy with concepts that are new to the converts.
7. **ANSWERS & HELP**—The Short-Answer Questions are answered here, along with bits of intrigue and insight that can help when answering the Application Questions.

What are the MOST POPULAR VERSES, and what VERSION OF THE BIBLE do you use?

We try to create studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nonetheless we gravitate to the two most popular so as to keep with common language to examine difficult constructs. This study was created using the KJV (King James Version) and the NIV (New International Version).

The most popular scriptures are derived by software that recognizes how many times a scripture is searched on popular websites. All of the 30,000+ scriptures have a ranking number. At present, the #1 position goes to John 3:16. The lowest is likely in Leviticus, where rankings appear in the 31,000s!

With just a little time each day this month, you will have a wonderful opportunity to know well the people of Philippi and Colossae. You will have something to recall or even quote when questions arise about our faith or you need to recapture your joy.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

STUDY TOOLS



PAUL WAS UNDER HOUSE ARREST AND
WROTE TO BOTH CHURCHES FROM HERE
(ACTS 28)

ADRIATIC SEA

ROME

+ Puteoli

Thessalonica +

PHILIPPI

**PAUL WAS HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
BEFORE HIS HOUSE ARREST IN ROME**
(ACTS 16 & 20)

**PAUL WAS HERE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS
BEFORE HIS HOUSE ARREST IN ROME**
(ACTS 16 & 20)

Nicopolis+

Corinth+

+ Athens

Troas +

Pergamum+

Thyatira



+ **+** Philadelphia

Ephesus +

Miletus+



GOLOSSAE 

+ Perga

Lystra +

+ Derbe

Tarsus +

Edessa +

BLACK SEA

+ Antioch

+ Salamis

Paphos +

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

Cvrene+

+
+
+
Damascus

+ Sidon

Tyre +

+ Pella

+ Samaria

Jerusalem+

Alexandria +

Paul's Missionary World at the Time of Philippians/Colossians (Acts 16 & 20)



Cities Most Related to This Study



Churches Mentioned by Christ in Revelation 2-3



Cities of Other Early Churches



Study Tool #2:

Timeline of New Testament Activities

Use this study tool to get a picture of where Paul was in his ministry when involving himself with Philippi and Colossae Christians. As Paul wrote both letters toward the end of his life, this timeline will be quite useful for this and other studies. It shows the ministry of Paul, plus the previous year which shows the Ascension. Granted, the year of Christ's birth is still debated by scholars, so the dates that follow are estimations. Most scholars believe Jesus was not born in exactly year 0 AD, but a few years earlier. We will be using a timeline that sets His birth at the year 3 BC.

You can get from this timeline the order in which Paul wrote all his Epistles. They are marked in **GREEN**. His dealings related to the Philippians and Colossians are in **BLUE**.

ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

30 AD	The Ascension of Jesus	Acts 1
34 AD	Saul's Conversion	Acts 9
45 AD	James Writes his Letter	James 1-5
48 AD	Paul's First Missionary Journey	Acts 13
48 AD	Paul Preaches in Pisidian Antioch	Acts 13:14
48 AD	Paul and Barnabas in Iconium	Acts 14
48 AD	Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe	Acts 14:8
48 AD	Paul and Barnabas Return to Syrian Antioch	Acts 14:21
48 AD	The Council at Jerusalem	Acts 15
49 AD	Paul's Second Missionary Journey	Acts 15:36
49 AD	Paul in Philippi	Acts 16
49 AD	Paul in Thessalonica, Berea, Athens	Acts 17
51 AD	Paul in Corinth	Acts 18
51 AD	Paul Writes to the Thessalonians	1 Thess. 1-5
52 AD	Paul Writes Again to the Thessalonians	2 Thess. 1-3
54 AD	Paul in Ephesus	Acts 19
54 AD	Paul Writes to the Corinthians	1 Corinthians 1-16
54 AD	Paul Writes to the Galatians	Galatians 1-6
57 AD	Paul in Macedonia and Greece	Acts 20
57 AD	Paul Writes to the Romans	Romans 1-16
57 AD	Paul Writes Again to the Corinthians	2 Corinthians 1-13

ALL DATES ARE APPROXIMATE

59 AD	Paul Returns to Jerusalem	Acts 21-23
60 AD	Paul Imprisoned in Caesarea	Acts 24
62 AD	Paul Before Festus	Acts 25
62 AD	Paul Before Agrippa	Acts 26
62 AD	Paul Sails for Rome	Acts 27
62 AD	The Shipwreck	Acts 27:13
62 AD	Paul Ashore at Malta	Acts 28
62 AD	Paul Preaches, Arrested in Rome	Acts 28:11
62 AD	Paul Writes to the Ephesians	Ephesians 1-6
62 AD	Paul Writes to the Philippians	Philippians 1-4
62 AD	Paul Writes to the Colossians	Colossians 1-4
62 AD	Paul Writes to Philemon	Philemon 1
63 AD	Paul Writes to Timothy	1 Timothy 1-6
64 AD	Peter Writes His First Letter	1 Peter 1-5
64 AD	Paul Released from Prison in Rome	Church History
66 AD	Paul Writes to Titus	Titus 1-3
67 AD	Paul Writes Again to Timothy	2 Timothy 1-4
67 AD	Peter Writes His Second Letter	2 Peter 1-3
67 AD	Paul (and Peter) Martyred in Rome	Church History
68 AD	Letter to the Hebrews	Hebrews 1-13
68 AD	Jude Writes His Letter	Jude 1
90 AD	John Writes His First Letter	1 John 1-5
92 AD	John Writes His Second Letter	2 John 1
94 AD	John Writes His Third Letter	3 John 1
95 AD	John's Revelation on Patmos	Revelation 1-22



