



Outline on Colossians

by Aude McKee
"The Pre-eminent Christ"

Introduction:

- I. Writer – Paul
 - A. An apostle
 - B. Timothy included
- II. Salutation
 - A. Addressed to:
 1. Saints
 2. Faithful brethren
 - a. All Christians are saints (set apart)
 - b. Not all saints are faithful (1 Cor.1:2)
- III. Paul gave thanks to God
 - A. Had heard:
 1. Of this faith in Christ
 2. Love to all saints
 3. Hope laid up in heaven
 - B. The basis of their faith, etc. – the gospel
 1. Had come to all the world
 2. Produced fruit
 - C. Epaphras
 1. Paul's dear fellowservant
 2. A faithful minister of Christ
 3. Brought Paul word of the Colossians' love

Discussion:

- I. Paul's prayer for the Colossians (1:9-12)
 - A. Constant: *"Do not cease to pray"*
 - B. Four requests
 1. Be filled with the knowledge of His will (v.9)
 2. Walk worthy of the Lord (v.10)
 3. Be strengthened with all might (v.11)
 4. Give thanks unto the Father (v.12)
- II. Pre-eminence of Christ (1:13-2:3)
 - A. In Authority – He has a kingdom (v.13)
 1. Colossians had been delivered from power and darkness
 2. They had been translated into the kingdom
 3. Jesus Christ reigns!
 - B. In redemption (v.14)
 1. Only IN Christ is redemption found – forgiveness comes by His blood
 2. Reconciliation also comes by His blood (vv.20-22)
 3. Conditional (v.23)
 - a. Continue in the faith
 - b. Grounded and settled
 - c. Not moved away from the hope of the gospel
 - C. In deity (v.15)
 1. *"Who is"* – present tense – destroys possibility of physical likeness (Jn.1:1)
 2. Being divine, he is the *"first born of every creature."*
 - a. v.17 is a commentary on this phrase
 - b. Does not mean he was created first!
 - c. *"First-born"* in the Greek is a compound word. *"First"* is the superlative of *"before"*. It means absolute first.

- D. In creation (v.16)
 - 1. Jesus created all things
 - a. In heaven and earth
 - b. Visible and invisible
 - c. Thrones, dominions, principalities, powers
 - 2. Jesus sustains all things (v.17)
 - a. *"Consist" = "to cohere, hold together"*
 - b. The permanence of the universe depends on Christ
 - E. In the church (v.18-19, 24-29)
 - 1. Christ is the head
 - a. Provides authority
 - b. Provides life
 - 2. He is the beginning – the first-born from the dead
 - a. Raised from the dead
 - b. Others raised died again – not Christ
 - 3. In Him all the fullness dwells
 - 4. Conclusions:
 - a. Paul made a minister
 - b. The sum total of things suggested is God's mystery
 - c. Simply stated it is, *"Christ in you, the hope of glory"*
 - d. Christ is preached:
 - 1) That every man may be presented perfect
 - 2) To this end Paul labored
 - F. In wisdom and knowledge (2:1-3)
 - 1. Paul was concerned
 - a. That their hearts might be comforted
 - b. Knit together in love
 - c. Have assurance of full understanding
 - d. Acknowledge the mystery of God and Christ
 - 2. Paul wanted them to know that Christ was the treasure house of wisdom and knowledge
- III. Warnings against error (2:4-23)
- A. Enticing words (vv.4-7)
 - 1. Persuasive argument (Rom.16:17-18)
 - 2. Walk in Christ
 - a. Rooted and built up in Him
 - b. Stablished in the faith
 - B. Philosophy and vain deceit (vv.8-13)
 - 1. Words
 - a. *"Philosophy" = "love of wisdom"*
 - b. *"Spoil" = "Take you captive"*
 - 2. Source of philosophies
 - a. Traditions of men
 - b. Rudiments of the world
 - 3. Answer to this danger
 - a. In Christ dwelleth the fullness
 - b. You are complete in Him
 - c. You are circumcised in Christ (v.11)
 - 1) Circumcision = cutting off sin
 - 2) Baptism involved (v.12)
 - 3) Before baptism you were dead – after baptism you were alive (v.13)
 - C. Going back to OLD testament law (vv.14-17)
 - 1. Ordinances nailed to cross (vv.14-15)
 - 2. Let no one judge you (vv.16-17)
 - a. In meat, drink
 - b. Holy day, new moon, sabbath days

