

The book of Colossians

Introduction: The book of Colossians is a letter written by Paul and Timothy to the church in the city of Colosse. It was written in the early 60's (A.D.) while Paul was a prisoner in Rome, probably still awaiting trial before Caesar as recorded in Acts 28:16-31. Though Paul had never personally been to Colosse he was familiar with the area in the province of Asia, its manners and customs and distinctive religious beliefs, since both he and Timothy had spent several years in the vicinity of Ephesus, just a little more than 100 miles away. Besides knowing the area, Paul had personal knowledge of the Colossian church and the distinct challenges it faced through conversations with his friend and fellow worker, Epaphras, who had preached the gospel in Colosse and planted the church there. When Paul and Timothy wrote this letter Epaphras was with them in Rome. Based on his report about Colosse, Paul had decided the church could use both a letter from him and a visit from Tychicus, another evangelist. Paul also knew several other members of the Colossian church. In writing this letter Paul stresses several things that Christians need to understand. A significant part of the letter acclaims the person and power of Jesus Christ: who he is, what he has done, what he is doing, and our expected response to him. Another significant emphasis is the power, success, and adequacy of the gospel. As in the book of Ephesians, which was written at just about the same time and carried by the same messengers¹, Paul wrote several paragraphs describing the basic principles and priorities of the Christian life — behavior in everyday activities.

Colossians: The Pre-eminent Christ

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Colossians 1:15-20

(from the New Jerusalem Bible -- to be read aloud in unison)

*He is the image of the unseen God,
the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created all things
in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
thrones, ruling forces, sovereignties, powers—
all things were created through him and for him.
He exists before all things
and in him all things hold together,
and he is the Head of the Body,
that is, the Church.
He is the Beginning,*

*the first-born from the dead,
so that he should be supreme in every way;
because God wanted all fullness to be found in him
and through him to reconcile all things to him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
by making peace through his death on the cross.*

¹The letter to Philemon was also written at this time and carried by the same messengers, and Philemon was a member of the Colossian church.

Colossians

Greeting: Col.1:1-2

1. Who were the writers of Colossians?
2. What was Paul's job or position?
Timothy's?
3. What made Paul an apostle of Jesus?
4. Besides verse 1, Paul mentions "the will of God" in 1:9 and 4:12. Read these verses now and consider:
 - a. Did Paul believe he knew God's will for his life?
 - b. Did Paul believe others could know the will of God for their lives?
 - c. Besides knowing the will of God, what did Paul (and Epaphras) want Christians to do or feel about the will of God?
 - d. What seems to be necessary for understanding, and standing firm in God's will for our lives?
 - e. If we consider Paul, Timothy, and Epaphras as our examples, what are some ways we can help someone else know and stand in the will of God with full assurance?
5. According to 1:2, who was the letter written to, what sort of people?
6. Who can you think of that you would describe as the Colossian Christians were described? Would you want to be described this way? Explain...

The Pre-eminence of Christ in all things Col. 1:3-2:5

Christ In Personal Contacts Col. 1:3-8

1. What do Paul and Timothy describe themselves as doing?
2. What prompted their thanksgiving?
3. Can you give an example of anything that

- caused you to thank God when you heard it?
4. Who is faith's legitimate object?
 5. Name anything or anyone you have faith in, other than religious faith.
 6. What kind of love were Paul and Timothy so thankful for?
 7. What do Christian faith and love grow out of?
 8. What is the story called that is the basis of Christian hope? (v.5)
 9. Besides verses 5-6 Paul mentions "the gospel" in 1:23. These verses seem to emphasize the uniqueness and success of the gospel heard not only by the Colossians, but by many others in many places. Read 1:23 now and consider:
 - a. Describe in your own words what Paul thought of the gospel.
 - b. Though Paul was in fact a prisoner at this time, was he disillusioned with the gospel or his assignment to preach it? Why?
 - c. What can the gospel help us to understand?
 - d. What is the gospel? (see I Cor. 15:1-4)
 - e. In mentioning the worldwide impact of the gospel, what was Paul wanting us to see or understand?

