

MASTER THE CONTENT OF SCRIPTURE



The Book of Colossians

(Observe, Interpret, Apply & Go)

Armando Rodríguez

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

In our studies of the Bible, we will be using an inductive approach. This approach is a fun and exciting way to study the Bible! It's like being a detective. Instead of starting with a conclusion, you look at the details and clues in the text to discover the meaning for yourself.

Here's how you can do it:

1. **Observation:** First, you look closely at the Bible passage. You pay attention to:

- a. Who is in the story
- b. What is happening
- c. Where it is taking place
- d. When it is happening
- e. Why things are happening
- f. How they are happening.

You write down or make a mental note of all the details you notice.

2. **Interpretation:** Next, you try to understand what those details mean.

- a. You think about why the characters did what they did
- b. You think about what the important words and phrases mean.
- c. You may need to look up some words or ask questions to understand better.

3. **Application:** Finally, you think about how the story applies to our lives. What truth does it communicate?

- a. What does it teach us about God?
- b. What does it teach us about ourselves?
- c. What action (s) does it call us to take?

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER ONE

Summary of Chapter

In Colossians 1, Paul greets the believers in Colossae, expressing gratitude for their faith and love. He prays for their spiritual growth and understanding. Paul emphasizes the supremacy of Christ, describing Him as the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation. Christ is central to all things, reconciling humanity through His sacrifice. Paul rejoices in his sufferings, seeing them as a way to spread the gospel. He speaks of the mystery now revealed to the saints: Christ in you, the hope of glory. Paul encourages steadfastness in faith and spiritual maturity.

Opening Question

What does it mean for Christ to be the "image of the invisible God" and how does this influence our understanding of Him?

Outline

1. Greeting and Thanksgiving (Colossians 1:1-8)
 - Paul introduces himself and greets the saints in Colossae.
 - He thanks God for their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints.
 - Application Question: How can we express our faith and love to others?
2. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians (Colossians 1:9-14)
 - Paul prays for their knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.
 - He asks that they live lives worthy of the Lord and bear fruit in every good work.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Application Question: What steps can we take to live a life worthy of the Lord?
 - 3. The Supremacy of Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)
 - Christ is described as the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
 - All things were created through Him and for Him.
 - Application Question: How does recognizing Christ's supremacy affect our daily lives?
 - 4. Reconciliation Through Christ (Colossians 1:21-23)
 - Paul explains how believers were reconciled to God through Christ's death.
 - He encourages them to continue in their faith, established and firm.
 - Application Question: How can we remain steadfast in our faith despite challenges?
 - 5. Paul's Labor for the Church (Colossians 1:24-29)
 - Paul rejoices in his sufferings for the sake of the church.
 - He reveals the mystery of Christ in the believers, the hope of glory.
 - Application Question: In what ways can we rejoice and find purpose in our sufferings for the gospel?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge
 - Have students memorize Colossians 1:15-16. Offer a small reward for those who can recite it perfectly by the next class.
2. Role Playing Activity
 - Students can role-play a conversation between Paul and a new believer, explaining the supremacy of Christ and the importance of reconciliation.
3. Discussion Activity

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Break students into small groups to discuss what it means to live a life worthy of the Lord and how they can apply this in their daily activities.
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Quiz

1. Who wrote the book of Colossians? a. Peter b. John c. Paul d. James
2. To whom is Paul writing in Colossians? a. Romans b. Corinthians c. Galatians d. Colossians
3. What does Paul thank God for in his prayer? a. Wealth b. Faith and love c. Knowledge d. Wisdom
4. Who is the image of the invisible God? a. Moses b. Elijah c. Jesus Christ d. Paul
5. How were all things created? a. By human hands b. Through Christ c. By nature d. Through the apostles
6. What did Christ do to reconcile humanity to God? a. Perform miracles b. Teach parables c. Die on the cross d. Pray constantly
7. What mystery does Paul speak about? a. The end times b. Christ in you, the hope of glory c. The creation of the world d. The law of Moses
8. How should believers continue in their faith? a. Established and firm b. With doubt and fear c. Only on Sundays d. In secret
9. What does Paul rejoice in? a. Wealth b. Sufferings c. Fame d. Success
10. What is the hope of glory? a. Wealth and prosperity b. Christ in you c. Knowledge and wisdom d. Health and long life