- D. Voluntary humility and worshiping of angels (vv.18-23)
 - 1. Pretended humility
 - 2. Pay homage to angels
 - 3. Fail to retain proper relation to head (v.19)
 - 4. Obey commands of men (vv.20-23)
- IV. Responsibilities of a Christians (3:1-4:6)
 - A. Seek those things above (vv.1-4)
 - 1. Christ is there
 - 2. Affections must be on heavenly things
 - 3. Christians are dead – life is hid with Christ in God
 - 4. When Christ appears, Christians will appear with Him in glory
 - B. Put these things to death (vv.5-9)
 - 1. Listed
 - a. Fornication
 - b. Uncleaness (impurity)
 - c. Inordinate affections (depraved affection)
 - d. Evil concupiscence (evil passion)
 - e. Covetousness (idolatry)
 - f. Anger
 - g. Wrath
 - h. Malice
 - i. Blasphemy
 - j. Filthy communication
 - k. Lying
 - 2. God's wrath comes on children of disobedience
 - a. The Colossians once walked in these things
 - b. They had lived in them
 - c. They had, however, put off the old man
 - C. Put on the new man (vv.10-15)
 - 1. Advantages
 - a. Renewed in knowledge
 - b. In Christ there is neither:
 - 1) Jew – Greek
 - 2) Circumcision – uncircumcision
 - 3) Barbarian – Scythian
 - 4) Bond or free
 - 2. Things to put on listed:
 - a. Bowels of mercies
 - b. Kindness
 - c. Humbleness of mind
 - d. Meekness
 - e. Longsuffering
 - f. Forbearance
 - g. Forgiveness
 - h. Love
 - i. Peace of God
 - 3. General instructions (3:16-4:6)
 - a. Let Christ's Word dwell in richly (v.16)
 - b. In all wisdom teach and admonish in song
 - c. Do all in the name of the Lord (v.17)
 - d. Wives, submit to husband (v.18)
 - e. Husbands, love your wives (v.19)
 - f. Children, obey parents (v.20)
 - g. Fathers, don't provoke children to anger (v.21)
 - h. Servants, obey masters (vv.22-25)
 - 1) Not with eye service

- 2) Do whatever you do heartily
- 3) The Lord will reward
- i. Masters, treat servants right (v.1)
- j. Continue in prayer (vv.2-4)
 - 1) Watch in with thanksgiving
 - 2) Pray for us
 - a) That God would open a door of utterance
 - b) That Paul might speak the mystery of Christ
- k. Walk in wisdom toward those without (v.5)
- l. Let speech be with grace seasoned with salt (v.6)

Conclusion: (4:7-18)

- I. The two messengers (vv.7-9)
 - A. Tychicus
 - 1. Beloved brother
 - 2. Faithful minister
 - 3. Fellowservant
 - B. Onesimus
 - 1. Faithful and beloved brother
 - 2. A member at Colossee
- II. Three Jews (vv.10-11)
 - A. Aristarcus – fellow prisoner
 - B. Barnabus – Barnabus' nephew
 - C. Justus
 - 1. Fellow workers
 - 2. Had been a comfort to Paul
- III. Three Gentiles (vv.12-14)
 - A. Epaphras
 - 1. A Colossian
 - 2. A servant of Christ
 - 3. One who prayed for Colossians
 - B. Luke, beloved doctor
 - C. Demas (v.14)
- IV. Brethren to be saluted (vv.15-17)
 - A. Those in Laodicea
 - B. Nymphas and church in his house
 - C. Exchange epistles
 - D. Crisp command to Archippus
 - 1. Take heed to the ministry
 - 2. Fulfill it
- V. Final words (v.18)
 - A. These words written by Paul personally
 - B. Remember my bonds
 - C. Grace be with you. Amen

Questions on Colossians #1

by Aude McKee

Background Material

INTRODUCTION:

The book of Colossians has only 95 verses and can be read in ten to fifteen minutes. However, its depths are not easily sounded. The arguments made by the Holy Spirit are not as involved in this book as in the book of Romans, but the truths imparted are no less great and valuable.