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

Introduction-Philippians 2

WEEK 1

Introductory Materials for Philippians

The Bible books of Philippians and Colossians are among Apostle Paul's four epistles known as "the prison letters." He served a two-year house arrest in Rome and wrote the prison letters therein, around 61-62 AD (see your TIMELINE).

Paul had ministered at Philippi, spending about three months in the city. This occurred during his second missionary journey of 54 to 59 AD, accounted for in Acts 15:36-18. Paul had never visited Colossae, home of the Colossians, when he wrote them his prison letter. It was in response to news that the church there was struggling with heresy.

Philippians and Colossians have much in common besides being beside one another in the New Testament (Philippians following Ephesians).

We are focusing in on Philippians for the first part of the study. As this is a lot of interesting material, you will only have short-answer questions to answer at the end.

A PHILIPPIANS FAQ

- 1. What makes Philippians special? How does it stand out?** Apostle Paul didn't pen Philippians in response to a crisis, as he did with Galatians and Colossians. He wrote to express his encouragement and appreciation for the believers in Philippi. The book is full of hope and joy, in spite of Paul's imprisonment. It is considered among the most uplifting of his epistles.
- 2. Does the book contain any famous scriptures I would know?** Philippians is teeming with well-known passages, including, "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me" (4:13); "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (1:6); and "To live is Christ and to die is gain" (1:21). Philippians 4:13 is ranked 34th highest of over 30,000 verses in the entire Bible!
- 3. Is there a primary theme or message?** This Epistle is considered the most joyful and focused often not on our efforts, but on the efforts of God to rebuild us from the inside out. We believe; God does the work. This line of understanding the gospel can be very freeing. The Philippian believers experienced this life, and it is a life available to us today.
- 4. Where was Philippi located, especially in relationship to Colossae?** Philippi was about 1500 miles northwest of the area around the Sea of Galilee, where Christ completed much of His ministry. It was located in Macedonia, near the Aegean Sea, on land that is now part of Greece. Colossae is much closer to the Promised Land, located north in modern-day Turkey.
- 5. Were the Philippians strong Christians?** At the time the Epistle was written, Philippi was in great spiritual condition. The believers had sent a care package to Paul while he was imprisoned in Rome and seemed to understand better than the other budding churches that gifts were appreciated by the Apostles.

A PHILIPPIANS FAQ

They were the positive-energy people of the era and area, and offered Paul more material support for his ministry than any other church (2 Corinthians 8:11; Philippians 4:15-18).

- 6. Did Philippi become a famous church?** Philippi became Paul's first church established in Europe.
- 7. Is the church still there?** It is not. A catastrophic earthquake shook the town in 619 AD, and the place had already been weakened by Slavic invasions. It was all but abandoned.
- 8. Paul usually traveled with someone. Who was with him at Philippi?** Paul and Barnabas split up at the top of Paul's 2nd missionary journey, which included his three months in Philippi. Barnabas took John Mark (author of the Book of Mark) and sailed to Cyprus. Paul took Silas on his journey around the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Silas was a Hellenistic Jew, who may also have been a Roman citizen.
- 9. During Paul's three-month stay, did he have any noteworthy adventures?** Paul and Silas were arrested, beaten, and imprisoned while in Philippi, then experienced two miracles. First, an earthquake broke them loose from their bonds. Second, the guard watching them was preparing to fall on his sword for the alleged breach when Paul and Silas told him to stop, that they were still there. The guard accepted Christ as Messiah and his whole family was baptized.
- 10. What else happened in Philippi?** This is also the place where Paul addressed the demon-possessed psychic. When the demon came out, the woman lost her powers and made her employers create an uproar in the city.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** From Question #1, here is one great word to describe the tone of Philippians:

- 02** From Question #2, finish this famous verse: I can do all things through
_____ (Philippians 4:13).
- 03** From Question #4, which is closer to the Promised Land, Colossae or Philippi?

- 04** From Question #7, what natural disaster befell Philippi in the 600s AD?

- 05** From Question #8: What is the first miracle Paul and Silas experienced after their arrest in Philippi? _____



Philippians 1:1-11

Paul's spirit resonates with the gratitude he feels for the Philippians. See if you can hear it in his opening words. For whom do you feel this grateful?

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:6

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verse 2, Paul blesses the Philippian believers with what two things from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? _____ and _____
- 02 Every time Paul prays for the Philippians, he prays with this: (v. 4)

- 03 Paul prays that their _____ may abound more and more. (v. 9)
- 04 According to verse 11, the fruit of righteousness comes from this person:

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 In verses 9-11, Paul prays for the Philippians. What can we learn from Paul's prayer here?

