



Week 1 Study Sheet

God's Glorious Will

Consider

The Book of Colossians is a treasure chest of truth revealing to us the preeminence of Jesus Christ. While preeminence is not a common word in our vocabulary, many can easily relate to its synonyms: supreme, best, and foremost. The word preeminence is the Greek word *proteuon* which means “to be first in rank or influence.” Although the message of Colossians proclaims that Christ is first above all things, there is a massive obstacle that prevents Christ’s preeminence from impacting our everyday lives—sin. The good news is that the Father did not abandon us in our guilty and helpless state! God “delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves.” (Colossians 1:13 NET) In Christ, God granted us “the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:14 NET) Let’s embrace this wonderful opportunity to focus our attention on Jesus. As we behold the One who is more glorious than anything else in the universe, our prayer is to be transformed more into his image.

Discover

Read [Colossians 1:1-14](#)

- How does Paul depict the action of the gospel? (v. 5-6)
- What specific results does Paul pray will be produced in the lives of the Colossian believers? (v. 9-12)
- What inheritance do we have as children of God? (v. 12-14) How have we become qualified to partake of that inheritance?

Read [Colossians 1:15-23](#)

- How should our understanding of the relationship between Jesus and all created things affect our lives and prayers? (v. 16-17)
- How does an appreciation of our state before being reconciled to God in Christ help strengthen our faith? (v. 21-23)
- If our salvation depends upon the grace of God, not our effort, why is it necessary for us to “continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved”? (v. 23)

Read [Colossians 1:24-29](#)

- How does our view of God’s character impact our ability to rejoice in trials, hardships, and difficulties? (v. 24)
- What reason could God have for keeping the mystery, the truth of the gospel hidden? (v. 26-27)

Pray

Thank God for this great letter and for revealing the truth of the gospel to you. Acknowledge Jesus as the creator and sustainer of all things in heaven and the earth. Tell him you trust him as the good and powerful ruler of your life, this world, and all things. Ask him to reveal anything that hinders your maturity, and to give you strength and faith as he continues to conform you into his image.

Practice

Devote yourself to the spiritual practice of intercession by praying specifically for spiritual growth and maturity in the lives of people you know. Use Paul’s prayer for the Colossians in 1:9-12 as the starting point and expand your prayers from there. Select a different person to pray for each day this week. Add these names to your calendar as a reminder to pray.

Engage

Fill your hearts and minds with the Word of God to discern what is right and true. Reflect on the worthiness of Christ this week by reading [Colossians 1](#), [John 1](#), [Ephesians 1](#), [Hebrews 1](#), and [Revelation 1](#).



Week 2 Study Sheet

Rooted in Christ

Consider

Jesus deserves to be first above all things in our lives because he has done—and continues to do—what no one else could ever do. Though we were evil and hostile to God, he died for us. We are not only forgiven of our sins through Jesus, but we are also called to walk in him. In Jesus, we are given power to resist sin and put him first. He absorbs our penalty for sin and provides us with freedom from sin's dominating power. The idols that threaten Christ's supremacy in our hearts are powerful, but they are no match for the power of Jesus. Every decision we make, every thought, every choice should be rooted in the never-changing love of Jesus. Jesus becomes first in our lives when we realize that he is a greater treasure than anything else this world has to offer.

Discover

Read [Colossians 2:1-8](#)

- Where will we find the “richest treasures of wisdom and knowledge” and how do we obtain them? (v. 2-4)
- What verbs does Paul use to describe our relationship with Jesus? (v. 6-7) What does this teach us about our relationship with Jesus?
- Share about a time you were deceived and “captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” (v. 8) What helps us guard our mind against false teaching?