10. Who taught the gospel and started a congregation in Colosse? (v. 7)

11. What is a minister? A faithful minister? A faithful minister of Christ?

12. Paul and Timothy were in Rome, not Colosse. Where was Epaphras and why? (See also 4:12-13)

13. What kind of things did Paul and Timothy

and Epaphras seem to talk about? And ourselves?

14. How many times is Christ mentioned in the first eight verses of Colossians? And God?

15. What things are mentioned as being "in" Christ? "Of" Christ?

16. Name someone, male or female, who is a faithful... "brother in Christ" ... "minister of Christ".

14. Give any example of a sin you have needed forgiveness for.

15. Can you think of anyone you could name who is in the kingdom of darkness and needs rescue, the forgiveness of sins?

16. In general terms, who needs rescue and redemption?

17. What do we need to be like Epaphras and show people how to be rescued?

Christ In Personal Presentation Col. 1:9-14

1. What did Paul and Timothy seem to do a lot of?

2. What would a full knowledge of God's will make possible in Christian lives?

3. What kind of life pleases God in every way?

4. Where do Christians bear fruit?

5. What do we need to grow in and how can we?

6. How can we have great endurance and patience?

7. What has God qualified Christians to do?

8. What do you think the kingdom of light is?

9. What do you think the inheritance of the saints is?

10. What are we (Christians) rescued from?

11. Stories of rescue, both true and fictional, are often stories of heroic adventure. Is this a story of adventure and heroism? Explain...

12. Who do you have redemption in?

13. What is redemption?

re·demp·tion  (ri demp'shən), *n.*

1. an act of redeeming or the state of being redeemed.
2. deliverance; rescue.
3. *Theol.* deliverance from sin; salvation.
4. atonement for guilt.
5. repurchase, as of something sold.
6. paying off, as of a mortgage, bond, or note.
7. recovery by payment, as of something pledged.
8. conversion of paper money into specie.

[1300–50; ME *redempcioun* (< MF *redemption*) < LL *redāptiān-* (s. of *redāptiāe*), equiv. to L *redāpt(us)* (ptp. of *redimere* to REDEEM) + *-iān-* -ION]

(Random House Webster's Dictionary)

A Prayer from the Prayers of Paul and Timothy. (Colossians 1:3-14)
(to be read aloud in unison)

We thank you God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for our faith in Christ Jesus and our love for all the saints. We ask you to fill us with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We pray this so that we may live lives worthy of you and please you in every way, bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in our knowledge of you. We want to be strengthened with all power according to your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience. We give joyful thanks that you have qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light, by rescuing us from the dominion of darkness and redeeming us through the Son you love, Jesus Christ.Amen...

All Things In Christ

Fill in the blanks using words from the box below

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the _____ of the _____ God, the firstborn over all _____. 16 For by him _____ were created: things in _____ and on _____, visible and _____, whether thrones or powers or _____ or authorities; all things were _____ by him and for _____. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things _____ together. 18 And he is the _____ of the body, the _____; he is the _____ and the firstborn from among the _____, so that in everything he might have the _____. 19 For God was pleased to have all his _____ dwell in him, 20 and through him to _____ to himself _____ things, whether things on _____ or things _____ heaven, by making _____ through his _____, shed on the _____. (NIV)

him creation things heaven created
church hold head dead supremacy
fullness reconcile image cross invisible
invisible all all rulers beginning earth in
peace blood earth

True or False:

Circle all that are true, cross out all that are false:

Christ is...

the image of the invisible God.
dead.
the firstborn over all creation.
before all things.
about equal with some other rulers.
the head of the body, the church.
the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead.
the only one who will ever rise.

Christ has ...

all the fullness of God in him.
some of the fullness of God in him.
made peace through his blood.
made it possible for only some things to be reconciled to God.
created all things.
the supremacy in all things.

In Christ...

all things hold together.
all things are reconciled to God.
we have chaos and turmoil.

Colossians 1:21-23

When were "you" strangers to God?
Whose mind created a hostile relationship to God?
How is friendship with God regained?
What condition is placed on maintaining a good relationship with God?
Where is hope? Why?
Which gospel was the one Paul was concerned about?
What was Paul's relationship to the gospel? And yours?