Answers: 1. c, 2. d, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. c, 7. b, 8. a, 9. b, 10. b

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul writes to the _____ in Colossae.
2. Paul thanks God for their _____ in Christ Jesus and their love for all the _____.
3. Christ is the _____ of the invisible God.
4. All things were created through Him and _____ Him.
5. Believers were _____ to God through Christ's death.
6. Paul encourages them to continue in their _____, established and firm.
7. Paul rejoices in his _____ for the sake of the church.
8. Paul speaks of the mystery of _____ in the believers.
9. Paul prays for their knowledge, _____, and understanding.
10. Paul reveals the mystery now _____ to the saints.

Answers: 1. saints, 2. faith, saints, 3. image, 4. for, 5. reconciled, 6. faith, 7. sufferings, 8. Christ, 9. wisdom, 10. revealed

Vocabulary Words

1. Faith (πίστις) - Trust or belief in God or in the doctrines of the Christian religion.
2. Love (ἀγάπη) - Selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, the highest of the four types of love in the Bible.
3. Wisdom (σοφία) - The ability to judge and act according to God's directives.
4. Knowledge (γνῶσις) - Understanding or awareness, especially of God's will and spiritual truths.
5. Reconcile (καταλλαγή) - To restore friendly relations between, specifically the restoration of relationship between God and humanity through Christ.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

6. Mystery (μυστήριον) - A truth that is revealed by God that was previously hidden.
7. Supremacy (πρωτεύω) - The state or condition of being superior to all others in authority, power, or status.
8. Sufferings (πάθημα) - Experiences of pain or hardship, especially those endured for the sake of faith.
9. Image (εικών) - A representation or likeness, particularly of Christ as the visible likeness of the invisible God.
10. Glory (δόξα) - The magnificent, splendor, or honor, especially divine glory given by God.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER TWO

Summary of Chapter

In Colossians 2, Paul warns the believers against deceptive philosophies and false teachings. He emphasizes the fullness found in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. Paul reminds them that in Christ, they are spiritually circumcised, having been buried with Him in baptism and raised through faith in God's power. He encourages them to hold fast to their faith and not be swayed by human traditions. Paul stresses the importance of living in Christ, who forgave all their sins and triumphed over all spiritual forces. He concludes by advising them to avoid legalistic practices and false humility.

Opening Question

Why is it important to be aware of deceptive teachings and how can we ensure we remain rooted in Christ?

Outline

1. Warning Against Deceptive Philosophies (Colossians 2:1-8)
 - Paul expresses his concern for the believers.
 - He warns them not to be deceived by fine-sounding arguments.
 - Application Question: How can we identify and avoid deceptive philosophies in our lives?
2. Fullness in Christ (Colossians 2:9-15)
 - Christ is the fullness of Deity in bodily form.
 - Believers are made complete in Him.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Application Question: What does it mean to be complete in Christ and how does this affect our daily walk?
 - 3. Freedom from Human Regulations (Colossians 2:16-23)
 - Paul advises against judging based on food, drink, festivals, or Sabbaths.
 - He emphasizes the need to hold fast to Christ, the head of the body.
 - Application Question: How can we ensure our faith is not based on human traditions but on Christ?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge
 - Have students memorize Colossians 2:6-7. Offer a small reward for those who can recite it perfectly by the next class.
 2. Role Playing Activity
 - Students can role-play a scenario where they encounter false teachings and must use their knowledge of Christ to refute them.
 3. Discussion Activity
 - Break students into small groups to discuss ways they can remain rooted in Christ amidst various worldly philosophies and traditions.
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Quiz

1. What does Paul warn the believers about in Colossians 2? a. Deceptive philosophies b. Physical ailments c. Financial troubles d. Social status
2. Who is the head over every power and authority? a. Moses b. David c. Jesus Christ d. Paul

