

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT

Colossians

COLOSSIANS

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT

© 1989, 1997, 2000 Precept Ministries International. All rights reserved.
This material is published by and is the sole property of Precept Ministries International of Chattanooga, Tennessee. No part of this publication may be reproduced, translated, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, ©1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, and 1977 by the Lockman Foundation, and are used by permission.

3rd edition
Printed in the United States of America

LESSONS

PAGE	1	LESSON ONE: Overview
PAGE	19	LESSON TWO: Observation Worksheet on Colossians 1
PAGE	25	LESSON THREE: Colossians 1:1-14
PAGE	35	LESSON FOUR: Colossians 1:15-17
PAGE	43	LESSON FIVE: Colossians 1:18-29
PAGE	55	LESSON SIX: Observation Worksheet on Colossians 2
PAGE	57	LESSON SEVEN: Colossians 2:1-8
PAGE	71	LESSON EIGHT: Colossians 2:9-15
PAGE	85	LESSON NINE: Colossians 2:16-23, Observation Worksheet on Colossians 3
PAGE	95	LESSON TEN: Colossians 3:1-4
PAGE	105	LESSON ELEVEN: Colossians 3:1-17, Observation Worksheet on Colossians 4
PAGE	117	LESSON TWELVE: Colossians 3:18-4:18

APPENDIX

PAGE	137	Observation Worksheets
PAGE	149	The Lord Jesus Christ as Portrayed in Colossians
PAGE	151	Gnosticism

EPILOGUE

PAGE	153	About Precept Ministries
------	-----	---------------------------------

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY

How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994.

Greek Word Study Tools

Commentaries on Colossians

(See commentary list below.)

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

BAXTER, J. SIDLOW

Explore the Book

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1960.

KENT, JR., HOMER A.; VAUGHAN CURTIS; AND RUPPRECHT, AUTHOR A.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

WRIGHT, N. T.

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Colossians and Philemon

Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1987.

LESSON ONE

Overview

THIS LESSON
INCORPORATES

Observation Worksheets on Colossians, located in the Appendix

Colossians is filled with rich and abundant treasures of truth — treasures that will free us from spiritual starvation and keep us from error if we will only give ourselves to diligent and careful study.

Some have called Colossians one of Paul’s most profound but difficult writings. They are right! Yet do you know of anything of great value which is not costly? Even salvation, which is free to man, cost God His Son. Valuable things are not usually attained without cost. Even our salvation, which is free, costs our total commitment to it! That is why in Luke 14:25-33 our Lord calls us to count the cost before we decide to become His followers.

As you begin this twelve-week course on the book of Colossians, stop and count the cost. If you don’t do it now, you will not be prepared for Satan’s subtle allurements, devices, distractions, deceptions, and discouragements which will slip in to keep you from completing this study. The message of Colossians exposes what is going on in Christianity today and causes you to focus on the source of all of life; therefore, the enemy of your soul wants to keep you ignorant of the wonderful mystery revealed in this book.

Just realize and be prepared for the fact that your study will not go unchallenged. It will cost you discipline, time, and commitment. You will find your mind challenged as you wrestle with the deep, precious, and profound truths of this book. Therefore, you must count the cost now.

Are you prepared to give yourself each week to a minimum of five hours of deep study of the Word? Are you going to redeem your time as God admonishes you to do in Ephesians 5:15-16? Are you prepared to say no to those activities and desires that would keep you from your homework or class attendance? Have you looked at your calendar and blocked out the time you need to complete this course? Are you willing to forego some pleasures of

this world for the treasures of His Word? To what degree do you want to obey God by studying to show yourself approved unto Him so that you won't be ashamed when you see Him face-to-face? Are you willing to dig out the truths of God's Word inductively so that you know that you know, not because someone has spoon-fed you predigested food but because you have learned to feed yourself?

Our time is short. How we need to be prepared and equipped for the days ahead so that we will no longer "be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but . . . grow up in all *aspects* into Him, who is the head, *even Christ*" (Ephesians 4:14-15).