Colossians 1:24-27

What suffering was Paul rejoicing in?
What did he know about Christ's suffering?
What is the body of Christ?
Besides the gospel (v23), what else was Paul a servant of (v25)?
What was Paul commissioned by God to do?
How could Paul do this, having never been there (2:1) or here?
How much of the gospel, or word of God, was Paul interested in presenting?
How long had the idea of the church apparently been around without being commonly understood?
Who has God chosen to reveal himself and his message to?
What exactly is the core of the mystery revealed to the saints?

Colossians 1:28-29

What did Paul proclaim or preach?
What else did he do besides proclaim (preach) Christ to the unsaved?
Why does one who preaches need to also admonish and teach?
What was the end or goal Paul labored toward?
Where did Paul get the strength to keep going?
Is that kind of strength still available? (remember verse 11)

Colossians 2:1-5

How can you struggle for someone a thousand miles away you've never actually met?
What was Paul's purpose in struggling?
What exactly would Paul have wanted for you and me?
What did Paul want people to know?
Where are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?
Are these things really treasures? Explain...
Why did Paul feel it necessary to tell the Colossians such things?
Though far away, what kind of perspective did Paul say he had of the Colossians?
What do you think he meant by this?
What positive traits did he say he could see in them?
Do you think we have these traits? Explain...

Colossians 2:6-8

How do saints get started?

How must saints continue?
What does faith need?
What is the origin of the kind of faith pictured here?
If our attitude is not "overflowing with thankfulness", what is it likely to become instead?
Why would anyone try to "take" a Christian "captive"? Who?
When is philosophy hollow and deceptive?
When is philosophy solid and honest?

Colossians 2:9-15

Who is full of what?
What is Christ's position?
Explain what is removed in the case of circumcision in Christ.
Who removes the throw-away part of sinful humankind?
When and where does circumcision done by Christ occur?
What is baptism?
What does it take to rise to a new life from baptism? (2 things?)
When did God do the work of making us alive in Christ?
What did God do in the process of making us alive in Christ?
What written code was cancelled? Why?
When and where was the written code finally dealt with?
Where is that code now? What do we have to look at to read it correctly?
What things did God do to the powers and authorities?
Where is the victory over all powers of opposition? How can this be?

Colossians 2:16-19

What are the kinds of things mentioned in verse 16?
What was the meaning of past holidays designated by God?
If you had tickets to Disneyland, or a concert, or a movie, would you rather keep the tickets or turn them in to go inside?
Why might you want to keep the tickets-or their remains?
Why might some believers in Jesus want to keep holy days and other regulations?
Can you think of any "danger" in building a collection of souvenirs or keep sakes? What about possible benefits?
What sort of problems did Paul see with hanging onto the shadows when the reality has come?
When could holidays or other self-imposed rituals or regulations become a problem instead of an amusement?
What are angels and how could they be a problem for Christians?
Where does growth come from in a properly connected church body?
What is the most important connection of all for the body?

Colossians 2:20-23

Are Christians supposed to think about what is right or wrong in their actions?

What is the difference between knowing and thinking about what is right or wrong and what Paul describes here?

What do some people seem to want their religion to do for them?

Why can't a list of specific rules for every imaginable situation give us a sufficient guide for how to live Godly lives?

Why don't regulations restrain sensual indulgence-and what is sensual indulgence anyway?

As a review of Colossians 2:9-15 fill in the blanks below using the word list that follows.

Col 2:9-15

⁹ For in _____ all the _____ of the Deity lives in _____ form, ¹⁰ and you have been given _____ in Christ, who is the head over every _____ and authority. ¹¹ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the flesh, not with a circumcision done by the _____ of men but with the _____ done by Christ, ¹² having been buried with him in _____ and raised with him through your _____ in the power of God, who raised him from the _____.