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. What does Paul say believers are in Christ? a. Wealthy b. Complete c. Powerful d. Healthy
4. What is the spiritual significance of baptism according to Paul? a. Physical cleanliness b. Social acceptance c. Buried with Christ and raised through faith d. Intellectual growth
5. What has Christ done with our sins? a. Ignored them b. Forgiven them c. Recorded them d. Doubled them
6. What did Christ triumph over? a. Human traditions b. Spiritual forces c. Government authorities d. Financial difficulties
7. What should believers avoid being judged by? a. Food and drink b. Clothing style c. Home size d. Academic achievements
8. What does Paul emphasize believers should hold fast to? a. Christ b. Wealth c. Popularity d. Education
9. What does Paul say about legalistic practices? a. They are essential b. They are of no value c. They are optional d. They are outdated
10. What should believers not be swayed by? a. Music b. Human traditions c. Weather changes d. Technological advances

Answers: 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. b, 7. a, 8. a, 9. b, 10. b

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul warns the believers against _____ philosophies.
2. Christ is the head over every _____ and authority.
3. Believers are spiritually _____ in Christ.
4. They are buried with Him in _____ and raised through faith.
5. Paul emphasizes the fullness found in _____.
6. Believers should not be swayed by _____ traditions.
7. Christ forgave all their _____.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

8. Paul advises them to avoid _____ practices.
9. Believers should hold fast to _____.
10. Paul warns against being judged by food, drink, and _____.

Answers: 1. deceptive, 2. power, 3. circumcised, 4. baptism, 5. Christ, 6. human, 7. sins, 8. legalistic, 9. Christ, 10. festivals

Vocabulary Words

1. Deceptive (ἀπατηλός) - Misleading or false, causing someone to believe something that is not true.
2. Fullness (πλήρωμα) - The state of being complete or whole, especially in the context of Christ's divine nature.
3. Circumcised (περιτομή) - The act of cutting off the foreskin, symbolizing spiritual purification and covenant with God.
4. Baptism (βάπτισμα) - The Christian sacrament of initiation and purification through immersion in or sprinkling with water.
5. Traditions (παράδοσις) - Customs or beliefs handed down from generation to generation, often in a religious context.
6. Philosophy (φιλοσοφία) - The study of fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, often based on human reasoning.
7. Authority (ἐξουσία) - The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.
8. Legalistic (νομικός) - Strict adherence to the letter of the law rather than its spirit.
9. Forgiveness (ἄφεσις) - The action of pardoning someone for their offenses, especially in a spiritual context.
- 10. Triumph (θρίαμβος)** - A great victory or achievement, particularly Christ's victory over spiritual forces.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER THREE

Summary of Chapter

In Colossians 3, Paul urges believers to set their minds on things above, not earthly things. He instructs them to put to death their old, sinful nature and to clothe themselves with virtues like compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Paul emphasizes the importance of love, which binds all virtues together in perfect unity. He advises them to let the peace of Christ rule in their hearts and to let the word of Christ dwell richly among them. Paul concludes with specific instructions for households, encouraging mutual respect and proper conduct within families and between servants and masters.

Opening Question

How can setting our minds on things above change the way we live our daily lives?

Outline

1. Set Your Hearts on Things Above (Colossians 3:1-4)
 - Believers are to seek the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
 - They are to set their minds on heavenly things, not earthly things.
 - Application Question: What practical steps can we take to focus on heavenly things in our daily lives?
2. Put to Death the Earthly Nature (Colossians 3:5-11)