Beloved, will you stop and prayerfully seek God's will and word to you now? Count the cost now. Consider what we have said, and then make your commitment. Write it in the form of a prayer. It will be beneficial to come back to it! I have done it and God has used it.

MY COMMITMENT BEFORE GOD TO THIS STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

DAY
ONE

If you have not carefully read the introduction to this lesson, please do not go any further until you have done so. Even if you are a Precept student of long standing, this is essential. The introductions are important to the lesson. Like the rest of the course, the introductions are prayerfully written and serve a vital purpose in the course as they either set the tone for the lesson or prepare you for what lies ahead.

And what a study lies before us! However, it is a study that must be done properly if it is to be appreciated and understood in truth. So bear with us as we take you step-by-step, precept by precept. As you study, you will find that the insights you gain and lay down in these first weeks will soon become the foundation for a magnificent structure of spiritual reality, a mansion of truth in which you can securely dwell!

Also, please do not consult any commentaries and do not read the study helps in your Bible at this point in your study. To do so would not only spoil your joy of discovery but it could color your thinking in a way contrary to the message of the book if the commentator is off center in his understanding of Colossians. Allow the Holy Spirit an opportunity to show you what He can teach you!

1. Always begin with prayer, asking God to guide you into His truth (John 16:13). Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding that you might behold wondrous things out of His Word.
2. If you have never done a Precept course before, read the chapters entitled “The Rule of Context — Context Rules!” and “Getting the Big Picture” in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*.

The purpose of this first lesson is to discover the context of the book of Colossians. Since context always rules in interpretation and since Scripture must always be interpreted in light of its context, the first step in your study of any book of the Bible is to begin with the **Overview**, the view of the entire book, to discover the context.

The process for determining the context is to look at the **obvious** things that are mentioned in a particular book of the Bible. As we teach in our nationwide Institute of Training,¹ there are three things that are always obvious, easy to see: people, places, and events. If you will begin by observing the obvious, then the things within a book that are not easy to see or understand will become clearer as your study stays focused on the obvious. As you do that, you will get a good understanding of the context, which in turn will help in your interpretation of the unclear, obscure, and difficult to understand parts of any book.

¹Every child of God should attend these institutes. They will revolutionize your relationship to the Word of God and also serve as an equipping school for the work of ministry God has for you. For more information, contact Precept Ministries International, P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422, 800-763-8280. www.precept.org.

3. Since Colossians is a letter, the place to begin your study is with the author because he is the first person mentioned in this book. In the introduction to this lesson we mentioned that the author is Paul; however, you need to see this for yourself in the text of Colossians.

To do this, read through Colossians and mark with a specific color or colored symbol each mention of the author's name and the pronouns that refer specifically to him, such as "I," "me," "my." At the beginning of this letter and also in chapter 4 you will notice that the author uses plural pronouns, such as "we" and "us," so it will be important to mark these also. However, Colossians 1:23 shows you from the text exactly who it is that is writing or dictating this epistle.

Use the Observation Worksheets, located in the Appendix, for every assignment. These are what the title implies: worksheets for you to do your work on. They are simply the entire text of Colossians printed double-spaced from the New American Standard Bible. We encourage you to do your work on them, and at a later date you might want to transfer some of your study notes to your Bible.²

4. Read all of the directions for this assignment before you begin.
 - a. Read all four chapters of Colossians again, using your marked Observation Worksheets. As you read, look carefully at each place you marked the author to see if it answers one of the following **5 Ws and an H** (who, what, when, where, why, how) kinds of questions that uniquely describe the author.
 - b. If one of the questions is answered, write the answer in the appropriate chapter column on the "People in Colossians" chart, located on page 15. Use the same color-code you used to mark the author on your Observation Worksheet.

Who is the author?

What does he say specifically about himself?

What are his circumstances?

Where is he?

Why is he there? **What** does this tell you about the times in which he is writing?

²*The International Inductive Study Bible* is ideal for this. It is the best study Bible on the market because it doesn't tell you what the text means. Rather, it gives you instructions for studying each book of the Bible in addition to many other valuable study aids.

What does he say that he does?

What is his relationship to the recipients as far as the gospel is concerned?

