

Contents

How to Use This Self-Study Course

Introduction to Colossians

Lesson 1: Concern for the Christians

Lesson 2: Preeminence of Christ

Lesson 3: Warnings Against Errors

Lesson 4: Warnings Concerning the New Life

Lesson 5: Virtues Evidence the New Life

Lesson 6: The Fellowship of the New Life

Introduction to Philemon

Lesson 7: The Apostle's Introduction

Lesson 8: The Apostle's Intercession

Suggestions for Class Use

Answer Key to Self-Check Tests

*This is a self-study course
designed to help you discover
for yourself, from the Bible,
some important basic truths
concerning Colossians and Philemon*

how to study the lesson

1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
2. Read each question carefully.
3. Look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you will find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a "yes" or "no" always give the reason for your answer . . . "Yes, because. . ."
5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don't understand.

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. PSALM 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 47.*

how to take the self-check tests

Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 48.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

apply what you have learned to your own life

In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.

Introduction to Colossians

Ephesians and Colossians together represent one of the fullest, richest presentations of Christianity. There are many similarities between the two books. Out of 95 verses in Colossians, 78 have a marked resemblance to statements in Ephesians. Out of 155 in Ephesians, 78 resemble statements found in Colossians.

In Ephesians the Church is the primary object and the theme of the book leads up to Christ as the Head. In Colossians Christ is the primary object and the thought passes downward to the Church as His Body.

The Son of God is presented in Colossians as the Head and Cause of the whole created universe. The epistle is directed against false teaching and wages war on everything legalistic and materialistic.

Paul wants to visit the Colossians sometime later, but takes this occasion to warn them against errors of doctrine and practice. He sends the letter to them by Tychicus (4:7-9) who seems to be accompanied by Onesimus (Philemon 10-12).

Outline of Colossians (Lessons 1 to 6)

- I. Concern for the Christians 1:1-15
- II. The Preeminence of Christ 1:16-29
- III. Warnings Against Errors 2:1-23
- IV. Warnings Concerning the New Life 3:1-9
- V. Virtues of the New Life 3:10-25
- VI. The Fellowship of the New Life 4:1-18



Concern for the Christians

1:1-15

Paul's Salutation

1. To whom is the epistle directed?

1:2 _____

2. What would lead one to believe that Paul must have had a wide ministry of intercession?

1:3 _____

3. State one request that Paul made for the believers in Colosse?

1:9 _____

4. What other prayer was prayed for the Colossians?

4:12 _____

A Gospel of Hope

5. How did the Colossians regard other believers?

1:4 _____

6. What was the result of the gospel coming to the Colossians?

1:6 _____

7. While there is no evidence that Paul had visited Colosse, from whom did he learn much about these believers?

1:7, 8 _____

8. For what were the Colossians especially noteworthy?

1:8 _____

A Prayer for the Church

9. How does one become filled with the kind of spiritual wisdom which the apostle desired for these believers?

1:9; II TIMOTHY 2:15 _____

10. To whom should we go for spiritual wisdom and guidance?

PSALM 32:8 _____

11. Who must produce and sustain this knowledge?

I CORINTHIANS 2:9, 10 _____

12. Why cannot this wisdom be classed as human wisdom?

I CORINTHIANS 2:12 _____

13. What capacity does the unsaved person have for "spiritual understanding?"

I CORINTHIANS 2:14 _____

14. What is the true aim of such spiritual understanding?

1:10 _____

15. What does fruitfulness unto the Lord bring with it?

1:10, last phrase _____

16. By whose power is the believer strengthened?

1:11; cf. 1:29 _____

17. Describe the result of such strengthening.

1:11 _____

18. How does divine power enable the Christian to react to testing and tribulation?

1:11 _____

19. If one has been empowered of God, what will he always remember?

1:12 _____

20. To whom can we give the credit for preparing us to accept the inheritance of eternal life?

1:12 _____

21. How are the very first desires of our hearts toward God to be accounted for?

JOHN 6:44 _____

22. How is our inheritance guaranteed to us?

EPHESIANS 1:13, 14 _____

23. How is it possible that we can become heirs of God?

I PETER 1:3, 4 _____

24. What is the special blessing of the saints?

1:12, 13 _____

25. Describe the realm of darkness.

1:13; ROMANS 1:21, 22 _____

26. What other blessings do believers enjoy?

1:13 _____

27. Of what does the spiritual kingdom consist?

ROMANS 14:17 _____

28. How did Christ designate His followers in this age?

MATTHEW 13:38 _____

29. While His kingdom already exists, when will it be visibly manifested all over the earth?

ROMANS 8:19 _____

It is sometimes asked: Is the Church in the kingdom, or the kingdom in the Church? The true kingdom of Christ is within the visible Church, a wheel within a wheel. It consists of those delivered out of darkness and truly born again. When He comes in glory, they will be glorified with Him (COLOSSIANS 3:4).

30. What is the price of redemption that has made possible the forgiveness of our sins?

1:14 _____

31. What does "forgiveness" mean?

see dictionary _____

The Eskimos had no word for "forgiveness" and to express the thought it was necessary for translators to use a word of 24 letters. It means: "Not being able to think about it any more." That partially expresses what divine forgiveness means. Our sins are sent away, behind His back, out of sight and forever under the blood of Christ.

32. By whom has the redemptive price been paid for us?

1:15 _____

33. What did Jesus say of Himself?

JOHN 14:9 _____

34. What power is attributed to Jesus Christ?

HEBREWS 1:3 _____

35. Why is it that Jesus was able to pay a redemptive price for the whole world?

ACTS 20:28 _____

check-up time No. 1

You have just studied some important truths about Paul's concern for other Christians. Review your study by rereading the Scripture lesson, the questions and your written answers. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take the following test to see how well you understand the important truths you have studied.

In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.

1. Paul had heard of the faith of the Colossian Christians. _____
2. Timothy told Paul all about the church at Colosse. _____
3. The Colossians were noted for their love. _____
4. The Lord is able to give us wisdom and understanding. _____
5. Spiritual things can be understood with human wisdom. _____
6. Spiritual wisdom and understanding result in a fruitful life. _____
7. Christians are granted the inheritance of the saints. _____
8. Christians have been saved out of spiritual darkness. _____
9. The sinless life of Christ redeems the sinner. _____
10. Jesus Christ is the firstborn of every creature. _____

Turn to page 48 and check your answers.