

## Inductive Study for Colossians 1:15-2:3 ( For November 7)

Icebreaker- What is your “rank” in your family...first, middle, baby, only? Do you think it plays a part in who we are? Are you a mystery lover? Movies, books, Great Escape rooms?

When we study this way, the first questions are just exactly what the text says... not what we “think” it says. The answers are right there. It is often a good idea to look up words in a dictionary to help understand the word better. The **interpretive** questions ask what is the meaning of the passage and we can use other verses in the Bible to help us understand the passage or define words. The **application** questions are used to challenge us to reflect on how knowing this changes us.

Int= interpretive question App= application question

Please bring in your own questions as well .

Look up the passage in a concordance or study Bible to have the “Bible teach the Bible”.

Remember- the Amplified translation is in the back... but please use other translations

**V 15.** Looking back on Colossians 1:13- Who is the image of the invisible God...who is the “He”?

Int- What does the “image of God” mean? Look up the word “Manifestation” – see what the Amplified translation says. (in the back of the working copy)

Int-What does firstborn usually mean? Think of during these times what the firstborn child usually got (ex. Jacob and Esau) (extra study...Jesus came from the tribe of Judah... was Judah a firstborn?) They were first in rank and received everything from the father. (Jesus being a created being is a heresy and what many cults teach) See John 1:14-18 Psalm 89:27

**V16** Underline the phrase- **ALL THINGS** -you see in verses 16-20. What are the ALL THINGS?

Also look for what we call “prepositions” (little connecting words)... by, through, for, in ... and circle where you see these words connected with **HIM** (ex. by him)

Int- what do you notice or what do you think of as you notice these phrases? Romans 11:36, Hebrews 1:2

App- Are there times when you doubt who really is in charge and what is going on?

When have been those times when you see how life goes and just marvel on WHO is in charge... even in the smallest detail as we saw in Esther?

**V17** Int- see Hebrews 1:3- upholds the universe by the word of His **power**... who keeps the world going?

**V18** What other roles does Christ have? See the Amplified translation for “preeminent” **Heb. 1:4**

Are you noticing all the “Ands” ... thoughts?

**V19** What is God pleased to do?

(Ruth will do more on the attributes of God for next time and expand on “fullness” of God)

**V20** How are we reconciled? Who are we reconciled to? What is reconciled? What happens when we are reconciled? How are we reconciled?

Int- Look up the word “reconcile” Why do we need to be reconciled? ( see verse 21)

Think about the word “through” (using the idea of “through the door” ---how would you describe this idea here.)

Int- What is the peace we receive? Eph 2:14

Who took the initiative (came first) to reconcile believers? Romans 5:8

**V21** Who was alienated and hostile? (who was this letter written to) (Psalm 51:5, Romans 3:23. 9:26)

App- Why is it so difficult for people to admit to being a sinner... from birth? What are we saying when we say “People are basically good”? (Ligonier recently did a survey and 65% of Evangelicals believe we are born innocent- see [thestateoftheology.com](http://thestateoftheology.com))

**V22** How did Christ reconcile us?

Why did He do this (in order to=purpose)

Who are we presented to?

Int- What does above reproach mean? Romans 8:33-35

**App- Let us read Phil 2:5-11 and worship our Lord right now!!**

**V23** What do we need to do to stand blameless before Christ?

What is our hope?

Where did they get the gospel?

Where has it been proclaimed (creation here could be all creatures... people, nations)

What does Paul call himself? Int- Look up the word Minister?

App- How do we remain stable and steadfast. (you might want to look up those words) How do we keep from losing our hope? What encourages you in your walk in faith and what discourages you in your walk?

Int-The "if" can be confusing but see Phil 1:6, Hebrews 10:19-25. What other scriptures come to your mind?

Read the blessing found in Jude 24-25 out loud

**V24** What is Paul rejoicing? (James 1:2) Why is he suffering? How has Paul suffered? 2 Cor6:4-10 , 1 John 2:24-27

This section of verse 24 is very difficult to understand and is controversial. Here is an explanation by J. MacArthur "There are many in the world who still resent Jesus Christ and would persecute His name today. But Paul was saying, "Look, the world is still persecuting Jesus. They're not through with the affliction that is meant for Him. But He's not here. And so, because they can't get Him, they're getting me. And so, I have the great joy of suffering the blows meant for Christ who suffered the blows that should have been mine. I literally am filling up in my body what remains of the world's persecution of Jesus."

**V25** Who made Paul a minister? Who was he to minister to? Why was Paul given this stewardship?

Int- What is a steward or stewardship?

App- Who are you to steward?

Int- When was Paul given this stewardship? Acts 26:13-17

**V26** What was hidden for ages? Who is it revealed to? Mark 4:11

Int- Who do you think this mystery was hidden from (think OT) Romans 16:25-26

**V27** Who is the them?

What did God choose to do? And to Whom?

What is this mystery? (see Eph 2:6)

Because this mystery is revealed, what do we have?

**V28** Who is the Him?

What is Paul doing?

Why is he doing this?

Int- Who is the everyone ?

**V29** Int- What is the difference between toil and struggle?

Toil=

Struggle=

Whose energy does Paul have/use?

Int- What do other translations use for the word “energy”... (NLT for example )

App- Do you think the role of a Minister is to present the people that God gives him to shepherd to be mature in Christ? How would he do this?

**V2:1** What does Paul want these two churches plus others to know?

Int- Why would that be a struggle? (NLT says “agonized”)

**V2:2** What does he desire of their hearts?

What else does he desire? What does understanding give us?

What do we need to understand or know?

What is hidden in Christ? (Isa 11:2, 45:3, Ephesians 4:13-15)

Look up wisdom and knowledge. App- What is the difference? How do we get both?

Wisdom

Knowledge

App- Do you have the assurance of understanding of the gospel? What is assurance?

The false teachers threatening the Colossians claimed to possess a secret wisdom and transcendent knowledge available only to the spiritual elite. In sharp contrast, Paul declared that all the richness of truth necessary for salvation, sanctification, and glorification is found in Jesus Christ, who himself is God revealed. Cf. [John 1:14](#); [Rom. 11:33–36](#); [1 Cor. 1:24](#); [30](#); [2:6–8](#); [Eph. 1:8–9](#); [3:8–9](#). John MacArthur

**What does it mean to trust God? It means that in our lowest moments we will resolve to believe that what God says is true. It means that even in our darkest valleys we will determine to take God at his word. It means that even when we don't know what to do or where to go, we will look to God with faith and, as either an immediate instinct or a deliberate act of the will, anchor ourselves on the One who has promised that his every word proves true and reliable, that he will shelter and protect all those who run to him for refuge. Tim Challies**