What are the author's concerns for the recipients?

The following is an example of how to list the answers on the chart:

PEOPLE IN COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ 1:3 Gives thanks for them 1:3, 9 prays always for them			

As illustrated above, note the verse location and be brief in your answers. If you will train yourself to use words right out of the Bible, in the process of writing and reading you will be putting into your mind and heart the very Word of God. It is best to use His words and not paraphrase or put it into your own words because, according to 2 Timothy 3:16, every word is God-breathed. Why use your words when you have His words which are alive, powerful, and a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of our hearts!

As you go through the book of Colossians, you will notice that some questions will be answered in more than one place in the text and some verses may answer more than one of the questions. On the other hand, some of the references you marked in the first assignment may not answer any of the questions. If it does not answer one of the **5 Ws and an H**, don't record it.

- In the space provided for the historical setting on the "Colossians at a Glance" chart, located on page 17, note what you observed regarding the times in which this letter was written.

As you complete your study this week, you will fill in all the information asked for on this chart. Then, whenever you need to see the book of Colossians "at a glance," you will have this chart for a reference. If you have *The International Inductive Study*

DAY
TWO

Today our focus will be on the recipients of this letter that Paul wrote. As you look at the description of them, you might see a description of yourself and/or of people who are close to you, maybe in your church. In the process you will also see the warnings Paul gives to the recipients of this letter. Therefore, as you begin, ask God to show you the relevance of Colossians to believers today.

1. Using your Observation Worksheets, read all of Colossians and mark each mention of the recipients with a different color or colored symbol from the one you used for the author. Also be sure to mark any pronouns that refer specifically to them, such as “you,” “your,” “who,” “whom,” and mark any synonyms for them, like “brethren.”
2. Read through Colossians again.

This time, since you have already marked the references to the recipients, write in the appropriate column on your “People in Colossians” chart the answers to the following **5 Ws and an H** (who, what, when, where, why, how) kinds of questions that uniquely describe the recipients. As you make this list, be sure to code it in the same way you marked the recipients on your Observation Worksheets. Also, remember to use words directly from the text, be brief, and record the verse from which you took your information.

Who are the recipients?

Where are they?

How does the author specifically describe them?

What are the author’s concerns for the recipients?

What problems do they seem to be dealing with?

The following is an example of how to list the answers on the chart:

PEOPLE IN COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ 1:3 Gives thanks for them 1:3, 9 prays always for them <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> 1:2 saints & faithful brethren in Christ at Colossae 1:4-5 have faith, hope, love 1:5-6 heard & understood the gospel			

Listing the facts **in color** on a chart like this will help you see the repetition of truths in the book.

3. Review the chart and evaluate what you learned about the recipients.
 - a. Did you see anything about the Colossians that gives you insight into the historical setting, the times in which this letter was written? If so, record it under “Historical Setting” on your “Colossians at a Glance” chart.
 - b. What word do you see that continues to be repeated in Colossians?
 - c. Why was there a need for Paul to write to the believers in Colossae? In other words, what is the author’s purpose in writing?

DAY
THREE

As you read through the book of Colossians and listed the facts about the author and recipients on the “People in Colossians” chart, you probably were awed at the truths about Christ that fill this book. Did it ignite a longing to understand more about Him? Well, today you are going to take a closer look at these wonderful truths about our Lord Jesus Christ. As you do your study today, turn it into an act of worship to the Father for the Son.

1. On your “People in Colossians” chart, using a color or colored symbol, mark in a distinctive way every mention of the word “Christ.” Also mark any pronouns and synonyms that refer to Him.

The word “Christ” is used throughout the book. He holds a place of prominence in understanding this book; therefore, Christ is a **key word** for this book.

Discovering key words unlocks the meaning of the text. A key word might be a noun, a descriptive word, or an action word. As you observe key words and phrases, they help you identify the author’s repeated emphasis, the theme of the book, and how he will accomplish his purpose in conveying his message.