¹³ When you were dead in your sins and in the _____ of your flesh, God made you _____ with Christ. He _____ us all our sins, ¹⁴ having canceled the written _____, with its _____, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, _____ it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having _____ the powers and authorities, he made a _____ spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the _____. (NIV)

<p><i>uncircumcision bodily code cross Christ public dead fullness fullness nailing baptism disarmed power alive regulations circumcision forgave hands faith</i></p>

Christian Priorities

1) Personal Relationship to God

Colossians 3:1-4

1. What has already happened to the follower of Jesus?
2. How has this happened?(v.3)
3. Where is Christ?
4. Where is the Christian heart to be set?
5. What do you think this "heart" refers to?
6. Since we are alive and reading this, how have we died?
7. What will happen when Christ next appears?

Colossians 3:5-11

1. What choices do Paul and Timothy say we have to make?
2. How strong are these choices to be, and how important are they?
3. Who all do these choices apply to?
4. What effects do proper choices have?

Unison Reading:

As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body. Always be thankful.

Let the Word of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and whatever you say or do, let it be in the name of the Lord Jesus, in thanksgiving to God the Father through him. *(Col. 3:12-17, NJB)*

Colossians 3-4
Christian Priorities
Col. 3-4, Eph. 4-6, Titus 1:6-9

Several times in scripture, especially in Paul's letters, Christian responsibilities are described in a particular sequence, showing us priorities for daily living.

1. Personal Relationship to God *Col. 3:1-17, Eph. 4:1-5:21, Titus 1:6*
2. Marriage Relationship *Col. 3:18-19, Eph. 5:22-33, Titus 1:6*
3. Parent/Child Relationship *Col. 3:20-21, Eph. 6:1-4, Titus 1:6*
4. Career Responsibilities (Master/Servant Relationship) *Col. 3:22-4:1, Eph. 6:5-9, Titus 1:7*
5. Gospel Service (Believer/Unbeliever Relationship) *Col. 4:2-6, Eph. 6:10-20, Titus 1:8-9*

In the following list (from Colossians 3:1-17) circle those things that a Christian is supposed to wear or keep or do, and cross out those things a Christian is supposed to put to death or eliminate from their lives.

humility /// evil desires /// greed /// compassion /// idolatry /// anger /// teach /// wisdom /// slander /// filthy language /// knowledge /// the image of God /// malice /// kindness /// gentleness /// sexual immorality /// patience /// admonish /// forgive grievances /// love /// impurity /// lust /// bear with one another /// rage /// peace of Christ /// be thankful /// lies sing /// gratitude to God

Colossians 3-4 (cont.) Christian Priorities

2. The Marriage Relationship.

Read Colossians 3:18-19

1. As described here, what is a primary responsibility or challenge for a Christian woman in marriage?
2. As described here, what is a primary responsibility or challenge for a Christian man in marriage?
3. What effect do you think these basic instructions, if followed, might have on a marriage?
4. What instructions do you think "the world" is giving wives today (these or others)?
5. What instructions do you think "the world" is giving husbands today?
6. What do you think the contemporary message is about what marriage is or should do for a person?
7. How is the message of these two verses similar to or different from the current idea?
8. What characteristics from the "personal relationship to God" (Col. 3:1-17) do you think would help Christians implement these instructions for marriage?

3. The Parent/Child Relationship.

Read Colossians 3:20-21

1. What is the primary responsibility of a child toward its parents?
2. What is the motivation Paul expects to help Christians do this?
3. What difference does age make in this relationship? (Consider that this is written as an instruction to believers, "Children, obey..." and not "Make sure your children obey...")
4. What are fathers specifically to avoid doing?
5. Why fathers in particular?
6. How could the instructions for marriages (verses 18-19) help in achieving the kind of parent/child relationship described here?
7. What may harsh fathers cause?

4. The Master/Servant Relationship.

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1

1. If you are a slave or a master, who are you slave to or master of?
2. If you are not a slave or a master, what relationship do you have that might be similar enough to need these guidelines?
3. What is a slave/servant supposed to do for their master?
4. What is supposed to supply motivation to a Christian to always do a good job, always do their best?

4. The Master/Servant Relationship cont..

Colossians 3:22-4:1 cont.

