



ROOTED

A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

For a tree to grow and mature, its roots need to be sunk deeply and firmly beneath the ground. Those roots provide two things for the tree—stability and nourishment. The two things it needs to sustain life. In the book of Colossians, Paul says that Christians must be rooted and built up in Christ. He is the only one who can provide both stability and nourishment.

Colossians gives us the single, most concentrated teaching on the theology of Christ. Jesus is the answer for everything. He is supreme. He is sufficient. He is the one who has saved us from sin and changed us into new, living creatures. We have a new life because of Him. Paul wrote this book to make sure the church had a clear view of who Jesus is because that would lead to an expanding faith and an overflow of heartfelt obedience to Christ. If you are looking for ways to grow in your faith and become more rooted in Christ – this series is for you!

Together we will do a deep dive into the book of Colossians. Each day you will be challenged to look at only a couple of verses and wrestle with the meaning of the text and application for your life.

I pray that this journey will deepen your intimacy with Jesus as well as allowing your faith to become ROOTED as a follower of Christ.

-Pastor Derek

COLOSSIANS AT-A-GLANCE

AUTHORSHIP

- There are two senders, Paul and Timothy. However, the main author is Paul; Timothy was sending his greeting as Paul's coworker and possibly his scribe.
- It was probably written c. A.D. 62, while Paul was in prison in Rome (Acts 27-28).
- Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Colossae, even though he had never been to their city (Colossians 2:1).

THE CHURCH IN COLOSSAE

- The church at Colossae was likely established during Paul's third missionary journey as he ministered for three years in Ephesus. Paul did not personally plant the church there; a Colossian native named Epaphras traveled to Ephesus, responded to Paul's gospel message, returned to share the good news in Colossae, and ultimately, established the church there.
- At the time of Paul's writing, a dangerous heresy was threatening the church at Colossae. The heresy was some combination of hyper-legalistic Judaism and Gnosticism that suggested salvation could only come through a special knowledge or enlightenment and not the cross.

MAIN THEMES

- The main theme of this book is the Lordship of Jesus Christ and His sufficiency in meeting our needs in every area. Paul shows the complete supremacy of Christ while pointing out the emptiness of human philosophies.
- A secondary theme is to encourage the Colossian Christians in their growth toward spiritual maturity. In the second half of the book, Paul addresses many areas of Christian life – from the individual life and the home and family, to work and the way we should treat others.

NAME: _____

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*This devotional book is based on the
ROOTED sermon series at Grace Church.
You can find an archive of the series at
whoisgrace.com/sermons.*

PRO TIP: Sign up for Right Now Media. It's a free resource for Grace Church attenders that is full of Bible studies, great group studies, and videos. RNM has a great intro to Colossians. If you don't have a Right Now Media account, let us help you get set up with this amazing free resource. Email sarah@whoisgrace.com to get access!

INTRODUCTORY DEVOTION:

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Each day's devotion will follow a similar pattern: a short passage of scripture to read, a series of questions to take you deeper into the text, and a section called "Make it Personal" where you will be encouraged to ... well ... make it personal – apply what you learned to your real life. There will also be a key verse to memorize each week. In addition, each day you should begin and end your time with a simple prayer of surrender. Something like: "You are my Father, I am your child. Speak to me now through your Word. Fill me now with your Holy Spirit."

Before any of that, will you make some decisions about finding your chair throughout this study?

O COMMIT TO FINDING YOUR CHAIR:

Where is your chair located? _____
What kind of setting will you create? (candles, worship music, favorite beverage, etc.) _____
What time of day will you commit to find your chair on Monday through Friday during the next seven weeks? _____

Today, on the first day of this journey into Colossians, consider some background information. This letter was written by Paul from prison to a specific group of people. It would have been read in a public setting to the entire church. At the same time, this letter has been inspired and preserved for you and me as a message from God. So today, read through the entire letter to the Colossians in one sitting. You may want to read it aloud, and try to gather some general impressions of Paul's theme and tone.

O WATCH: How to Read the Bible: Colossians (in Right Now Media* – 9 min long)

O READ: Colossians

How would you describe Paul's tone in this letter? What was his approach to their lifestyle and problems?

What seem to be Paul's main reasons for writing this letter?

