

Read the book of Colossians for yourself

If you've ever wanted to start reading the Bible for yourself, but didn't know where to start, here's your on-ramp, just in time for the New Year!

Join me in reading these passages on the days that are listed or the day after. I've included a few reflection questions to help you get at the heart of each passage.

For free access to a good study Bible, go to <https://www.esv.org/Colossians+1/>. Click on 'Global Study Bible' and it's all there for you! You can also access the other books of the Bible by clicking on the book name in the 'Bible' column.

January 1 - Colossians 1:1-14

1. How are faith, hope and love related?
2. Pray verses 9-12 for yourself and your family.

January 2 - Colossians 1:15-23

1. These verses tell us that Jesus is first over the world and the church – ie., in all things. Does your life reflect Jesus' supremacy?
2. Given that Jesus has made you holy, without blemish and free from accusation, are you investing in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope of the Gospel?

January 4 - Colossians 1:24-2:5

1. God's long term plan was not just to be 'with us' but 'in us' – 'Christ in us is the hope of glory.' What does it look like to carry around the life of Jesus within us?
2. Paul's statement in verses 28-29 is like a pastoral mission statement for me – I pastor, I want to proclaim, admonish and teach Jesus so that everyone will be perfect (in the sense of 'mature' and 'complete'). Am I helping you in these areas and are you applying what I say on Sundays?

January 6 - Colossians 2:6-23

1. What 'hollow and deceptive philosophies' based on 'human traditions and the basic principles of the world' are people hawking today?
2. Let's put verses 6 and 13 side-by-side. Verse 13 says that 'when we were dead in sin, God made us alive with Christ, forgiving all our sins.' That implies that this is pure grace: we didn't earn salvation, we simply received it as a gift. Now look at verse 6: 'Just as you received Christ as Lord (by pure grace), continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, etc...' What does it look like to 'live by grace' just as we were 'saved by grace'?

January 9 - Colossians 3:1-17

1. Is your mind set on things above or earthly things? What do your mental habits and day dreams say about that?
2. What parts of your earthly nature need to be dealt with and what parts of your new nature need strengthening? Pick one of the commands in the last half of the verse and work at it.

January 11 - Colossians 3:17-4:1

1. Some Bibles put a heading between verses 17 and 18, implying that the 'household code' of wives, husbands, parents and children begins a new idea. Others though (including me) think that verse 17 leads into and informs verse 18. How do the commands to submit, love, obey, etc. change when they are prefaced with the overarching command to 'do it in the name of (ie., reflecting the values of) the Lord Jesus and giving thanks to the Father'?
2. How can you apply verse 23 in your life and work?

January 13 - Colossians 4:2-18

1. Pray the first few verses for our church.
2. Notice the variety of ministry done by people here. Some travel great distances, some host Christian gatherings, some 'wrestle in prayer' on behalf of others. What ministry could you do that would move Paul to refer to you by name?

*May you ever be growing
in the knowledge of God.
Colossians 1:10*