5. What does Paul mention here that is often the world's best motivation for doing a good job, but only part of the time?
6. Who should a Christian be working for, no matter what they are doing?
7. Do you think the Lord will reward a Christian for being an exceptional truck driver, or student, or athlete, or accountant? Explain.
8. Who eventually settles the score for poor workmanship, in whatever kind of work?
9. Why should the Lord care about the quality of our workmanship in on the job or in school? What do these things have to do with our morals or our character?
10. If you have a position of authority over someone else, what is your responsibility as a Christian?
11. What is supposed to be a motivation for Christian masters to do the right thing for those they boss?
12. How could any of the priorities previously mentioned, the personal relationship with God, the marriage relationship, the parent/child relationship, have an impact on our workmanship, good or bad?

5. The Service of the Gospel.

Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. What are two things that should accompany Christian prayer?
2. How can you tell if you yourself are devoted to prayer or not?
3. What does being watchful require?
4. Who did Paul want the Christians of his time to pray for? Do you remember who he prayed for?
5. Who should we pray for?
6. What were some specific things Paul wanted help with in prayer?
7. How should Christians behave toward outsiders (who are they?) and what is the goal of such behavior?
8. How should Christians talk, how is this accomplished, and what is the goal of such communication?

Review Colossians 3:1-4:6

Christian Priorities

Col. 3-4, Eph. 4-6, Titus 1:6-9

1. Personal Relationship to God *Col. 3:1-17, Eph. 4:1-5:21, Titus 1:6*
2. Marriage Relationship *Col. 3:18-19, Eph. 5:22-33, Titus 1:6*
3. Parent/Child Relationship *Col. 3:20-21, Eph. 6:1-4, Titus 1:6*
4. Career Responsibilities (Master/Servant Relationship) *Col. 3:22-4:1, Eph. 6:5-9, Titus 1:7*
5. Gospel Service (Believer/Unbeliever Relationship) *Col. 4:2-6, Eph. 6:10-20, Titus 1:8-9*

Colossians 4:7-9

Consider the men mentioned here, and in the following verses. Also see the side box for additional references.

Tychicus:

1. Who was Tychicus?
2. Where was he from, and what churches do we know of that were in that region?
3. What kind of work did Tychicus do?
4. What kind of man was Tychicus?
5. What was he about to do when this Colossian letter was written?
6. What were the purposes of Tychicus visiting Ephesus and Colosse?

Onesimus:

1. Who was Onesimus?
2. Why was he coming to Colosse?
3. Why had he been in Rome?
4. What did Paul want the church at Colosse to think of Onesimus?
5. Why might it be hard for the church to receive Onesimus in this way?
6. What kind of people should the church be ready to accept?
7. How can we help the church accept people who might seem unlikable or socially unacceptable?
- 8.. What job did Onesimus share with Tychicus?

Colossians 4:10-15

Aristarchus:

- Who was Aristarchus?
Where did he come from?
What was his status in Rome when Paul wrote this letter?
Name some places Aristarchus had been with Paul.
What opinion did Paul seem to have of this man?

Tychicus

Acts 20:4 He (Paul) was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. (NIV)

Eph 6:21 Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. (NIV)

Titus 3:12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there. (NIV)

2 Tim 4:12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. (NIV)

Onesimus

Philemon 8-16 8 Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, 9 yet I appeal to you on the basis of love. I then, as Paul-- an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus-- 10 I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in chains. 11 Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me. 12 I am sending him-- who is my very heart-- back to you. 13 I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. 14 But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do will be spontaneous and not forced. 15 Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back for good-- 16 no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord. (NIV)

Aristarchus

Acts 19:29 Soon the whole city was in an uproar. The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's traveling companions from Macedonia, and rushed as one man into the theater. (NIV)

Acts 20:4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. (NIV)

Acts 27:2 We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us. (NIV)

Philem 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. (NIV)

Colossians 4:10-15 cont.

Mark:

1. Who was Mark?
2. What bad experience had Paul once had with Mark?
3. How had Paul's opinion of Mark changed?
4. How can we change people's bad opinions of us, if they exist?
5. Along with Justus, what did the preceding men have in common that the next group of men mentioned in Colossians did not share in?
6. Why might fellow workers who were Jews prove a special comfort to Paul in his circumstances? (Consider, who had caused Paul to be arrested and put on trial in the first place?)

