

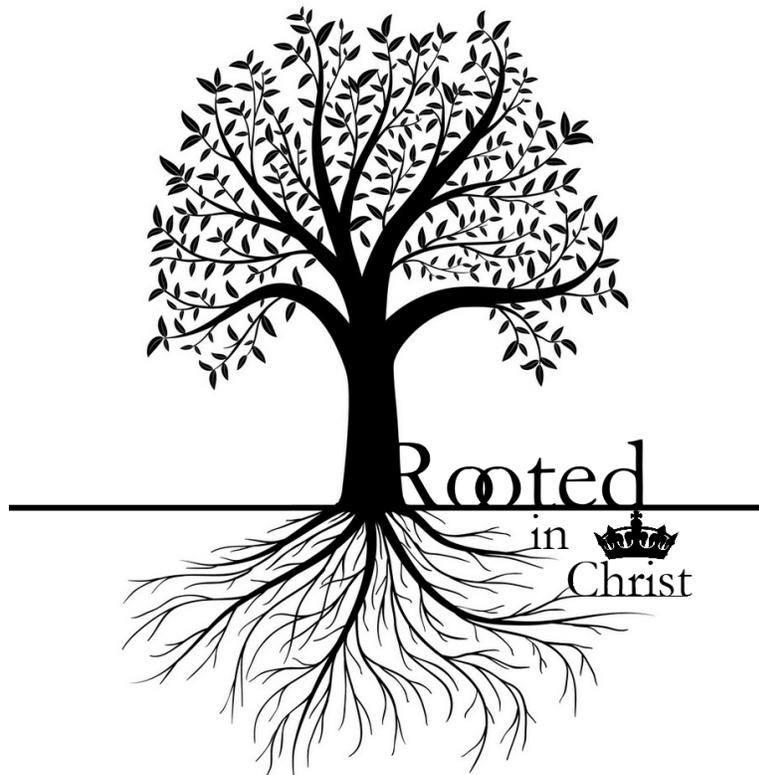


LION & LAMB
CHURCH

Sunday School Series
September 1 to December 22, 2019

A Journey Through Colossians

A Timely Message for Our Present Time



Name _____

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A Journey Through Colossians

A Timely Message for Our Present Time

Series Purpose and Format

This series will take a journey through the Book of Colossians with some side trips to expand upon important doctrinal issues found in this book and to address needs within our Lion & Lamb body. Most weeks, teachers will use and explain proven Bible study techniques (hermeneutics) and Bible study tools (such as concordances, maps, commentaries, webpages, etc.), not only to gain the most from the selected scripture to be studied in that week, but also to teach and equip the body to most effectively carry out their own independent studies in God’s Word. Teachers will conduct “word studies” when appropriate to help ensure accurate scriptural interpretation and use other Bible study techniques to gain the most value each week.

Every lesson in this series will follow a consistent general format:

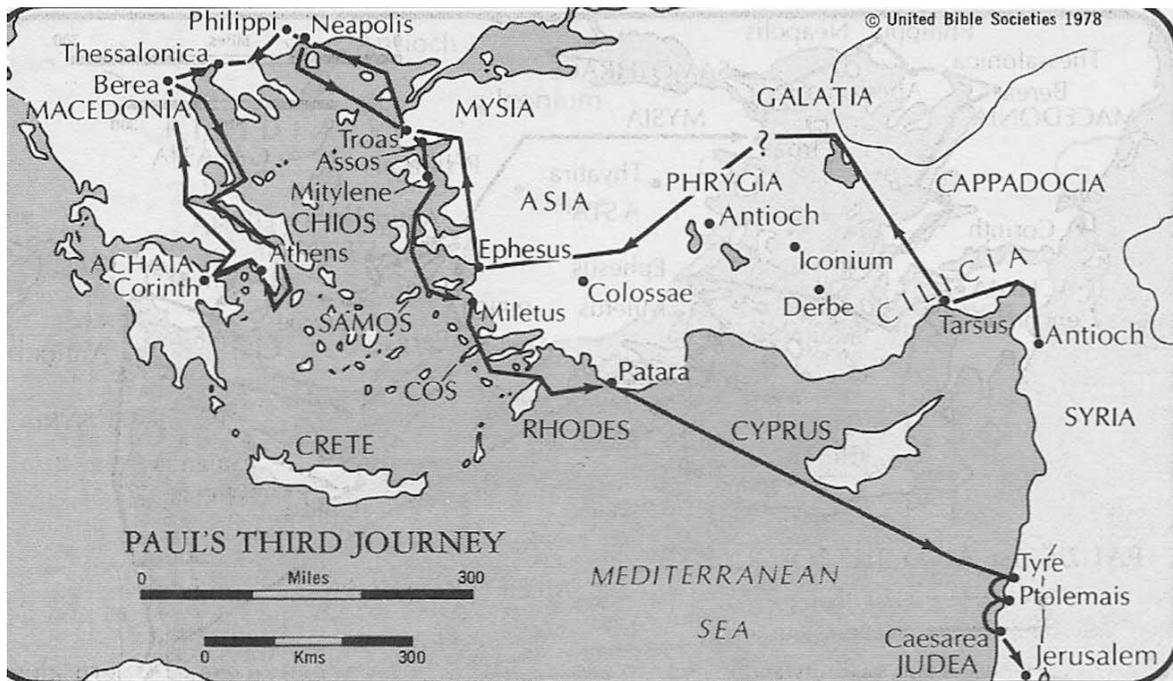
- Review of the purpose of the series and key points from earlier lessons
- Teaching on selected text
- Small group discussion and study time
- Application of content to our current lives
- A summary or lesson wrap-up
- References to and/or the use of Bible study principles, tools, and techniques (listed later in this booklet)