Read [Colossians 2:9-15](#)

- If we no longer experience a physical circumcision, what gets circumcised when we are united with Christ? (v. 11)
- What was nailed to the cross? How does the forgiveness of sins free us from the Law? (v. 14)

Read [Colossians 2:16-23](#)

- How did the observances of Old Testament Laws, celebrations, and festivals point to the realities fulfilled in Christ? (v. 16-17)
- What can we do as the body of Christ to grow? (v. 19)
- Why can't the Law and man-made rules and regulations change hearts the way Jesus can? (v. 20-23)

Pray

Share with the Father your desire for a deep-rooted faith and a strong union with Christ. Ask him to protect your heart and mind from foolish thinking and worthless philosophies. Submit to him as he leads you away from religious activities that contribute to prideful attitudes and self-righteousness. Thank him for working in you to reflect his Son.

Practice

Devote yourself to the spiritual practice of study with the goal to understand God's Word by discovering the original author's meaning and letting that meaning influence your thoughts and actions. Study Colossians 2 by asking questions and making observations about the key people and ideas in each verse. Watch the *Basics for How to Study the Bible* video at oakhillschurch.com/colossians/studytools to learn more.

Engage

Fill your hearts and minds with the Word of God to discern what is right and true. Reflect on the fullness of Christ this week by reading [Colossians 2](#), [1 Corinthians 2](#) and [2 Thessalonians 2](#).



Week 3 Study Sheet

Alive in Christ

Consider

Christ defeated sin so that we could be free from our old way of life and start living the life he created us to live. To live in Christ, we must actively put to death the sin that still resides within us by choosing to walk in faith. But we cannot live the Christian life in our own power. We need the Holy Spirit to help us choose compassion over self-centeredness, love over vengeance, and harmony over discord. The Spirit gives us newfound desires for God and for living in ways that honor him. But make no mistake, our new life in Christ, under the Spirit's power, is about much more than behavioral change. The good fruit of being united with Jesus is not the primary goal. The real prize of the Christian life is our relationship with Jesus. In fact, Paul says that Christ, "is our life." (Colossians 3:4 NIV) When we realize that Jesus is our very life, we place the essence of Christ first above all.

Discover

Read [Colossians 3:1-4](#)

- How do we set our hearts and minds on "things above" as followers of Christ? (v. 2)
- How does this passage inspire you to pursue maturity in Christ?

Read [Colossians 3:5-11](#)

- How does our union with Christ encourage us to turn away from sin?
- How can we train ourselves to constantly bring our old habits under the obedience of Christ?

Read [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

- How does our God given status as "chosen people, holy and dearly loved," affect how we live our daily lives? (v. 12)
- How do the characteristics we clothe ourselves in impact our relationships? (v. 12)
- What measure of the forgiveness should we offer one another? (v.13) How would your relationships change if you began extending radical forgiveness?
- How can we train ourselves to constantly bring our old habits under the obedience of Christ?

Pray

Thank God for choosing you and making you alive in Christ. Thank the Spirit for the Christ-like characteristics he has given you. Ask the Spirit for the power to put sinful desires to death, to keep you from temptation, and lead you into the light of his everlasting ways. Share with Jesus your desire to be transformed into his image, filled with his Spirit and clothed with compassion, kindness, humility, and patience.

Practice

Devote yourself to the spiritual practice of accountability by inviting one or two fellow believers to walk with you and share in your pursuit of Christ. Schedule a time with your accountability partner and discuss the ways you desire to make Christ first in your life. Ask for open feedback on how you can grow in stewarding your time, talent, and treasure for the sake of the gospel and invite them to hold you accountable.

Engage

Fill your hearts and minds with the Word of God to discern what is right and true. Reflect on the power and love of Christ alive in us by reading [Colossians 3:1-17](#), [Romans 1:26-32](#), [Romans 8:10](#), [2 Corinthians 4:6-7](#), [2 Corinthians 5:16-6:2](#), [Galatians 2:20](#), [Galatians 5:16-26](#), [Ephesians 3:17](#), and [1 Thessalonians 4:3-12](#).