QUESTIONS:

1. Where was Paul when this letter was written (4:3)?
2. About what date is ascribed to this letter?
3. Describe where the city of Colosse was located?
4. Was Colosse a large important city or a small unimportant town at the time Paul wrote the letter?
5. Was Colosse one of the seven churches to whom John addressed letters in the book of Revelation?
6. Do you think Paul indicates in chapter two, verse one, that he had never visited the church in Colosse in person?
7. In Paul's efforts to spread the truth, did he endeavor to evangelize the smaller towns or were his efforts limited mainly to large cities?
8. If the letter is the way he worked, how would smaller communities be evangelized?
9. Would you say the church at Colosse was composed mainly of Gentiles or Jews?
10. How is Epaphras described by Paul in this book? (1:7-8 and 4:12-13).
11. From Philemon 23, we can gather what information about Epaphras?
12. By whom was the letter (Colossians) sent to the saints in Colosse? (4:7-9).
13. The books of Colossians and Ephesians are twin books. List the things about them that are similar:
14. The emphasis in the two books is different, however. In the book of Colossians, is the emphasis on Christ or the church (cf. 1:18)? _____ In the book of Ephesians, is the emphasis on Christ or the church (cf. 1:22-23)? _____
15. If the following individuals, places or events are mentioned in Colossians, indicate such by a check mark.

_____ Holy Spirit	_____ Tychicus	_____ Nymphas	_____ Simon
_____ Rome	_____ Peter	_____ Easter	_____ Onesimus
_____ Pentecost	_____ Timothy	_____ Philip	_____ Epaphras
_____ Paul	_____ Hierapolis	_____ Aristarchus	_____ John
_____ Laodicea	_____ Luke	_____ Simon	_____ Antioch

Questions on Colossians #2

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Chapter 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK (vv.1-8)

1. How is Paul described?
2. What does the word "*apostle*" mean?
3. By whose authority was Paul an apostle?
4. Do you read anywhere in the New Testament about false apostles? If so, Where?
5. To whom was the letter addressed?
6. What does the word "*saint*" mean? Are you a saint?
7. What kind of brethren were addressed?
8. Is it possible for saints to act in an unsaintly manner? If so, give a New Testament example:
9. What had Paul heard about the Colossians?
10. From question #9, tell in whom item #1 was and toward whom item #2 was directed:
11. Where was their hope laid up?
12. What had come to the Colossians?
13. What was Epaphras to Paul? What was he for the Colossians?
14. What had Epaphras declared?

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS (vv.9-12).

15. Do you think Paul had faith in the power of prayer? Cite two statements in verses 1-12 to prove this.
16. Please memorize James 5:16.
17. Paul's prayer for them was composed of four requests. Name them:
18. If James told us to pray for wisdom, give the location of the verse.
19. In verse 10, the King James Version says, "*Walk worthy of the Lord.*" Please give the wording from the New American Standard Version or the American Standard Version.
20. How were the Colossians to be strengthened?
21. Did the Colossians have just cause for "*giving thanks*"?
22. Check Vine's Dictionary of New Testament Words (there is a copy in the library) and give the meaning of the following words:

Gospel (First three sentences only)

Minister (DIAKONOS)

Questions on Colossians #3

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Chapter 1:13-23 “Christ is Pre-eminent”

Paul passes from his prayer for the Colossians to his main purpose so smoothly that it is difficult to distinguish. In this lesson he begins to emphasize the supreme glory and dignity of Christ. Verse 13 is the transition verse.

1. Who is the “us” of verse 13?
2. Who did the delivering?
3. From what were they delivered and into what were they translated?
4. What is the kingdom?
5. Was it in existence at the time of this letter was written?

JESUS CHRIST IS PRE-EMINENT IN REDEMPTION (v-14; 20-23)

6. Check Vine’s definition of “*redemption*” (APOLUTROSIS--Give his first sentence only):
7. What was the ransom price?
8. Verse 20 points out that redemption not only involves forgiveness but also what?
9. What causes man to be alienated from God?
10. Because of what Jesus has done, how can man be presented?
11. Does the “*if*” of verse 23 suggest that the presentation is conditional?
12. List the three things upon which the presentation is conditional?
13. To whom had the gospel been preached at that time?

JESUS CHRIST IS PRE-EMINENT IN DEITY (v.15)

14. What tense did Paul use when he spoke of Jesus being the image of the invisible God?
15. Is this “*image*” physical likeness?
16. Give some thought to the phrase, “*the firstborn of every creature.*” What do you think it means?

JESUS CHRIST IS PRE-EMINENT IN CREATION (vv.16-17)

17. What did Jesus create?
18. “*Which came first, the chicken or the egg?*” is a question occasionally asked. According to verse 17, who or what came before either of them?
19. Compare verse 17b with Hebrews 1:3. After creation, what does Jesus continue to do?