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Paul lists behaviors to avoid: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed.
 - Believers are to rid themselves of anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language.
 - Application Question: How can we identify and overcome sinful behaviors in our lives?
3. Clothe Yourself with Virtues (Colossians 3:12-14)
- Believers are chosen, holy, and dearly loved.
 - They are to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
 - Application Question: How can we practice these virtues in our interactions with others?
4. Let the Peace and Word of Christ Dwell in You (Colossians 3:15-17)
- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
 - Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another.
 - Application Question: How can we cultivate a peaceful and Christ-centered community?
5. Instructions for Christian Households (Colossians 3:18-25)
- Wives, submit to your husbands as is fitting in the Lord.
 - Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.
 - Children, obey your parents in everything.
 - Fathers, do not embitter your children.
 - Servants, obey your earthly masters in everything.
 - Application Question: How can mutual respect and love transform our family and work relationships?
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THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge
 - Have students memorize Colossians 3:12-14. Offer a small reward for those who can recite it perfectly by the next class.
 2. Role Playing Activity
 - Students can role-play different scenarios where they practice virtues like kindness, humility, and patience in challenging situations.
 3. Discussion Activity
 - Break students into small groups to discuss the importance of setting their minds on things above and how this perspective can influence their daily decisions.
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Quiz

1. What are believers urged to set their minds on? a. Earthly things b. Wealth and success c. Things above d. Social status
2. What should believers put to death according to Paul? a. Physical fitness b. Earthly nature c. Intellectual growth d. Artistic talents
3. Which of these is NOT listed as a behavior to avoid? a. Sexual immorality b. Kindness c. Greed d. Anger
4. What virtues should believers clothe themselves with? a. Wealth and power b. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience c. Intelligence and wisdom d. Strength and courage
5. What is the most important virtue that binds all others together? a. Knowledge b. Faith c. Love d. Hope
6. What should rule in believers' hearts? a. Ambition b. Peace of Christ c. Desire for success d. Fear

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

7. What should dwell richly among believers? a. Wealth b. Word of Christ c. Social status
d. Personal ambitions
8. What are wives instructed to do? a. Dominate their husbands b. Submit to their husbands
c. Ignore their husbands d. Criticize their husbands
9. What are husbands instructed to do? a. Ignore their wives b. Love their wives c. Be harsh
with their wives d. Dominate their wives
10. How should children behave towards their parents? a. Ignore them b. Obey them in
everything c. Rebel against them d. Criticize them

Answers: 1. c, 2. b, 3. b, 4. b, 5. c, 6. b, 7. b, 8. b, 9. b, 10. b

Fill in the Blank

1. Believers are to seek the things _____, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
2. They are to set their minds on _____ things, not earthly things.
3. Believers are to rid themselves of _____, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language.
4. They are to clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and _____.
5. Let the _____ of Christ rule in your hearts.
6. Let the word of Christ dwell _____ among you.
7. Wives, submit to your _____ as is fitting in the Lord.
8. Husbands, love your wives and do not be _____ with them.
9. Children, _____ your parents in everything.
10. Servants, obey your earthly _____ in everything.

Answers: 1. above, 2. heavenly, 3. anger, 4. patience, 5. peace, 6. richly, 7. husbands, 8. harsh, 9. obey, 10. masters

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

Vocabulary Words

1. Compassion (σπλάγχνα) - Sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.
2. Humility (ταπεινοφροσύνη) - A modest or low view of one's own importance; humbleness.
3. Gentleness (πραΰτης) - Mildness of manner or disposition; not harsh or severe.
4. Patience (μακροθυμία) - The capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.
5. Peace (εἰρήνη) - Freedom from disturbance; tranquility, especially in the context of the peace given by Christ.
6. Obey (ὑπακούω) - To follow the commands or guidance of someone; to comply with.
7. Submit (ὑποτάσσω) - To accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person.
8. Love (ἀγάπη) - Selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, the highest form of love in the Bible.
9. Anger (ὀργή) - A strong feeling of displeasure or hostility.
10. Slander (βλασφημία) - The action or crime of making a false spoken statement damaging to a person's reputation.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

CHAPTER FOUR

Summary of Chapter

In Colossians 4, Paul provides final instructions to the believers. He encourages them to devote themselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. He asks for prayers for himself and his companions, that they may proclaim the gospel clearly. Paul instructs them to be wise in the way they act towards outsiders, making the most of every opportunity. He emphasizes the importance of gracious and seasoned speech. Paul concludes by sending personal greetings from his fellow workers and provides specific instructions to various individuals in the church, encouraging them to fulfill their ministries faithfully.