Fall, 2019 Sunday School Schedule

A Journey Through Colossians – A Timely Message for Our Present Time

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
SEP		
1 st	Introduction and Background	Bill B
8 th	Faith in the True Gospel Yields Good Fruit	Bill B
15 th	Pray that God Will Fill Believers with Wisdom and Understanding	Tom L.
22 nd	The Preeminence and Supremacy of Christ	Willie B
29 th	The Preeminence and Supremacy of Christ (continued)	Willie B
OCT		
6 th	Once Enemies of the Lord, Now Saved	Larry S
13 th	The Call to Suffer as We Serve in Ministry and Share the Gospel	Larry S
20 th	The Mysteries of God are Revealed in His Word	Bill B
27 th	Some Counterfeit Beliefs Have an Appearance of Wisdom	Bill B
NOV		
3 rd	What Does it Mean to be “In Christ”?	Brian F
10 th	We Should Set Our Hearts and Minds on Heavenly Things	Brian F
17 th	Clothing Ourselves with Godly Virtues	Tom L
24 th	Commands for Christian Relationships	Tom L
DEC		
1 st	Pray for One Another, Your Local Church Body, and Other Ministries	Brian F
8 th	Seek Wisdom Before You Speak and Interact with Outsiders	Brian F
15 th	Learn What Fellow Believers Need and Act in Love and Compassion	Willie B
22 nd	Colossians Summary and Wrap-Up	Willie B/Larry S
29 th	No Sunday School	

Paul wrote his letter to church in Colossae from prison in Rome delivered by Tychicus, a “beloved brother” of Paul’s (Col 4:7) and a “faithful servant” of the Lord’s (Eph 6:21)



Paul never visited the church in Colossae

The Book of Colossians

English Standard Version (ESV)

Chapter 1

Greeting

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brothers[a] in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant.[b] He is a faithful minister of Christ on your[c] behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks[d] to the Father, who has qualified you[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Preeminence of Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by[f] him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation[g] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Paul's Ministry to the Church

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 1:2 Or brothers and sisters. In New Testament usage, depending on the context, the plural Greek word adelphoi (translated "brothers") may refer either to brothers or to brothers and sisters
- b. Colossians 1:7 For the contextual rendering of the Greek word sundoulos, see Preface
- c. Colossians 1:7 Some manuscripts our
- d. Colossians 1:12 Or patience, with joy giving thanks
- e. Colossians 1:12 Some manuscripts us
- f. Colossians 1:16 That is, by means of; or in
- g. Colossians 1:23 Or to every creature

Chapter 2

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

Alive in Christ

6 Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits[a] of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set

aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities[b] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.[c]

Let No One Disqualify You

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions,[d] puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 2:8 Or elementary principles; also verse 20
- b. Colossians 2:15 Probably demonic rulers and authorities
- c. Colossians 2:15 Or in it (that is, the cross)
- d. Colossians 2:18 Or about the things he has seen

Chapter 3

Put On the New Self

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you:[b] sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.[c] 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self[d] with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave,[e] free; but Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds

everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Rules for Christian Households

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. 22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters,^[f] not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 3:4 Some manuscripts our
- b. Colossians 3:5 Greek therefore your members that are on the earth
- c. Colossians 3:6 Some manuscripts add upon the sons of disobedience
- d. Colossians 3:9 Greek man; also as supplied in verse 10
- e. Colossians 3:11 For the contextual rendering of the Greek word *doulos*, see Preface; likewise for Bondservants in verse 22
- f. Colossians 3:22 Or your masters according to the flesh

Chapter 4

Masters, treat your bondservants^[a] justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Further Instructions

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. 6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

Final Greetings

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant^[b] in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that

he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis. 14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers[c] at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Footnotes:

- a. Colossians 4:1 For the contextual rendering of the Greek word *doulos*, see Preface; likewise for servant in verse 12
- b. Colossians 4:7 For the contextual rendering of the Greek word *sundoulos*, see Preface
- c. Colossians 4:15 Or brothers and sisters

Bible Study Principles, Tools, and Methods to be Included in Our “Journey Through Colossians” Sunday School Series

Our Daily Goal

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing (correctly handling) the word of truth (NKJV).

