

Book of Colossians

1. Colossians 1:9-23

1) Observation: : All things in the sky and on the earth, visible and invisible, angels and spiritual beings, were created by Christ. For whom were all things created? (1:16)

2) Interpretation: God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light (1:12). What is the "inheritance of the saints"?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Have you ever turned away from God and become an enemy of God in your heart because of past sinful actions? Upon reflection, have you also experienced God's grace during that time?

3.2(God Meeting Us): God has opened the path of peace through the blood shed by Christ on the cross, reconciling all things to Himself, whether in heaven or on earth (1:20). What did you experience when you encountered the saving Christ? Did you receive the peace of the Lord?

3.3(God Refinding Us): God desires to present you as holy, blameless, and without reproach before Him. What spiritual disciplines or training are you participating in to achieve this?

3.4(God Inspiring US): We are to stand firm in faith and not be shaken in the hope of the "good news" we have heard. What is currently undermining or shaking your faith and hope? How can those who stand firm in faith help others?

4) Real Life Today: God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of Jesus Christ. This good news must be proclaimed to all people under heaven. Are you and the saints of the church workers who proclaim this good news?

2. Colossians 2:6-19

1) Observation: Many people are captivated by the philosophy of the world and live according to it (2:8). Is this based on traditional teachings handed down or on the elemental principles of this world?

2) Interpretation: It is said that in Christ, all the fullness of deity dwells bodily (2:9). In verse 2:10, it is mentioned that the saints can also attain to the fullness of deity. How is this possible?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Have there been times when you were captivated by the philosophy and deceptive schemes of the world and lived apart from God? How did God seek and save you?

3.2(God Meeting Us): We have received the circumcision of Christ, which involves putting off the body of flesh, not a circumcision performed by human hands. If you were spiritually dead in the past due to sin and uncircumcised desires of the flesh, what differences and transformations do you see in your present state?

3.3(God Refinding Us): We are called to resist the temptation of "self-made religion and asceticism" (2:18). How does false humility hinder us on our faith journey?

3.4(God Inspiring US): We are to hold fast to the Head, who is Christ (2:19). Our entire body is nourished and connected through this Head, with each joint and ligament supplying what is needed for growth according to God's will. Am I currently united with Christ as one body?

4) Real Life Today: The church should not be a community of faith based on human traditions or empty philosophy. If worldly things have found their way into us, what are they?

3. Colossians 3:1-15

1) Observation: Paul stated that there should be no distinction or discrimination based on Greek or Jewish background, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free (3:11). In the United States, there are many people of different races from all over the world. Take a moment to reflect on how you have treated those of different races without discrimination.

2) Interpretation: Excessive greed is considered idolatry and should be put away (2:5). It is said that because of these things, the wrath of God is coming. How does covetousness become an idol in our lives?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Have there been times when you lived according to the desires of the flesh before encountering Christ? Have you experienced a thirst for the true meaning of life and a search for God amidst the emptiness and vanity of life during that time?

3.2(God Meeting Us): We have already died and have become a new person with Christ (2:9-10). What differences do you see between your old self and your new self?

3.3(God Refinding Us): We are holy people chosen by God and recipients of His love. Therefore, we should have hearts of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience towards others (3:12). In what ways do you feel lacking in these aspects?

3.4(God Inspiring US): We should bear with one another and forgive each other just as the Lord has forgiven us, even in the face of grievances. Forgiveness is often the most challenging aspect of the sanctification process. Today, think about whom you need to forgive and surrender your heart to the Lord in prayer.

4) Real Life Today: In order for the peace of Christ to rule in our hearts, we have been called into one body (the Church). If the Church and our households overflow with peace, what kind of impact can we have on the surrounding community?

4. Colossians 4:2-16

1) Observation: How many times is the word 'prayer' repeated in the context?

2) Interpretation: In Colossians 4:7-9, Paul mentions Onesimus and Tychicus. Who are Onesimus and Tychicus?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): The book of Colossians, along with Philemon, Ephesians, and Philippians, is one of the letters written by Paul during his imprisonment. While Paul was in prison, the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel to many Romans opened up. It is believed that God sent Paul first for the sake of the Romans who did not know Christ. Do you believe that the Lord who sends first sent you to people around you who do not know Christ?

3.2(God Meeting Us): In today's passage (Colossians 4:2-16), many individuals mentioned have heard and received the Gospel proclaimed by Paul, becoming children of God. Who shared the Gospel with you? Did you experience the work of the Holy Spirit when you heard the Gospel?

3.3-3.4(God Refinding Us, God Inspiring Us): Epaphras, mentioned in Colossians, prays earnestly for the Colossian saints, asking God to enable them to fully understand His will and live mature and faithful lives (Colossians 4:12). Is there someone praying for you? If you are being transformed and growing in Christ, express gratitude for those who pray for you and pray for them in return.

4) Real Life Today: Paul asked for prayers so that God would open a door for him to proclaim the mystery of Christ (Colossians 4:3). Pray together, seeking that God would open doors for you and your church to proclaim the Gospel.