



S U P R E M E



A Study on the Book of Colossians



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ABOUT THIS STUDY

Jesus is supreme!

He's greater than anything you have, love, trust in, hope for. When we realize this, He changes the way we think, live, love and enjoy life. He will transform our workplaces and our relationships.

Everything comes to life when it revolves around Him. When it doesn't, everything falls apart.

When Jesus is supreme: we think in ways that free us.

When Jesus is supreme: we live according to His ways, throwing off the things that kill and putting on life giving obedience.

When Jesus is supreme: we live in step with Him, deepening our joy and revealing Him to the world.

When Jesus is supreme: our relationships flourish, and every minute of every day takes on new purpose.

Enjoy getting to know our Savior in the book of Colossians, learning to live every minute and in every inch of our lives for Him.

Expect new joy to flow as every aspect of life is lived with and for our great God.

Follow the below schedule to study the passages on your own, and discuss what God is showing you together with your group. More Bible study resources can be found at thewellsilverspring.org/resources.

PERSONAL DAILY STUDY

Following the below process, prayerfully read the scheduled passage of scripture. Spend the entire week on the given section, slowly reading and rereading it in order to deeply, and accurately, interact with God. Also consider the below supplemental questions per each given week. You can also check out our other simple guides online for additional Bible study resources at thewellsilverspring.org/resources.

What Does It Say?

First, we ask: *“What does this say?”*

Read the passage a few times and carefully observe the words; give full attention to what it says. The purpose is to saturate in the content of the passage.

Look for things such as: important words (what’s being talked about), conjunctions (how is one idea connected to another), admonitions (something being commanded), contrasts, comparisons, illustrations, repeated phrases/ words, mood, and grammatical construction (verb tenses, prepositional phrases, etc.).

Linger here, listening to what God is saying in the detail of His words. Write down questions that the passage raises for you, things you don’t understand, ideas you’d like to pursue further.

What Does It Mean?

We now ask ourselves: *“What does it mean?”*

Use the observations you just gathered, the context of the section, and other passages of scripture to get at the meaning of what you have read.

Consider using [a commentary](#), the [GROW](#) or [SOAP](#) Bible study tools, the [ESV Study Bible](#) notes, or other resources to help.

Next, summarize the main truth you heard from God in His word.

Consider writing out the synthesized truth in your own words. Outline, diagram, draw, or flowchart the line of thought or main idea of the passage. What jumped out

So What?

Now we must ask: *“So what?”*

After meeting God in His word, we cannot ignore, or walk away unchanged. Why does the truth you heard matter to you today?

Is there something new to believe, cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there something for you to do (or not do) in response to what you have read?

Is there someone with whom to share this truth (believer or nonbeliever)?

Do not forget to apply the gospel for your forgiveness, and as the reason compelling your obedience:

Christ is enough!

He has forgiven you for _____
and He is the reason why we _____.

RESOURCES

Here are some good resources to consider when getting to know God and growing to live for Christ in the book of Colossians.

Bibles & Commentaries

English Standard Version (ESV) Study Bible

[Amazon](#) | [Christianbook.com](#)

The ESV Study Bible is a great resource - everyone should own one. Short commentary on each book of the Bible. You'll love this Bible for Colossians and any book you dig a little more into.

Colossians & Philemon For You

[Amazon](#) | [Christianbook.com](#)

Great, inexpensive, accessible commentary.

New International Version (NIV) Application Commentary

[Amazon](#) | [Christianbook.com](#)

Also wonderful, similar in great scholarship, accessible.

The Letters To The Colossians and To Philemon: Pillar New Testament Commentary

[Amazon](#) | [Christianbook.com](#)

Bit deeper, little more expensive, and wonderful.

Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible

[Amazon](#) | [Christianbook.com](#) | [PDF](#)

Solid resource, also available as a free pdf online.

Online Media

The Bible Project

[bibleproject.com](#)

Great resources for every book of the Bible, themes that flow through the scriptures, and theology in general.

Christian Classics Ethereal Library

[ccel.org](#)

Online resource pool with tons of resources, a little much to sort through, but many are helpful.

Precept Austin

[preceptaustin.org](#)

Online resource pool with tons of resources, a little much to sort through, but many are helpful.



Week 1

READ

The Book of Colossians; *twice*

QUESTIONS

Read through Colossians two times. What sticks out to you?

Any themes, events, phrases, etc. that jump out to you? Anything you don't understand, questions you have?

Consider reading the ESV Study Bible introduction/background or referencing one of the commentaries mentioned in the resources section.

Watch the Bible Project video for a helpful overview of Colossians as a whole.

SO WHAT?

Is there anything from the letter that struck you personally?

Is there anything in the letter that you think a friend of yours might benefit from hearing about?

What ideas, questions, etc. do you want to investigate a bit more in Colossians as you get to know God and pursue living more fully for Him?



Week 2

READ

Colossians 1:1-14

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What does Paul thank God for?

What does Paul pray for? How is it different or similar to your typical prayers?

How is the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done for us—explained and highlighted here?

SO WHAT?

Who is someone in your life that follows Jesus and has impacted who you are, or the cause of Christ?

Write some notes about them.
Consider thanking them.

What would change in your life if Paul's prayer was answered for you?

What can you pray for someone in your life?
Pray it for them now.



Week 3

READ

Colossians 1:15-2:5

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What traits are highlighted about Christ?

What are the things that Jesus has done, as listed in this passage?