Week 4 Study Sheet

Redeemed Relationships

Consider

As we mature in Christ our closest relationships are transformed. We no longer look to others for our value, worth or identity. We don't expect others to serve our needs or make us happy. Our new life in Christ leads us to walk in his footsteps of self-sacrifice. God's design for God-honoring marriages, grace-filled homes, and servant-hearted leaders (pictured in [Colossians 3:18-4:1](#)) stands in contrast to the dysfunctional and chaotic realities most people experience. When we embrace and model the transformative love of Jesus, our families and relationships can be redeemed and renewed.

Discover

Read [Colossians 3:18-21](#)

- How are the instructions to wives and husbands complementary to one another? (v. 18-19)
- What can fathers do to keep from discouraging their children? (v. 21)
- How can the virtues listed in Colossians 3:9-17 be applied to the relationship between fathers and children?

Read [Colossians 3:22-4:1](#)

- How can the instructions for masters and slaves be practically applied today? (v. 22)
- What is the significance in the parallel of a servant's responsibilities to his master and his responsibilities to the Lord? (v. 23)
- How does knowing that Jesus is the giver of the ultimate reward for all work impact our job performance? (v. 24)

Pray

Acknowledge that God the Father created you and placed you within a family. Ask him to show you how to love and serve those in your home and honor him in your work that other people might come nearer to him as a result of your conduct and speech. Thank him for giving you a greater understanding of himself as the ultimate master and Father. Tell him you trust and submit to his leadership.

Practice

Devote yourself to the spiritual practice of worship by considering your work and service to others as unto the Lord. The way you represent Christ to your coworkers is kingdom work. The way you study and present yourself on campus can have eternal impact on your peers. The way you parent and provide in your home can lead the next generation to Christ. The way you utilize a sabbath season of retirement can bring hope and joy to others.

Engage

Fill your hearts and minds with the Word of God to discern what is right and true. Reflect on God's directive to love and serve like Christ by reading [Colossians 3:18-4:1](#), [Ephesians 5:22-33](#), [1 Corinthians 13:4-7](#), [1 Peter 3:1-7](#), [Romans 12:1-2](#), [1 Corinthians 10:31](#).



Week 5 Study Sheet

Your Daily Mission

- Consider** The conclusion of Colossians gives us a vital look behind the scenes of Paul's ministry. The key point we can get from this is that Paul could not do this on his own. God had assembled a team around Paul to help him share the gospel, encourage saints, equip disciples, train pastors, and plant churches. Learning this about Paul's ministry leads us to consider the questions: Am I part of a ministry team, and what role do I play in building God's kingdom?
- Discover** Read [Colossians 4:2-6](#)
- If you put Paul's guidelines for prayer habits into practice, how would they affect your prayer life? (v. 2-4)
 - What can we learn and apply from this passage about sharing our faith with non-believers? (v. 5)
 - If all your prayers were answered today, who would or would not be impacted?
- Read [Colossians 4:7-18](#)
- What do we learn from Paul's ministry that inspires our own ministry?
 - What insights do we gain about Paul's ministry team?
 - How can we apply Paul's final instructions to the Colossian church to our own church? (v. 16-17)
- Pray** Thank God that you have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and that nothing you have done or could do will change that. Rest in the security of his hands. Ask him to use you as an ambassador to reach those who don't yet know Jesus and give you opportunity and courage to share the good news of Jesus with unbelievers in your circle of influence.
- Practice** Devote yourself to the spiritual practice of evangelism by sharing the good news of Jesus with an outsider. Prayerfully seek God's direction. Follow Paul's example of asking a friend to pray for you to proclaim the gospel clearly and compellingly (Colossians 4:5). Intentionally set a time to meet with the unbeliever and ask their permission to share about what Jesus has done in your life.
- Engage** Fill your hearts and minds with the Word of God to discern what is right and true. Reflect on God's directive to prayerfully share the hope of Jesus by reading [Colossians 4:2-18](#), [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#), [Matthew 4:19-20](#), [Romans 1:16](#), [1 Peter 3:15-16](#), [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#), and [Galatians 6:5](#).