2. Now read through the entire book of Colossians again. (There is no substitute for repeated, purposeful readings of the book as a whole.)
 - a. Mark on your Observation Worksheets the key word “Christ” and other synonyms (names) and pronouns which refer to the Lord Jesus Christ. Mark these with the same color or colored symbol you used on your “People in Colossians” chart.
 - b. As you mark these words, list the answers to the following questions in the appropriate chapter column on your “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart, located on page 16. Write the answers on your chart in the same color you used to mark the references in the text. List the answers in verse order.

What is this telling me about who Jesus Christ is?

What is this showing me about what He has done?

What is this explaining about the relationship of the Father to the Son?

What is this revealing about the relationship of the believer to Jesus Christ and to God?

The following is an example of how to list the answers on the chart:

KEY WORD, WARNINGS, AND INSTRUCTIONS

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4
1:3 Lord 1:3, 13 Son of God 1:13 Has a kingdom 1:14 In Him is redemption 1:14 In Him is forgiveness of sins			

- Record the key word “Christ” on your “Colossians at a Glance” chart.
- Now review, chapter by chapter, the facts that you have listed on your “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart. Categorically, what is emphasized about Christ in each chapter? For example, is the emphasis on what He has done, or who He is, or what the Colossian believers have in Him? Record the emphasis for each chapter at the bottom of the chapter column.

Marking words and making lists can seem like academic exercises, but do you see what you have learned these three days about who our Lord is, who we are in Him, what Christ has done for us, and what we are to do because of Him? Because this study takes you directly to the Word of God, you have the opportunity to know for yourself what God says. Thank your Lord for all that He is and has done. Or if you really don’t have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ based on His conditions, not yours, then ask Him to reveal Himself to you. He reveals Himself to those who search for Him with their whole heart.

DAY FOUR

Today you are going to see even more exciting truths in Colossians. Even though the saints at Colossae were described as growing and grounded, they were warned about certain things. As you study today, think about these warnings and how we might apply them in our own times. God’s Word is always relevant to today.

As you studied these last three days, you probably noticed that Paul repeatedly uses warnings to cause the Colossian believers to see how they are in danger of forgetting who Christ is. You will notice that Paul often uses instructions, clear commands to do something, to urge them to live according to the reality of who they are in Christ. What good reminders these are to us!

DAY
FIVE

1. Our task today is to determine the main theme of the book of Colossians.
 - a. We have already determined that the most repeated key word in Colossians is “Christ.” Therefore, the main theme of Colossians is Christ. So your next assignment is to go over the list you made about Christ on your “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart. Look for a word other than Christ that is repeated in this list, a word that gives insight into who Christ is and what you are in Him. Hint: this repeated word summarizes **everything** about Christ. Mark that word and any synonyms that go with it in a distinctive way as these words occur on your chart.
 - b. Now, keeping in mind the key repeated word you just saw, see if you can find a statement from Colossians on your chart that serves as a summary statement about who Christ is. Then look for another statement that summarizes our status in Him.

As you determine the theme of Colossians, keep in mind the purpose of the book and remember, the theme should be based on an objective evaluation of what the author emphasized through repetition, not just a subjective leaning toward what ministered the most to you.

Be sure your summary statement comes from the text of Colossians.

- c. Record the theme of Colossians at the top of your “Colossians at a Glance” chart.
2. The next step is to identify a statement from the “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart for each chapter that best summarizes the theme of the chapter and which supports the book theme.
 - a. Read through chapter 1 looking for a statement that best summarizes the theme of that chapter.

As you consider the theme, refer back to the “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart that you completed. Evaluate those facts recorded in the column for chapter 1.

Determine what is the most inclusive statement in chapter 1 that would summarize the theme of this chapter and also relate to the theme of Colossians. To do this, answer these questions: What is the emphasis in chapter 1? Does chap-

ter 1 emphasize who Christ is, what we have/are in Him, the warnings or the instructions? Keep this emphasis in mind as you determine the theme, then record this on the “Colossians at a Glance” chart.