02 Paul may not have been able to do the same kind of ministry he had done before when he was able to travel and visit different churches, but he found a way to share and minister through letters. How does this impress you to reach out to those around you?

Scriptures related to **GOD AT WORK IN US**: Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 13:21, 1 Thessalonians 2:13



Philippians 1:12-30

Today we'll get to see how we as Christians can be grateful for martyrs to our faith and also reflect on how martyrs' courage can influence us.

*"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain."
Philippians 1:21*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: The things that were happening to Paul were preventing the spread of the gospel. (v. 12)
- 02 Because of Paul's chains, many of the other believers became confident and began to speak the Word without _____. (v. 14)
- 03 To live is _____ and to die is _____. (v. 21)
- 04 Paul says in verses 21-23 that this is better by far: _____
- 05 Paul tells the Philippians that it was granted to them, not only to believe in Christ but to _____ for Him. (v. 29)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 Paul says in verses 12-14 that his imprisonment has actually been beneficial and served to advance the gospel. Have you had an experience where something difficult happened to you that God used for good? What happened?

02 Verses 15-17 tell us about people who were motivated positively to share the gospel and others who did so out of selfish reasons. What would be right reasons for sharing the gospel? How can we ensure our motivation is coming from a good place for sharing the gospel with others?

Scriptures related to BAD SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP: 2 Timothy 3:1-13; 4:3



Philippians 2:1-18

Today's reading will encourage us to reflect on humility—what it is, how to lay hold of it without feeling threatened, and how God helps us do all things in His will.

*"In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had."
Philippians 2:5*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: Paul wants the Philippians to always put themselves first. (v. 4)
- 02 We are to have the same mindset as _____. (v. 5)
- 03 In verse 12, Paul tells the Philippians to work out their salvation with _____ and _____.
- 04 True/False: God is the one who works in us to will and to act for Him. (v. 13)
- 05 True/False: It is perfectly fine to complain about things. (v. 14)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verses 5 through 9 can inspire us to think about our own humility. How are humility and self-interest opposing forces? And how can we embrace humility instead?

- 02** Verse 12 reminds us to “work out your salvation with fear and trembling.” Another way to read this is “make sure you are saved.” Why might self-examination of our spiritual condition be so important?

Scriptures related to HEARING FROM GOD: Hebrews 11:6, James 1:5



Philippians 2:19-30

In today's reading, we get to see Paul support two of his best friends. It can help influence us as we support others in the Body of Christ.

*"For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ."
Philippians 2:21*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: Paul was confident that he would see the Philippians soon. (v. 24)
- 02 Who is Paul sending back to the Philippians? (v. 25) _____
- 03 Epaphroditus almost _____ for the work of the Lord. (v. 30)
- 04 True/False: We shouldn't look up to people who do things in the name of Christ. (v. 29)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 This passage compares two men, Timothy and Epaphroditus. How did Paul know these men, and what can we learn from their examples?

02 Verse 30 tells us that Epaphroditus almost died working for Christ. In today's age, Christians are likely not compromising their health or safety to help the ministry. In what ways do we offer sacrifice instead?

Scriptures related to **TAKING RISKS FOR THE GOSPEL**: James 4:13-15, Romans 12:2, Matthew 10:28



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Uplifting
2. Christ who strengthens me/ Him who gives me strength
3. Colossae
4. Earthquake
5. An earthquake shook them loose from their chains or bonds

FROM DAY 2

1. Grace and peace
2. Joy
3. Love
4. Jesus Christ

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Paul actively prayed for those he ministered to. He prayed with thanksgiving for the Philippians. He was joyful and he prayed for their spiritual growth. He wasn't content that they were doing well and knew that they could continually improve with the help of Jesus Christ.

Help with Question #2:

People may have numerous excuses for not sharing the good news, including: I don't know enough, I am not good enough, they will not listen to me, I am busy and will do it later, I don't have many opportunities or I am scared/nervous. Paul had a good reason for not sharing the gospel (being imprisoned) but he found a way. He could have expected others to care and pray for him, but he chose to reach out to others and is an inspiration for us all.

FROM DAY 3

1. False
2. Fear
3. Christ, gain
4. Departing and being with Christ
5. Suffer

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

We should trust God in all circumstances, not just the good. See 1 Thessalonians 5:18 – "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Paul faced many hardships, although we don't find him complaining of his circumstances and in fact find him in several letters sharing his joy.

Help with Question #2:

There are several selfish reasons for motivating someone to share the gospel, including: recognition, popularity, power, earning favor, financial gain, etc. Unselfishly sharing the gospel comes from a place of concern or care for others, most especially love.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 4

1. False
2. Jesus Christ
3. Fear, trembling
4. True
5. False

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Reviewing Philippians 1:6 can help us with putting off selfish desires, which can threaten our spiritual growth. This tells us that God has work to do in us because we are not perfect and still need His help. Our self-interests can stunt the work being done, including any desire for fame, power, beauty, money, and attention.