JESUS CHRIST IS PRE-EMINENT IN THE CHURCH (v.18)

20. In verse 18, the church is defined as what?
21. What relation or position does Jesus hold?
22. What does “*firstborn from the dead*” mean?
23. In what does Jesus have pre-eminence?

We hope you will prepare each lesson with care. Give special attention to the outline each week. Meditate on the wonderful blessings we have as a result of what Jesus has done for us.

Questions on Colossians #4

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Chapter 1:24-2:23

“Christ Greatness Declared by What He Is”

In the previous lesson we have seen that Jesus Christ is pre-eminent:

1. In authority – He has a kingdom (1:13)
2. In salvation (1:14; 20-23)
3. In diety (1:15)
4. In creation (1:16)
5. In day-to-day operation (1:17)
6. In the church (1:18)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE MYSTERY OF GOD (1:24-29)

1. Check Vine’s definition for the meaning of the word “*mystery*.” Copy his statement beginning with the words, “*In the N.T....*” Copy two sentences.
2. What was Paul made?
3. “*Christ in you*” is what?
4. Read Ephesians 3:3-5 and explain how the apostles could make the mystery known.
5. What did Paul preach?

CHRIST STORES TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE (2:1-3)

6. Paul desired that Christians’ hearts might be comforted and knit how?
7. What is hid in Christ?
8. Is there any spiritual wisdom or knowledge outside of Christ?

JESUS CHRIST IS THE FULNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY (2:4-9)

9. In this section, what seems to you to be Paul’s primary purpose?
10. What kind of words might men use to beguile people with?
11. What did Paul say he was “*determined to know*” in 1 Corinthians 2:1-5?
12. How did Paul describe the Colossians’ faith?
13. Are Christians to run, walk, or fly in Christ?
14. What is to accompany our abounding?
15. What did Paul say beware of?
16. Is verse nine past or present tense?
17. Was Jesus on earth or in heaven at the time Paul wrote to the Colossians?

YOU ARE COMPLETE IN CHRIST (v.10)

18. Make a list of all the spiritual blessings you can think of.
19. According to Ephesians 1:3, where are they to be found?
20. From these verses, list the things to be found in Christ: (Col. 1:14, 19; 2:3, 9-10).
21. According to Acts 2:38 and Galatians 3:26-27, how does a person get into Christ?
22. What other organizations (in addition to the church) does a person need to be a member of to be complete?
23. Does a person have to know or be related to any man to be complete?

YOU ARE CIRCUMCISED IN CHRIST (vv.11-23)

24. When did God first bind circumcision?
25. Is the “*circumcision*” of verse 11 figurative or literal?
26. What is cut off in the circumcision of verse 11?
27. Does this apply only to male Christians?
28. Who performs the operation?
29. Would it be correct to say that baptism replaced circumcision?
30. What action is involved in baptism?
31. What was blotted out? To what was it nailed?
32. In what matters are men not to judge (condemn) now?
33. What example of ordinances, to which Christians are not to be subject, does Paul give?
34. How does Paul describe the doctrines of men in verse 32?

Questions on Colossians #5

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Chapter 3:1-25

“Responsibilities of a Christian”

SEEK THOSE THINGS ABOVE (3:1-4)

1. Is this responsibility universal or conditional?
2. Where is Christ now?
3. Where are the affections to be set?
4. What is meant by “*ye are dead*”?
5. What is hid with Christ in God?
6. When shall we appear with Him in glory?

THINGS TO KILL AND PUT OFF (3:5-9)

7. Define the following words:
 - a. Fornication
 - b. Uncleaness
 - c. Inordinate affection
 - d. Evil concupiscence
 - e. Covetousness
 - f. Anger
 - g. Wrath
 - h. Malice
 - i. Blasphemy
 - j. Filthy communication
 - k. Lying
8. Upon whom does God’s wrath come?
9. Is it correct to say that a person “*lived*” in a certain sin?
10. Getting rid of bad conduct and vile speech is called “*putting off*” what?