Opening Question

How can we make the most of every opportunity to share our faith with others?

Outline

1. Devote Yourself to Prayer (Colossians 4:2-4)
 - Be devoted to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
 - Pray for Paul and his companions to proclaim the gospel clearly.
 - Application Question: How can we incorporate more prayer into our daily routines?
2. Conduct Towards Outsiders (Colossians 4:5-6)
 - Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders.
 - Make the most of every opportunity and let your conversation be gracious.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

- Application Question: In what ways can we ensure our conversations reflect Christ's love and wisdom?
 - 3. Personal Greetings and Instructions (Colossians 4:7-18)
 - Paul sends greetings from his fellow workers.
 - He gives specific instructions to various individuals in the church.
 - Application Question: How can we support and encourage one another in our ministry roles?
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Possible Activities

1. Memory Verse Challenge
 - Have students memorize Colossians 4:2. Offer a small reward for those who can recite it perfectly by the next class.
 2. Role Playing Activity
 - Students can role-play different scenarios where they interact with outsiders, practicing wise and gracious speech.
 3. Discussion Activity
 - Break students into small groups to discuss the importance of prayer in their lives and how they can pray more effectively.
-

Quiz

1. What does Paul encourage the believers to be devoted to? a. Wealth b. Prayer c. Work d. Study
2. How should believers pray? a. With doubt b. Without ceasing c. Being watchful and thankful d. Only in the morning

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

3. For what does Paul ask the believers to pray? a. Financial success b. Clear proclamation of the gospel c. Good health d. Social status
4. How should believers act towards outsiders? a. Indifferently b. Harshly c. Wisely d. Secretly
5. What should believers make the most of? a. Their money b. Every opportunity c. Their free time d. Their talents
6. How should believers' conversation be? a. Gracious and seasoned with salt b. Harsh and critical c. Quiet and reserved d. Loud and commanding
7. Who sends personal greetings in this chapter? a. Peter b. John c. Paul's fellow workers d. Jesus
8. What does Paul emphasize about speech? a. It should be loud b. It should be slow c. It should be gracious d. It should be repetitive
9. Who is Tychicus? a. A Roman soldier b. A fellow worker of Paul c. A Pharisee d. An emperor
10. How does Paul conclude his letter? a. With a warning b. With a joke c. With personal greetings and instructions d. With a song

Answers: 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. c, 9. b, 10. c

Fill in the Blank

1. Paul encourages the believers to be devoted to _____.
2. They should pray, being watchful and _____.
3. Paul asks for prayers for a clear proclamation of the _____.
4. Believers should be wise in the way they act towards _____.
5. They should make the most of every _____.
6. Their conversation should be gracious and seasoned with _____.
7. Paul sends personal _____ from his fellow workers.

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Observe, Interpret & Apply

8. Tychicus is described as a _____ worker.
9. Believers are encouraged to support and _____ one another.
10. Paul concludes with specific instructions to _____ individuals.

Answers: 1. prayer, 2. thankful, 3. gospel, 4. outsiders, 5. opportunity, 6. salt, 7. greetings, 8. fellow, 9. encourage, 10. various

Vocabulary Words

1. Devote (προσκαρτερέω) - To give all or a large part of one's time or resources to a person, activity, or cause.
2. Watchful (γρηγορέω) - Being alert and vigilant, especially in prayer.
3. Thankful (εὐχαριστία) - Expressing gratitude and appreciation.
4. Proclamation (κήρυγμα) - A public or official announcement, especially one dealing with a matter of great importance, like the gospel.
5. Outsiders (ἐξω) - People who are not part of a particular group or community.
6. Gracious (χάρις) - Courteous, kind, and pleasant, especially in speech.
7. Seasoned (ἄρτυμα) - To make speech pleasant and wise, like seasoning food to make it tasty.
8. Greetings (ἀσπασμός) - Expressions of good wishes on meeting or parting.
9. Encourage (παρακαλέω) - To give support, confidence, or hope to someone.
10. Instructions (ἐντολή) - Detailed information telling how something should be done or operated.