Help with Question #2:

Jesus said that “every good tree bears good fruit” (Matthew 7:17-18). If we are saved, there should be good fruit in our lives and we can examine our lives for evidence of this fruit. Consequently, we should also see where we fall short and where we can repent.

FROM DAY 5

1. True
2. Epaphroditus
3. Died
4. False

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Epaphroditus was from Philippi. The Philippians sent him to Paul, who was under house arrest in Rome, with a care package. The letter to the Philippians may have been a sort of thank you note which Paul wanted to send back with Epaphroditus. Timothy might be known as Paul’s best earthly friend, who eventually was martyred for the faith. He is buried in Ephesus, where he was the first Bishop of their church.

Help with Question #2:

It is a nagging question for many Christians, “Would I be willing to die for my faith if push came to shove?” Of course, we would all like to become that courageous. The point is to tell God you are willing. Unless times drastically change, you will probably find that His will is that we live long lives and do much for the Kingdom, though an attitude of sacrifice is pleasing.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

Philippians 3-4

WEEK 2



Philippians 3:1-14

When Paul and Jesus talked about “the flesh,” they did not mean our skin. They meant any and all behaviors that draw us away from Jesus, as this reading will help us understand.

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death.”
Philippians 3:10

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Paul tells the Philippians and us to _____ in the Lord. (v. 1)
- 02 True/False: We should not have confidence in the flesh, only in Christ. (v. 3)
- 03 Paul counted his fleshly gains as a _____ for the sake of Christ. (v. 7)
- 04 According to verse 9, our righteousness comes from God based on this:

- 05 True/False: Paul doesn’t consider himself to have obtained these things he speaks of. (v. 12)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Starting in verse 3, Paul refers to “the flesh.” What do you think he means by having “no confidence in the flesh”? How might focusing on our achievements impair our relationship with God?

- 02** In verse 13, Paul talks about “Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead.” Why is this attitude so important in our spiritual journey? Is there anything in particular you need to put behind you in your life? How might you do this so that you can focus on what lies ahead?

Scriptures related to BEING FULLY COMMITTED TO CHRIST: 2 Chronicles 16:9, Romans 12:1



Philippians 3:15-21

Is the Christian life more about a salvation experience or more about maturing spiritually? Cultures have struggled to understand what a mature Christian is and does...though this passage shares Paul's thoughts.

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ."
Philippians 3:20*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: God will lead us in our views. (v. 15)
- 02 According to verse 18, many people live as _____ of the cross of Christ.
- 03 According to verse 19, those who are enemies of Christ have their minds set on this:

- 04 Our citizenship is in _____. (v. 20)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verse 15 makes use of the word “mature,” as in spiritually mature. What do you think it means to be spiritually mature? What kind of characteristics might a spiritually mature person possess?

- 02** What does it mean in verse 20 that “our citizenship is in heaven?” What privileges do we have as Christian citizens? How can we better represent Christ as ambassadors of our home country in heaven?

Scriptures related to OUR CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN: Ephesians 2:19, John 18:36, James 4:4



Philippians 4:1-9

When people say the Bible is not relevant today, they may be unfamiliar with Philippians, especially today's reading. It contains four famous verses in a row that are often quoted in relation to our lives. Let's work to get them into our hearts and spirits.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verse 1, Paul tells his brothers and sisters in Philippi that they are his _____ and _____.
- 02 How often should we rejoice in the Lord? (v. 4) _____
- 03 When we present our requests to God, we should do so with this: (v. 6)

- 04 When we give our anxieties to God with thanksgiving, His _____
will keep or guard our hearts and minds. (v. 7)
- 05 True/False: We should think on good things (v. 8).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** This short reading is rife with popular verses, including verses 4, 6, 7 and 8. Which of these verses means the most in your personal life at present and why?

- 02** Verse 8 tells us how to direct our minds. This can be especially challenging, considering the temptations in the world around us. What are some positive things we can do to redirect our thoughts so that we are focusing on good things?

Scriptures related to PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Romans 12:12, Psalm 145:18



Philippians 4:10-20

Paul shows gratitude in today's reading for the emotional support of his brothers and sisters, even if they are far away. Let's reflect on how we can be supportive of our own brothers and sisters in keeping with Paul's heart.

*"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 In verse 15, when Paul left Macedonia, only this church helped him financially:

- 02 In verse 17, Paul says that when we give, the more will be credited to our heavenly
_____.
- 03 True/False: Paul learned to be content in all circumstances. (v. 11-12)
- 04 How many of our needs will God supply according to the riches of His glory in Christ?
(v. 19) _____

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verse 13 states we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. In context, this verse is a follow-up to Paul's secret of contentment. What does this verse teach us in particular about being content?

- 02** In verse 19, Paul states that God will supply our needs accord to His riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. What does this verse teach us about generosity and prosperity? In what ways has God met your needs that you feel are "according to His riches in glory?"

Scriptures related to GOD WORKING INSIDE US: Galatians 5:18-24, 1 Corinthians 15:10



PHILIPPIANS IN REVIEW

Congratulations—you have finished Philippians, a crucial book in understanding our faith! Today you'll be looking back on the four chapters. Powerful in hope and joy, let's see how we can best absorb them into our daily living.