O QUESTIONS:

Did you come across any questions that you'd like answered as you go deeper into this study? Write down your questions here:

WEEK 1 | **A MODEL PRAYER**

USE THIS SPACE FOR SERMON NOTES AND ANYTHING ELSE DURING THE SERVICE THAT YOU WANT TO RECORD AND REMEMBER. LATER TODAY, TAKE 5-10 MINUTES TO REFLECT ON TODAY'S EXPERIENCE.



**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 12:15PM EST**
FOR FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH PASTOR DEREK



**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOISGRACE"
ON SPOTIFY

DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

Summarize these 11 verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6

DAY 2 | THE SENT ONES

READ COLOSSIANS 1:1-2

Paul identifies himself as the author of this letter and as an apostle. Compare and contrast Paul's introduction here with how he introduced himself in other New Testament letters (Romans 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 1:1, Galatians 1:1, Ephesians 1:1, 1 Timothy 1:1, and Titus 1:1).

How did he obtain the title of apostle? (See Colossians 1:1 and Galatians 1:1)

In verse 2, what two descriptions does Paul use to refer to the Christians in Colossae?

The word "saints" or "holy" comes from a Greek word *hagios*, which literally means "different, set apart, distinct." The Christian is *hagios* because he or she is different from other people. What are some ways Christians are called to be "set apart" today?

Paul also calls them "faithful brothers." What are some other words he could have used that are synonymous with "faithful"? Would these words also describe you?

Notice in verse 2 Paul gives these believers two addresses—they are "in Christ" and "at Colossae." All Christians are dual citizens. We have an earthly address, and we also dwell in Christ. What are some examples of when our Christian citizenship will take precedence over our earthly citizenship?

The salutation ends with words of blessing "grace to you and peace." What is the difference between grace and peace?

"Grace will save you; peace will make you know that you are saved." – Charles Spurgeon

MAKE IT PERSONAL

In essence, an apostle is a "sent one"! And, even though Paul had a specific title role as apostle, aren't we all "sent ones"? You have been sent to your neighborhood, workplace, city, and home as an ambassador of Christ. Write the name of someone who God has sent you on a mission to reach:

Now, pray for that person and that God would open doors for you to reach him or her.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6

DAY 3 | FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:3-8

In verse 3, what attitude was the foundation for Paul’s prayers for this church?

Paul admires the people of Colossae for their faith, hope, and love. What do you learn from 1:3-8 about:

o Faith?

o Hope?

o Love?

In verse 6, Paul says that the gospel has been “bearing fruit and increasing.” What was necessary before the gospel could bear fruit and increase within the Colossians? (v. 6)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

In a spirit of thankfulness, write down some reasons that you are grateful for the community of faith that you are a part of (church, ministry, life group, etc.)

Paul says that all over the world the gospel is “bearing fruit and increasing.” Has the gospel been bearing fruit and increasing in your life since the day you heard and believed? Is it growing now? How can you tell?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6

DAY 4 | WALK WORTHY

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:9-10A

What do you suppose Paul meant by “we have not ceased praying for you” in verse 9? (They obviously weren’t praying for them 24/7.)

Is there anyone/anything in your life that you pray for like that?

What are the three things in verse 9 that Paul has been praying for on behalf of the Colossians?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Verse 10 contains the anticipated outcome of these prayers – what do you think they each of them means?

- o Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- o Be fully pleasing to Him

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Even though Paul had never met the Colossians, he appears to have a strong commitment to their growing faith, evidenced by his unceasing prayers for them. Why is it important for Christians to pray for each other?

Pick two fellow Christians, and pray that they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6

DAY 5 | A LIFE PLEASING TO GOD

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:10-14

From the end of verse 10 to the beginning of verse 12, Paul gives a list of four qualities of a life that pleases the Lord. Complete the phrases from the text:

- o Bearing _____ (:10)
- o Increasing _____ (:10)
- o Being _____ (:11)
- o Giving _____ (:12)

How does this description of a life that’s pleasing to God compare with the list of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23? How does one passage help you understand the other?

Verses 13-14 provide a succinct explanation of the gospel. In your own words, summarize these verses, and describe what Jesus has done for His people.

Describe one attitude or action in your own life that has changed since you have been “delivered ...from darkness” and “transferred...into the kingdom of light.”

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Consider for a moment what you typically offer in prayer to God both for yourself and for others. How does the content of your prayer differ from Paul’s in verses 9-12?