BUT, it is impossible for an individual to rightly Interpret God’s Word without the Spirit

1 Cor 2:14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit

Every lesson in this series should reference and/or use one or more of the proven Bible study principles, tools, and techniques listed below:

Some Key Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics

- The Bible should be interpreted literally. We are to understand the Bible in its normal or plain meaning, unless the passage is obviously intended to be symbolic or if figures of speech are used.
- Passages must be interpreted with respect to historical/cultural, grammatical, and literary context. Interpreting a passage historically means we must seek to understand the culture, background, and situation that prompted the text
- Scripture is always the best interpreter of Scripture
- The clear interprets the obscure

Principle 1: Interpretation must be based on the author’s intention of meaning and not the reader.

Principle 2: Interpretations must be done in the context of the passage.

Principle 3: Interpret the Bible literally (or normally) allowing for normal use of figurative language.

Principle 4: Use the Bible to help interpret itself. Interpret difficult passages with clear ones. This is sometimes called the law of non-contradiction. Under the law of non-contradiction, one biblical passage will never contradict another.

Principle 5: Interpretation must be distinguished from application. While there is one interpretation that is historical, there are many applications that can be carried over to our modern context.

Principle 6: Be sensitive to distinctions between Israel and the church and Old Covenant and New Covenant eras/requirements.

Common Interpretive Errors Within the Church

(Examples of verses commonly misinterpreted or misused are included. Only a brief identification of errors is provided. Oftentimes, the listed verses may be subject to more than one of these errors .)

- Interpret verses to say what they want them to say
Mt 7:1 - Commands us to not judge sinful behaviors even if based upon biblical discernment.
Phil 4:13 Nothing is impossible because “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”
- Over spiritualize text when literal meaning is intended by author
Isa 2, 9, 11, etc – The millennial kingdom (the 1000 years of Rev 20) is not a literal time period.
1 Cor 15:22-24, 53-54 – Resurrection is not literal; it relates to a spiritual awakening.
Zech 14:1-9 – Jesus will come to rule in “hearts” (spiritualized) rather than return as a literal king
- Isolate text from context (proof texting)
Mt 18:20 “Where two or three are gathered” (in his name) Christ is present. This is taught to be universally true (ignoring Jesus taught it in a passage about church discipline).
John 4:16b “God is love.” This is taught as God’s greatest or sole attribute (forgetting many others.)
Jam 2:17 “Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” cited to prove works result in salvation.
- Apply promises for Israel to Church
Jer 29:11 God has plans for Christians rather than for ethnic Israel who received message while in captivity
Gal 6:16 Paul prays for God’s blessing upon the “church” when he says the “Israel of God,” rather than upon born again ethnic Jews.
Ezek 36:25-27 – Christians will be sprinkled, made clean, given new hearts, and receive the Holy “Spirit” rather than ethnic Jews.
- Dismiss text as culturally irrelevant because it doesn’t fit current ideas
1 Tim 2:12 – Women of today are no longer prohibited from teaching or shepherding men in the church.
1 Tim 2:9 and 1 Pet 3:2-5 – Modest dress for women should not be legalistically required (instead, men must control their lusts)
Lev 18:22, Rom 1:18-32, and 2 Cor 6:9-10 – Homosexuality is actually acceptable in a monogamous relationship
- Pour current thinking into text
2 Sam 1:26-27 – David loved Jonathan means they had a homosexual relationship
Gen 1 – “Days” of creation mean long ages not 24 hour days.
Rom 5:9 – Christians are saved from the “wrath of God” means from the distress/persecution of the tribulation period rather than from judgment and eternal punishment (see Rom 2:5)
- Redefine terms to fit current thinking
2 Cor 7:10 - Repentance is what we do when caught in a sin (we regret what we did and may apologize but it does not require a changed heart and mind (a new direction).
Prov 9:10 People fear God because he is a stern judge who can cast sinners into hell. While true, “fear” of God means much more including reverence, awe, and respect.

Bible Study Tools

- Websites
 - Biblehub.com/tools
 - Biblegateway.com
 - Gotquestions.org
- Bible Atlas and maps
- Bible commentaries
- Concordance (Strong's Exhaustive)
- Bible dictionaries
- Study Bible notes
- Sermon libraries (Spurgeon)
- Bible timelines
- Subject indices
- Greek and Hebrew Lexicons
- Biblical weights and measures
- Cross references to specific verses

Other Bible Study Techniques

- Word studies
- Outline passages/chapters
- Compare different Bible translations
- Underline/highlight (color coded) certain terms ideas
- Pray about what has been read
- Meditate on scripture
- Memorize scripture
- Write out meaning of a verse or passage in your own words

Remember: While men and women have prepared helpful interpretive documents, the Bible itself is superior to any documents of human origin. Only the original autographs were inspired by God and only they are infallible and inerrant. Even today's best Bible translations, while mostly trustworthy and reliable, may contain some errors.