Chapter 1: Look again at verses 1:21-22. In what ways are our feelings about death short-sighted? How does our knowledge of heaven and life after death help us see the bigger picture? How can we prevent the fear of passing over?

Chapter 2: Focus in on verse 2:3. How would your life have to change if this statement were to become completely true in your life?

Chapter 3: Look again at verse 3:15. This should give us comfort because it helps us understand that God will correct our errors in thinking and behavior. Has there been a time when your course has been corrected by God? How did God help you see the error of your ways?

Chapter 4: Verse 4:4 tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. How is this possible? Isn't life filled with sorrow? Of what can we rejoice, even in the worst of sorrow?

Notes:





Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Rejoice
2. True
3. Loss
4. Faith
5. True

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Paul refers to the flesh and circumcision. Historically, Jews were circumcised as a sign of their covenant with God and their status as His chosen people. They were confident in their circumcision, or flesh, as salvation. However, after Christ's death, as the gospel began to be preached to the Gentiles, circumcision was no longer required. Flesh can be understood as circumcision as a sign of salvation. But it can also mean the confidence in our abilities or achievements. Here we understand that we cannot through our own works or achievements merit salvation because they do not take away our sins or bring us closer to God.

FROM DAY 2

1. True
2. Enemies
3. Earthly things
4. Heaven

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

The big picture of spiritual maturity is that it involves us shedding flesh and gaining spirit. Look at your life with hope as Christ is at work in us, even when we can't feel it.

Help with Question #2:

Citizens of countries often have privileges or rights by virtue of their citizenship. As Christian believers, we are given many privileges, which include: forgiveness of sins, adoption as son and daughters, answered prayers, eternal life, etc. An ambassador is someone who represents their home country, and seeks to bridge a gap between themselves and outsiders. As ambassadors for Christ, we can help others by seeking peace and helping immigrate others into the kingdom of heaven.

FROM DAY 3

1. Joy, crown
2. Always
3. Thanksgiving
4. Peace
5. True

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #2:

We need to pay attention to what we put into our minds because whatever we feed our minds will occupy our thoughts. When we think about positive spiritual things, we will become less susceptible to temptation.



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 4

1. Philippians
2. Account
3. True
4. All

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Paul expresses his contentment despite any circumstances. These circumstances could be in sickness or healthy, poverty or wealth, in need or with surplus. Contentment from these circumstances does not come from inner strength or willpower, but from trusting God. He is the one that helps us respond to our trials with hope, joy, and contentment.

Help with Question #2

Those who generously support God's work are rewarded. But the reward from God may not be prosperity. It may be that God simply takes care of your needs. Consider the story of the woman who shared her last bit of oil and flour to give food to the prophet Elijah. She had to trust God and Elijah's promise. In doing so, her family's needs were taken care of. In relying on God, we show our spiritual maturity. While we don't want to live our lives without making sacrifices or sharing God's love, we can also relax in the fact that He will keep "growing us" so long as we remain submissive and trusting.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1-2

WEEK 3



Introductory Materials for Colossians

We'll be talking today about Colossae, home of the Colossians. The Colossians hit a snag with gnostic invaders, teaching that Christ could not have been God (even though He was the Messiah). Let's look closer at the area, the spiritual situation, and what has transpired since.

A COLOSSIANS FAQ

- 1. Where was Colossae?** Colossae was one of the biggest cities in Phrygia, located today in Turkey. The city of Honaz sits on top of Colossae's ruins (see its place on the map). Excavations began in 2021 led by Barış Yener of Pamukkale University in Denizli, but only with surface surveys. Plans are underway to begin digging in 2023/2024.
- 2. What was the place like during the times of the Apostles?** Colossae was a hub of activity, renowned for its textile industry. The city was founded around 200 BC and had declined somewhat in its importance by the time of the Apostles. The city was ravaged by an earthquake around 62 AD, causing people to relocate to other places nearby. As 62 AD is the estimated year Paul wrote to the Colossians, his letter and the earthquake could have arrived closely together.
- 3. How often did Paul visit Colossae?** Paul had not visited Colossae at all by the time of this writing, and there is no evidence of him visiting after his two-year house arrest ended. However, his connection to the people was strong.
- 4. If Paul never traveled to Colossae, what brought the seedling church and him together?** A man named Epaphras (Colossians 1:7 and 4:12) first heard the gospel from Paul in Ephesus and later became a leader of the church of Colossae. Epaphras came to Rome partly to serve Paul during his imprisonment (see Philemon 1:23). But he also wanted to confide in him regarding the dangerous teachings the Colossians were hearing.
- 5. Is the book of Colossians hard to understand?** Colossians is not hard to understand if you are keeping alert. As often is the case in the Epistles, Paul is establishing doctrinal statements. You will see many statements about the

A COLOSSIANS FAQ

definition of who and what Christ is, and these are to fight the heresy that had been thrown at the Colossians by Satan's powers. These definitive or doctrinal statements can seem a bit lofty compared to Paul's Epistles with passages that are practical, telling people what actions fit the definitions.