What terms are confusing? Pursue their understanding through context and using the below commentaries for insights.

How would you summarize this passage? Consider writing a sentence summary.

How does who Jesus is (1:15-23) impact how Paul lives (1:24-29)?

How does who Jesus is create a new community (2:1-5)? Describe the community and what marks it.

SO WHAT?

What do you treasure more than Christ? How do you know this?

What would it look like in your life to not love this thing or person *less*, but to love Christ *more*?

Consider writing out areas of your life that you can bring under the rule of Jesus. What things must you do differently?

How would you describe your relationship with Christ's family, the church? What would change if 2:1-5 were more true for your life in relationship with other believers? What is a tangible next step in relationship you can take? Take that step.



Week 4

READ

Colossians 2:6-15

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What are the main problems being addressed in this passage?

What has Christ done, as listed in this passage?

How does who Christ is, and what He has done, impact what we are to believe and/or not believe?

SO WHAT?

What empty philosophies do you believe?

Are there things that you believe that are contrary to what the scripture teaches? How do you reconcile these things?

How does Jesus's actions (*specifically as listed in the passage*) impact your ability to trust and believe Him, even in areas you are having a hard time believing what is true?

What is your next intellectual step towards believing what is true about Jesus and what He teaches?



Week 5

READ

Colossians 2:16-23

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What are the main problems being addressed in this passage?

How does Paul answer the problems being addressed in this passage?

SO WHAT?

Where do you see legalism in the church? The world? Your life?

How does the gospel impact both free us and bind us?

What ways do you need to let go of other people's actions or beliefs?

In what ways do you need forgive yourself as you have been forgiven? How does this impact your obedience to Christ?



Week 6

READ

Colossians 3:1-17

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

List the negative things that are to be put off / forgotten / left behind.

List the positive things that are to be put on / taken on / added to.

What is most important, and how does it manifest itself in the life of the believer and church?

How does v. 17 give a paradigm for the Christian life in all of life, work, relationships, etc.?

SO WHAT?

What specific ways does this passage convict you? Try to get behind the sin and understand your motivation for disobedience in this area.

How does the gospel meet and answer this area of sin and its motivation? What is the bad news? What is the good news?

How does the gospel compel obedience in this area of your life? What would you put on and live like in response to the gospel?

How can the community of the church help you in this area of your life?



Week 7

READ

Colossians 3:18-4:1

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What roles are listed and how are they described?
What is commanded for each role?

How would you summarize what is happening in this passage?

SO WHAT?

If you are a spouse, what convicts or encourages you?

If you are a parent, what convicts or encourages you?

If you are single, what convicts or encourages you?

If you are employed, what convicts or encourages you?

Where do you need to be steadfast and immovable?
Where do you need to work for the Lord with more delight or diligence?



Week 8

READ

Colossians 3:22-4:1, 4:8-9, the book of Philemon

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

In this context, what is like and unlike the slavery we think of from an American context?

How do verses 4:1, 8-9 shed light on our new relationships in Christ, and how injustice (including indentured servitude) is transformed in Christ?

How does the book of Philemon shed light on what Paul is instructing, and how this dismantles all systems of slavery, favoritism, and inequality?

SO WHAT?

How would you answer the statement that the Bible does not refute / eradicate slavery?

How does the Bible go beyond simply removing all kinds of slavery? How are new relationships described in Christ?

Explain how and why justice is given and sought from a Christian perspective.



Week 9

READ

Colossians 4:1-6

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What is commanded in this passage?

In what ways is a door opened for the gospel?

SO WHAT?

What compels you to share the gospel?

What commands in this passage are specifically convicting you?

How does the gospel answer these convictions, and how does it impact your desire to change, and to share?



Week 10

READ

Colossians 4:7-18

QUESTIONS

Go through the personal study process from page 3 for this week's passage:

What does it say?

What does it mean?

So what?

What people are listed? How are they described? Consider using the resource tools, particularly the ESV Study Bible, to find more about each of their stories.

How would you summarize why this passage is in the scriptures? What does it teach us about the church and the gospel?

SO WHAT?

Who are you grateful for, and how have they impacted your life? Consider calling, writing, or texting them to let them know this.

Who are you pouring into, that their life is being changed because they are getting to know Christ more because of you?

If you are not intentionally investing your life in other believers, how can you change this? What is the barrier and what will you do to overcome it?

TOGETHER WITH YOUR 3D GROUP

Use the following format to discuss the passage together in your 3D group. You'll find the specific supplementary questions for the scripture passages

in the above schedule. You can also find the full details for 3D discussion in our [3D Meeting Guide](#). Here is a summary:

Bible

First, discuss the Bible passage from the week:

- 1 What does the passage say? What jumps out to you? What key ideas, commands, promises, words, ideas, etc, struck you this week?
- 2 How would you summarize the main truth from the section? How might this inform your thinking and shape the way we are to live?
- 3 Where is the gospel connected to this truth? What does this highlight about who we are, or about who God is?

Life

Share about how this truth impacts your life today:

For you today, why does this specifically matter?

Is there something God calling you to obey in response to His word?

Is there something you need to do or not do? Something to believe, promise to cling to, or a sin to confess?

Is there someone to share this truth with?

Prayer

Pray throughout your time together.

Offer praises to God when something encouraging is shared; ask for help from God as challenges are shared.

Close in prayer.

Spend time to respond to God's truth in the scriptures and from your conversation.

Praise Him.

Confess sin to Him.

Thank Him.

Ask Him for His power and provision.