Of the four qualities of a life that pleases the Lord, which stands out most as something you desire to see God develop more in your life? What is a next step you can take to further develop that quality?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6

WEEK 1 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The beginning of a new study is a good time to get to know one another and encourage the honest sharing of ideas and common purpose. Talk about what each member hopes to get out of this study of Colossians.

Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

In this section, we learn about a group of people who received the gospel and are being challenged to grow and bear fruit. How has the gospel of Jesus Christ impacted your life? When did you first hear it and from whom?

Paul says that all over the world the gospel is “bearing fruit and increasing.” Has the gospel been bearing fruit and increasing in your life since the day you heard and believed? Is it growing now? How can you tell? How do you measure this?

Paul’s deep commitment to prayer is evident in this passage. When your prayer life is going well, what have you found that works? What insights did you learn about prayer? How can you help one another to improve the way you pray for one another?

Which of the four components of a ‘life that is pleasing to God’ from Day 5 was most challenging for you? Why?

Express to one another some of the things in your life that you are most thankful for. Use these things as a springboard to close the meeting in prayer.

CHALLENGE: WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6

WEEK 2 | JESUS IS ENOUGH

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**YOUR PLAYLIST
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DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

Summarize these nine verses in your own words.

What qualities, attributes or titles of Jesus does Paul mentions in this section? List all you can find.

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

When we read a description like this we should do two things 1) confess how short we fall of Christ's righteousness, and 2) worship Jesus for who He is.

CONFESS: Paul says that Jesus is preeminent, or supreme, in all things. What do you think it means for Jesus to be supreme in all things (e.g., life, career, finances, marriage, family, relationships, hobbies, etc.)? What thing are you regularly tempted to make more important than God? Confess this to Him.

WORSHIP: Write your own list of three to four qualities or attributes of Jesus. Spend time with each one, worshiping Him for who He is.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

DAY 2 | THE IMAGE OF GOD

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-16

What does it mean that Jesus is the “image” of God?

How do the following passages shed light on to that truth?

- o Gen 1:26-27

- o John 1:18

- o Romans 1:22-23; 8:29

- o 1 Corinthians 15:49

- o 2 Corinthians 3:18

- o Colossians 3:10

- o Hebrews 1:1-3

The phrase “firstborn of all creation” in verse 15 is often misused by certain cults to suggest that Jesus is not God but simply a created being like the rest of us. But the word for “firstborn” here quite often signifies priority in importance or rank rather than birth order. Verse 16 and following goes on to prove that Jesus was the creator not the created.

Why is it important that we have a visible image of an invisible God?

According to verse 16, what kinds of things did Jesus create?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Think of a good Christian friend. How does he or she reflect God’s image (albeit imperfectly) or some of God’s attributes? How does Christ reflect God more completely than your friend?

Take the opportunity to send a note or a text to encourage your friend about the ways that you see God’s image and attributes in them.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

DAY 3 | THE SUSTAINER AND HEAD

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:17-18

What do you think it means that in Jesus “...all things hold together”? List some specific things that are held together by Jesus.

A body can survive without an arm or an ear or a kidney. But a body can't survive without a head. What does it mean that Jesus is the “head of the body, the church”? What function(s) does a head provide for the body?

Why is it important for Jesus to always be acknowledged as the leader of the church?

Verse 18 says that Jesus is “firstborn from the dead.” This simply means that He is the most important of all who have been raised from the dead. Another way to phrase this would be, ‘of all who have ever been raised or ever will be raised, Christ has first rank!’ Because, without His resurrection, there could be no resurrection for others.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

How have you personally seen Jesus as the “cosmic adhesive” that holds your life together?

What evidence can you point to that Jesus is leading our church?

Write out a prayer to Jesus thanking Him for being our sustainer and leader.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

DAY 4 | THE BEAUTY OF RECONCILIATION

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:19-20

Verse 19 tells us the first thing that God was pleased to do; verse 20 tells us the second thing. What is this second thing?

Use verses 20-23 to answer the following questions about reconciliation...

- o What is it?
- o Why is it needed?
- o How was it made possible?
- o Who will enjoy it? (See also Romans 8:20-21.)
- o When will it be finally accomplished?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

This passage says that Jesus' work of reconciliation was so that we might be at peace with God. If there are areas of your life in which you're not experiencing peace; you are denying the work of the cross in your life. Write down and confess any areas of your life that you are not at peace with God. Reclaim the power of God's reconciliation over these areas.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

DAY 5 | OLD AND NEW

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

What do you think it means when Paul says we will be presented holy and blameless “if indeed you continue in the faith”?