- 6. Are there any popular verses in Colossians?** Absolutely, and probably some of your favorites. The highest ranking (and therefore most popular today) passage is ranked only 93rd as of this publication, out of the whole Bible of 30,000-plus verses! The next half dozen are in the 200s, which is still incredibly high. The first is Colossians 1:15: "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Another is 1:16, known for being very definitive of our faith: "For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him."

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** From Question #1, the ancient city of Colossae is located in which modern-day country? _____
- 02** From Question #2, what natural disaster in 62 AD caused people to relocate to other places? _____
- 03** From Question #4, who came to visit Paul in prison in Rome? _____
- 04** From Question #5, in Colossians, Paul establishes doctrinal statements about who? _____
- 05** From Question #3, did Paul ever visit the Colossians? _____



Colossians 1:1-14

This intriguing opening offers some insights into how we may “live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.” Paul’s thoughts become crystal clear here, so let us feel inspired to pick up his excitement.

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us
into the kingdom of the Son he loves.”
Colossians 1:13*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 1, Paul was an Apostle by whose will? _____
- 02 According to verse 4-5, the Colossians’ faith and love came from the _____
that was stored up for them in _____.
- 03 From the day we hear the gospel and understand God’s grace, what is produced?
(v. 6) _____
- 04 Who did the Colossians hear the gospel from? (v. 7) _____
- 05 Paul prays for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will through
spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they will live a life _____
of God. (v. 10)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verses 9-12 hold a full list of what Paul and Timothy pray for concerning the Colossians. How does this list inspire you to improve your own prayers, not only for yourself but for others?

- 02** In verse 13, Paul says God “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.” Here he refers to the world as darkness, as opposed to the light from Christ. How does this description help us keep a proper perspective towards the world and sin?

Scriptures related to **WHAT SALVATION LOOKS LIKE**: Galatians 5:22-23, Romans 5:3-5



Colossians 1:15-29

You were warned initially that in parts of Colossians, you need to be alert. Here comes one of those places! Paul is describing who Jesus is and what He is. Be blown away, but keep your eyes wide.

*"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."
Colossians 1:15*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 16, all things were created by or through Him and _____ Him.
- 02 True/False: God was pleased to reconcile all things to Himself. (v. 19-20)
- 03 God has reconciled us by Christ's body through death to present us _____ in His sight. (v. 22)
- 04 We will receive this reconciliation if we continue in the _____ (v. 23).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Paul describes Jesus Christ in various ways in verses 15-20. How do these concepts help us understand and treat Christ in the exalted way He deserves? How can we prevent Christ from being diminished?

- 02** Paul speaks of a beautiful promise in verse 22 of being presented as holy and blameless before God, and how we can obtain this promise in verse 23. Why is perseverance so important? And how can we persevere in our faith?

Scriptures related to **PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH**: James 1:12, Galatians 6:9, Romans 5:3-4



Colossians 2:1-12

Paul is giving the Colossian people more inspiration for staying grounded in faith and not being led astray. As their dangers still threaten us, let's try to implement the advice he is giving them.

*"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."
Colossians 2:9*

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: Paul had not actually met the Colossians personally. (v. 1)
- 02 Paul tells the Colossians in verse 2 that he wants them to be encouraged in heart and united or knit together in _____.
- 03 True/False: In Christ is the fullness of God. (v. 9)
- 04 According to verse 11, we have been _____ in Christ.
- 05 What ceremony serves as a symbol of us being buried with Christ? (v. 12)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verses 2:2-3, we are taught that true wisdom and knowledge are found in Christ. However, sometimes God's wisdom appears as foolishness to others or a mystery we don't yet understand. How does this principle inspire us to exercise our faith and trust in God?

- 02** Verse 8 warns about being misled by the false teachings and philosophies of the world. Considering that modern morality often runs counter to God's teachings and commandments, how can we remain steadfast in our faith?

Scriptures related to THE DEITY OF CHRIST: John 1:1-5, Hebrews 1:3, 1 Timothy 3:16, 1 Corinthians 15:13



Colossians 2:13-23

Today we will learn a few things about following religious rules, some of which are God-inspired, but many of which are not. How do we know what is God-inspired?

“Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.”

Colossians 2:23

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: God made us alive with Christ when we were still dead in our sins. (v. 13)
- 02 God took away the ordinance or legal indebtedness that was charged against us and did this with it: (v. 14) _____
- 03 Do not let anyone _____ you by what you eat or drink. (v. 16)
- 04 Human commands and teachings or doctrines of men are designed to _____ with use. (v. 22)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** In verse 18-19, Paul describes someone who is puffed up or prideful as similar to the head losing connection to the body. How might this verse actually be describing that Fall of Man?

- 02** Verse 21 contains some rules of the world: "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!" These man-made rules can seem spiritual, but may in fact be damaging to our spiritual growth. How do they take away our focus on Christ and God's grace?