Epaphras:

1. What distinguished Epaphras from the others mentioned here?
2. What was an important activity that Epaphras was busy with?
3. What was the concern Epaphras had for Colosse?
4. Why did Paul need to "vouch" for Epaphras as a worker?
5. Are there workers today who "work for" this congregation and need someone to vouch for them?

Luke:

1. Who and what was Luke?
2. What relationship did Paul have with Luke?
3. Describe the impression you get of Luke's character.
4. Was Luke a Jew or a gentile?
5. What books did Luke write?
6. From Acts, where are some places Luke went with Paul? (note the use of "we")

Mark

Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark. (NIV)

Acts 15:37 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, (NIV)

2 Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (NIV)

Philem 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. (NIV)

Epaphras

Col 1:7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, (NIV)

Philem 1:23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. (NIV)

Luke

2 Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. (NIV)

Philem 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. (NIV)

Acts 16:11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. (NIV)

Acts 20:6 But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. (NIV)

Acts 27:1 When it was decided that we would sail for Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment. (NIV)

Acts 27:2 We boarded a ship from Adramyttium about to sail for ports along the coast of the province of Asia, and we put out to sea. Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica, was with us. (NIV)

Colossians 4:10-15 cont.

Demas:

1. What was Demas when Paul wrote this letter and Philemon?
2. What later happened to Demas, or what different choice did he make?
3. Can you think of anyone you have known that has made choices like Demas did?
4. What caused the change in Demas?
5. Who was Nympha, or at least what service was she providing? (v15)

Demas

Philem 1:24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers. (NIV)

2 Tim 4:9 Do your best to come to me quickly, 2 Tim 4:10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. (NIV)

Archippus

Philem 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker,² to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier and to the church that meets in your home: ³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV)

Colossians 4:16-18

1. What other church was close to Colosse?
2. What did this church grow to be like in the next generation? (see Rev. 3:14-22)
3. What did Paul want the churches to do with his letters?

Archippus:

1. Who was Archippus?
2. What did Paul want him to be sure and do?
3. Who was supposed to remind Archippus of his responsibility?
4. How should the church, the saints, carry through on the idea of verse 17 today?
5. What was the proof that this letter was genuine?

Review of Colossians

1. Who wrote Colossians? (1:1)
2. Where was the author(s) and what was his (their) status at the time of writing? (4:18)
3. What is anything the author prayed about in behalf of the Christians of Colosse? (1:3-4, 9-14)
4. Who is especially honored in 1:15-23?
5. How many times had Paul been to Colosse? (2:1)
6. What is a title or description of Christ or his stature that Paul uses in this letter?
7. Where should the Christian heart and mind be? (3:1-4)
8. Name something Christians are supposed to wear? (3:12-14)
9. Name something Christians are supposed to eliminate from their lives? (3:5-9)
10. What are two words that describe relationships of husbands and wives? (3:18-19)
11. What is the keyword in how to respond to one who has authority over us, whether parent or master? (3:20, 22)
12. What is the important attitude toward someone you have authority over? (3:21, 4:1)
13. What are two things Christians should direct their "communication skills" toward? (4:2-6)
14. What were most of the people mentioned in

this letter? (4:10-15)

15. What other city/church was quite close to the Colossian church? (2:1, 4:16)

16. What did Paul (and Timothy) want for the Colossian church? (1:9, 10, 11, 12, 2:2, 4, 6-7, 3:15, 16, 17)

The Commands of Colossians:

(read and consider that only a small part of the scriptures are "direct commands")

Col 2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Col 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Col 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day.

17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Col 2:18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

Col 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

Col 3:2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Col 3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.

Col 3:8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Col 3:9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

Col 3:12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Col 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Col 3:14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Col 3:18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Col 3:22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Col 4:1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Col 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Col 4:3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains.

Col 4:4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.

Col 4:6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Col 4:10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

Col 4:15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Col 4:16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

Col 4:17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the work you have received in the Lord." (NIV)