THINGS TO PUT ON (3:10-14)

11. What is the new man renewed in?
12. After whose image is he renewed?
13. What distinctions are lost in Christ?
14. From verse 12 list the things to be put on?
15. When we are called upon to forgive, what should we remember?
16. What is the most important piece of clothing to be put on?
17. List the characteristics of love from 1 Corinthians 13:4-9:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS (3:15-25)

18. What is to rule in the heart?
19. We are called in one what?
20. What does Paul say in Philippians 4 that God’s peace passes?
21. To what degree is Christ’s word to dwell in Christians?
22. How can this be brought about?
23. What kind of songs are to be sung?
24. List all of the places in the N. T. where the words *song*, *sung*, *sang*, *singing* are used:
25. Who are we to teach and admonish?
26. In whose name is everything to be done?
27. Tell what each of these is to do?
 - a. Wives
 - b. Husbands
 - c. Children
 - d. Fathers
 - e. Servants

Questions on Colossians #6

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Chapter 4:1-18

“General Admonition and Salutations”

QUESTIONS:

1. In what were they to continue?
2. Where is “*pray without ceasing*” found in the New Testament?
3. Give one other New Testament passage where thanksgiving and prayer are joined?

4. What did Paul especially ask that they pray for?
5. We have found what the “*mystery of Christ*” is already in this book. What is it?

6. Why was Paul in prison?
7. What are Christians to redeem?
8. In Ephesians 5:16, what additional thought is added to the idea of redeeming?

9. What is gracious speech?
10. How does Ephesians 4:15 say the truth ought to be spoken?
11. Verses 5 and 6 suggest:
 - a. Right word
 - b. At the right time
 - c. To the right personSee if you can observe these three things in 1 Peter 3:15.

12. What function did Tychicus perform for Paul?
13. How is he described by Paul?
14. Can you determine from this chapter where Philemon’s home was?
15. What relation were John Mark and Barnabus?
16. What previous incident might this have affected?
17. Aristarchus was living under what circumstances?
18. Was Justis a Jew or a Gentile?
19. Where was Epaphras’ home?
20. What did he do for the Colossians?
21. What was Luke’s occupation?
22. According to 2 Timothy 4:10, what did Demas do during Paul’s second Roman imprisonment?
23. What does the phrase, “*the church which is in his house*” mean?

24. What does the phrase, “*church of the Laodiceans*” mean?

25. Use your concordance and make a list of all the other ways in which the church is referred to in the New Testament:

26. What were the brethren to do with these epistles (letters)?

27. What was Archippus to be told?

Questions on Colossians #7

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Test on Colossians

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. The book of Colossians was written by _____.
2. Colosse was located in _____.
3. In chapter one, Paul says we have been delivered from the power of _____.
4. _____ is the head of the church.
5. Jesus is the _____ from the dead.
6. The writer speaks of a _____ made without hands.
7. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are _____."
8. _____ is the bond of perfectness.
9. A Christian's _____ should be always with grace, seasoned with salt.
10. Luke was a _____ by profession.

QUESTIONS:

11. How widely had the gospel been preached?
12. Into what had the Colossians been translated?
13. Paul speaks of Christ's pre-eminence. Name two ways in which He is pre-eminent:
14. What is the mystery?
15. What is hid in Christ?
16. What does Colossians teach that the action of baptism is?
17. What did the Lord do with the law (handwriting of ordinances)?
18. What three worldly ordinances did the writer use to illustrate the fact that we are not to be subject to such things?
19. How are Christians to forgive?
20. How are we to walk toward those without?

TRUE / FALSE:

21. _____ Paul placed emphasis on prayer.
22. _____ Jesus created all things.
23. _____ Wicked works alienate men from God.
24. _____ In Paul dwelt all the fulness of Godhead bodily.
25. _____ Worshiping of angels is mentioned in this book.
26. _____ In the KJV, the word "mortify" means to "give place to."
27. _____ Covetousness is defined as idolatry.
28. _____ Colossians 3:16 teaches that we are to teach and admonish each other in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
29. _____ Whatever we do in word or deed is to be done in the name of God.
30. _____ "Mothers, provoke not your children to anger," is quoted in chapter 3.
31. _____ Barnabus and John Mark were related.

MATCH:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 32. _____ Epaphras | A. Christ's body |
| 33. _____ Jesus Christ | B. Done away in Christ |
| 34. _____ Church | C. Run-away slave |
| 35. _____ You are complete | D. Continue in |
| 36. _____ Racial, Ceremonial, cultural and social differences | E. Submit yourselves |
| 37. _____ Singing | F. A faithful minister |
| 38. _____ Wives | G. In Christ |
| 39. _____ Onesimus | H. Paul's fellow prisoner |
| 40. _____ Prayer | I. With grace in your hearts |
| 41. _____ Aristarcus | J. Before all things |