Scriptures related to MAN-MADE RULES: Matthew 15:1-9, 1 Timothy 4:1-5



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. Turkey
2. Earthquake
3. Epaphras
4. Christ
5. No

FROM DAY 2

1. God's
2. Hope, heaven
3. Fruit
4. Epaphras
5. Worthy

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Here are verses 9 through 12 separated into concepts, spread out so you can tell one prayer request from the next:

We continually ask God to:

1. fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,
2. so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way:
3. bearing fruit in every good work,
4. growing in the knowledge of God,
5. being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might
6. so that you may have great endurance and patience,
7. and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Help with Question #2:

It is easy to develop a love or attachment for worldly things. People can so easily become addicted to sin. When we see these things as they really are, tools of Satan and slavery of sin, we can begin to put things in the proper perspective and prioritize spiritual things.

FROM DAY 3

1. For
2. True
3. Holy
4. Faith

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

The attributes Paul describes make Jesus out to be the Messiah, the Son of God, and a member of the Holy Trinity. To say He is a great teacher or prophet and stop there is largely an insult.

Help with Question #2:

The Bible speaks often of the importance of continuing in our faith. The opposite is to desert our faith, or to go in the opposite direction, which is known as backsliding. Second Timothy 2:11-13 KJV sums up nicely what transpires over salvation: "It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 4

1. True
2. Love
3. True
4. Circumcised
5. Baptism

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

If Christ holds the keys to wisdom and knowledge, those claiming to have the same apart from Him are either ungrateful for the knowledge given to them, or they don't have the knowledge. This challenge plagues not only academia but any of the world's largest institutions, especially the scientific community.

FROM DAY 5

1. True
2. Nailed it to the cross
3. Judge
4. Perish

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

The Fall of Man cost mankind its direct connection to God. God cannot approach sin any more than a flipped magnet can attract its same directional pull. They repel each other.

Help with Question #2:

The worst thing man-made rules accomplish for mankind is to distract us from God's thoughts and put us on a path of confusion and mental anguish. If you nicely pursue conversation with an atheist, you will often find that people who seem "so happy" to be "free of religion" are generally confusing the source of some former anguish (i.e., an overly strict parent or teacher) with Jesus Himself.



PHILIPPIANS & COLOSSIANS

Colossians 3-4

WEEK 4



Colossians 3:1-11

What does it mean to become more spiritual? What does it mean to let go of the things of the flesh? Today's reading will give insights into this part of growth.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God."

Colossians 3:1

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01** Where are we told to set our hearts and affections? (v. 1-2)

- 02** When we became believers, we died and now our life is hidden with _____ in God. (v. 3)
- 03** Because of the deeds of the flesh, the _____ of God is coming. (v. 5-6)
- 04** True/False: It's okay to lie to each other. (v. 9)
- 05** We have put on the new self which is being renewed in knowledge in the _____ of its Creator. (v. 10)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Verses 3:1-3 mention setting our minds on things above, not on earthly things. What are the things “which are above” that Paul is referring to? How can we seek after them? And how does this compare to common things most people seek after?

- 02** Verses 8-11 give great advice for how to live as Christians. Which of the suggestions seems to apply most to your personal life? Why?

Scriptures related to DESCRIBING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: Ephesians 4:32; 5:1-21



Colossians 3:12-25

Paul runs the gamut of suggestions in today's reading of ways to please God, who has forgiven us already. Let's see which of his suggestions rings us with the most excitement.

*"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord,
not for human masters..."*
Colossians 3:23

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 Wives are to _____ to their husbands and husbands are to _____ their wives. (v. 18-19)
- 02 True/False: Husbands can be harsh or bitter with their wives. (v. 19)
- 03 Fathers shouldn't provoke or embitter their children, or they will become _____. (v. 21)
- 04 True/False: There is no favoritism. (v. 25)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 In verse 12, Paul names five virtues, but ends in verse 14 with love or charity, as the perfect bond of unity. What is the relationship between love and other positive virtues? How can you develop and grow these traits in your own life?

02 Verses 16-17 mention letting the word or message of Christ dwell richly in you. How can we do this? What does this look like when we do this?

Scriptures related to **CHRISTIAN VIRTUES**: Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:32, Psalm 1:1



Colossians 4:1-18

Paul starts off with ideas here of how to be a good witness. The fact that he is in chains makes him a very good example! Let's see how we can apply his advice to us.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."
Colossians 4:2

TEXT QUESTIONS

- 01 What should we continue in and devote ourselves to? (v. 2) _____
- 02 True/False: It doesn't matter how we spend our time with unbelievers. (v. 5)
- 03 What should our conversations always be full of? (v. 6) _____
- 04 Who is Paul sending to the Colossians? (v. 7-9) _____ and

- 05 Paul wants this letter to also be read to the church of the _____. (v. 16)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Colossians 4:5-6 refers to how we should behave around outsiders or nonbelievers. Why are words and actions a big part of our witness to others?

- 02** Review the names Paul takes the time to mention in verses 7 through 17. While some of these names may seem familiar, many may not. What can we learn here about the importance of friendships in Christ?

Scriptures related to **SPEAKING** and **LISTENING**: James 1:19, Proverbs 19:20, Matthew 7:24



COLOSSIANS IN REVIEW

Congratulations! You have now completed two of the most precious Epistles! Today you'll be looking back on the four chapters of Colossians. Rich in dimension about the definition of Christ, see how the chapters helped or will help build your faith in Christ as Lord. Answer each question as best you can, and feel free to seek online assistance if you are struggling. There are no right or wrong answers, just searching your heart and mind.