- b. Following the same process, read chapters 2–4 one at a time and identify the summary statements which express the themes of these chapters. Note how they relate to the theme of Colossians and then write each in the appropriate column on the “Colossians at a Glance” chart.
3. When studying inductively, it is often helpful to see the author’s plan/structure of his message by looking for any segments in the book. For more information about segments, read the section “Identify Clearly Defined Segments” of “Getting the Big Picture” in *How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept*.

If you’ve used colors in creating the “Key Word, Warnings, and Instructions” chart, look at the chart to see if there is a distinct break or change in dominant colors between chapters. This change in dominant colors will indicate a segment division. Where is this change? Write below a description of the primary emphasis in each of the segment divisions that you see.

4. Fill in any other information necessary to complete the “Colossians at a Glance” chart.
5. How has God spoken to you through your study this week? Record it in the space below.

Well, you are on your way. Remember your commitment to our Father regarding this study and keep it as unto the Lord.

PEOPLE IN COLOSSIANS

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4

KEY WORD, WARNINGS, AND INSTRUCTIONS

Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapter 3	Chapter 4

COLOSSIANS AT A GLANCE

Book Theme:

	Chapter Themes:	Segment Divisions
Author:	1	
Key Words:	2	
Purpose:	3	
Historical Setting:	4	

COLOSSIANS 1
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

¶ 3 We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel,

6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;

7 just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,

8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

¶ 9 For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

-
- 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
- 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
- 13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,
- 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
- 15 And He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation.
- 16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him.
- 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.
- 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.
- 19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him,
- 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.
- 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds,
- 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach —
- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

- ¶ 24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body (which is the church) in filling up that which is lacking in Christ's afflictions.
- 25 *Of this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, that I might fully carry out the *preaching of the word of God,*
- 26 *that is,* the mystery which has been hidden from the *past* ages and generations; but has now been manifested to His saints,
- 27 to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- 28 And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.
- 29 And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

COLOSSIANS 2
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

FOR I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf, and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,

2 that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*,

3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with persuasive argument.

5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

¶ 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk in Him,

7 having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

¶ 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

9 For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;

11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ;

- 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- 13 And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,
- 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us *and* which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.
- 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- ¶ 16 Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day —
- 17 things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.
- 18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on *visions* he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
- 19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.
- ¶ 20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
- 21 “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”
- 22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with the using) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

- 23 These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

COLOSSIANS 3
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- IF then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.
- 3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
- ¶ 5 Therefore consider the members of your earthly body as dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.
- 6 For it is on account of these things that the wrath of God will come,
- 7 and in them you also once walked, when you were living in them.
- 8 But now you also, put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.
- 9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,
- 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him
- 11 — *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all.
- ¶ 12 And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
- 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

- 14 And beyond all these things *put on* love, which is the perfect bond of unity.
- 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- 16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.
- 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.
- ¶ 18 Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
- 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be embittered against them.
- 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
- 21 Fathers, do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart.
- 22 Slaves, in all things obey those who are your masters on earth, not with external service, as those who *merely* please men, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
- 23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;
- 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.
- 25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

COLOSSIANS 4
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

MASTERS, grant to your slaves justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.

- ¶ 2 Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of thanksgiving*;
- 3 praying at the same time for us as well, that God may open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned;
- 4 in order that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
- 5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity.
- 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned, *as it were*, with salt, so that you may know how you should respond to each person.
- ¶ 7 As to all my affairs, Tychicus, *our* beloved brother and faithful servant and fellow bond-servant in the Lord, will bring you information.
- 8 For I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know *about* our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts;
- 9 and with him Onesimus, *our* faithful and beloved brother, who is one of your *number*. They will inform you about the whole situation here.
- ¶ 10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and *also* Barnabas' cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him);
- 11 and *also* Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision; and they have proved to be an encouragement to me.

-
- 12 Epaphras, who is one of your number, a bonds slave of Jesus Christ, sends you his greetings, always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers, that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
- 13 For I bear him witness that he has a deep concern for you and for those who are in Laodicea and Hierapolis.
- 14 Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and *also* Demas.
- 15 Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea and also Nympha and the church that is in her house.
- 16 And when this letter is read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and you, for your part read my letter *that is coming* from Laodicea.
- 17 And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”
- ¶ 18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.