Chapter 1: Look at the famous passage Colossians 1:16. Reflect on how reading it expands your ability to know who Christ is.

Chapter 2: Verse 8 warns us about deceptive philosophy that can take us captive. Reflect on one or more of today's philosophies that can be a thorn in a Christian's side and, perhaps, how to respond to it.

Chapter 3: Verse 11 tells us that there is no distinction among believers because we have all received God's grace and mercy. How does this inspire you to treat your fellow believers, especially when you may have disagreements?

Chapter 4: Verse 1 refers to the relationship between masters and servants or slaves. How can we apply this verse, considering we don't actually own slaves or typically employ servants?

Notes:





Philippians & Colossians: Most Beloved Verses of Today

Congratulations! You have almost finished the study and are now ready for a final step—the Big Picture of applying these verses in modern times.

Modern-day Christians tend to read the Bible by selected verses rather than reading books or chapters all the way through as page-turners. Thus, favorite verses tell us a lot about what issues are facing our culture and how to best handle them. As these Epistles contain many famous verses each, look at the famous verses below and reflect about what their popularity says about the challenges in our culture. Many of these were not covered in our daily MPVs because they fall in the same chapters.

If the verse leaves you unclear or wanting more info, look it up in the Bible and see the verses that surround it for clarity.

MPV #1 / Total Bible Rank #54: Philippians 4:13—"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

MPV #2 / Total Bible Rank #63: Philippians 2:5—"In your relationships with one another, have the same attitude of mind Christ Jesus had..."

MPV #3 / Total Bible Rank #93: Colossians 1:15—"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

MPV #4 / Total Bible Rank #96: “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.”

MPV #5 / Total Bible Rank #209: Colossians 1:16—“For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.”

MPV #6 / Total Bible Rank #262: Philippians 2:12—“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.”

MPV #7 / Total Bible Rank #280: Philippians 1:6—“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

MPV #8 / Total Bible Rank #357: Philippians 4:19—“And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

MPV #9 / Total Bible Rank #384: Philippians 2:6—“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.”

MPV #10 / Total Bible Rank #386: Philippians 4:4—“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”



Fill-in-the-Blank Answers

FROM DAY 1

1. On things above
2. Christ
3. Wrath
4. False
5. Image

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Especially now that modern society has become so enmeshed in consumerism, we must watch far more closely what our hearts are drawn to. Part of the struggle here is that we can't be black-and-white thinkers—making food, beverages, cars, clothes, etc. an all-or-nothing thing. We all need these things. It pays to have some clear lines drawn out for yourself of what you need and what you don't.

FROM DAY 2

1. Submit, love
2. False
3. Discouraged
4. True

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

It can be helpful to write down each of character qualities Paul mentions: mercy or compassion, kindness, humility, meekness or gentleness, and long-suffering or patience. Then spend a few minutes thinking about your own performance in each of these areas. Write down failures as well as successes, performing a spiritual checkup. Finally make a plan to improve.

Help with Question #2:

It may be helpful to think about how often we are meditating and studying the Bible. If we allow the message to dwell with us, it means that it has to transform us so that we are different, putting into practice what we are learning on an everyday basis.

FROM DAY 3

1. Prayer
2. False
3. Grace
4. Tychicus, Onesimus
5. Laodiceans

APPLICATION HELP

Help with Question #1:

Colossians 4:5-6 encourages us to be good witnesses. This is not always easy, especially for people who are shy and/or reserved. However, being loud and assertive is not always the answer to being a good witness. What always works is listening well to others and feeling genuine compassion. Much of being a good witness involves improving our listening skills more than our speaking ones.

Help with Question #2:

Christians are often quite curious about people surrounding the Apostles. Who were these fortunate souls? What did they do? Here is what we know of the people Paul mentioned at the end of this letter:

- **Tychicus:** Someone close to Paul whom the Colossians have not met yet, so this is a sort of introduction. Paul is implying here that his Christian brother has the gift of gab (while Paul is more of a writer) and Tychicus will tell them news when he arrives.
- **Onesimus:** A friend of Paul's who originally was from Colossae and is returning with Tychicus.
- **Epaphras,** hailing from Colossae, is in Rome serving Paul's needs. He may have started the church in Colossae and appears definitely to have been there at its inception. He is also mentioned in the Book of Philemon in the opening lines, which implies he was with Paul for the long haul as part of his work for Christ.
- **Luke** the doctor is the author of the Book of Luke as well as the Book of Acts. Luke joined Paul in around 50 AD, accompanying him from Macedonia to Philippi. It is very possible that Luke provided medical assistance to Paul when he had been beaten, stoned or nearly drowned while evangelizing to the Western Roman Empire. Luke explains in the introduction to his Gospel that his writings were inspired by close association with Paul and his companions.
- **Archippus** is living in Colossae and is not with Paul. He also is mentioned in Philemon 1:2 as being one of the recipients of the Philemon Epistle.

Anyone else, there is little to nothing known about. However, we should use the whole passage as an "encouragement to encourage"... Paul often takes time to mention everyone who helps him. Thanks can be priceless.