In :21-23, Paul describes how the new lives of the Colossians different from their old lives. What changes have occurred?

	OLD	NEW
In their relationship with God?		
In their behavior?		

MAKE IT PERSONAL

If people could see a video of your life before you were committed to Christ, what would surprise them?

What are some specific changes that God has brought into your life since you found Him?

OLD	NEW

Thank Him for His powerful ability to bring change to your life.

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

WEEK 2 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What verse, idea, or discussion comment had the greatest impact on you? Where did you receive the greatest encouragement? Where were you challenged to change? What is one step of obedience or application God is asking you to take?

Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

This section was about the preeminence of Jesus in the world and in our lives. What were some of the characteristics of Jesus from this passage that stood out to you this week and caused you to worship Him more deeply?

Why is it essential for Jesus to always be on the throne of the church?

In this section, Paul describes non-believers as “alienated” and “hostile in mind” toward God. They have no desire to be close to God and, in fact, they hate Him and remain indifferent to His commands. In contrast, the affections of those whom Jesus has saved are completely transformed. How would you characterize your closeness to and passion for God right now? Have you always felt this way?

RC Lucas said the following, “The early Christians delighted to speak of the great change brought about for them by the gospel. The contrast between what ‘once we were’ and what ‘now by grace we are’ was frequently on their lips in testimony.” What was it like for you on Day 5 to reflect on your life before Christ and the changes that have come since you have followed Christ? Share with the group some of those changes you have experienced.

How do these before-and-after snapshots challenge you to be more intentional about making Christ known to those who still do not know Him?

Make time to pray as a group, and lift up praise for the work of Jesus Christ. Pray in three directions:

1. “Jesus, we praise you for all you have done in the past for us...”
2. “We praise you for what you are doing to sustain, guide, and reveal your love to us today...”
3. And, “we celebrate what lies ahead, all that you have planned for us tomorrow, and for eternity...”

WEEK 3 | **UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY**



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**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOISGRACE"
ON SPOTIFY

DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 1:24-25

Summarize these verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

DAY 2 | SUFFERING FOR OTHERS

READ COLOSSIANS 1:24-26

In verse 24 Paul establishes that he is currently suffering for the Colossians? Why was this detail important to communicate to a group of people he had never met? How do you think it made them feel/respond?

There was absolutely NO deficiency in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. So, what did Paul mean when he said he was "filling up" what was lacking in Christ's afflictions? (See 2 Cor 1:3-7; Phil 1:12-14; 2 Tim 2:8-10.)

What does the word stewardship mean? Why does Paul refer to his ministry as a "stewardship" in 1:25?

In verse 26 Paul refers to a "mystery" that was now revealed. How long had it been hidden? To whom has it been revealed?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Paul's suffering was specifically for these Christians. Are there people in your life for whom you have suffered, shed tears, or sacrificed in prayer that they might come to know Christ? Write the names of some of those people here.

We should never read the scriptures without a momentary thought, at least, of what it cost others for us to have this Bible in our hand: the blood of martyrs, the fears and tears of persecuted people throughout centuries, the sweat and labor of translators, and the effort of teachers to make it plain and clear. Remember that someone has died to make it possible for you to read God's word today—their sufferings were for your sake! Take a moment to thank God for those who have come before us.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

DAY 3 | STRIVING TO REACH PEOPLE

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

In verse 27 Paul reveals the great “mystery” he’s been referring to. What is it?

What process did Paul use in helping people become mature in Christ in verse 28 (look for the verbs)?

“Him we proclaim” is the first step in helping others to know Jesus. Paul was proclaiming Christ, not politics, philosophy, system of theology, theory of knowledge, or opinions. He proclaimed Christ! What does it mean to “proclaim” something? Why is proclaiming Christ still important?

Some translations use the word “strive” in place of “struggle.” What does it mean to strive according to Christ’s power in verse 29? What does it look like in real life for God to work His energy through our effort?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

How are you personally striving to reach people for Christ?

How do you see Grace striving to reach people for Christ?

How is your LifeGroup striving to reach people for Christ?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

DAY 4 | BE ENCOURAGED

READ: COLOSSIANS 2:1-3

Again Paul emphasizes the “struggle” he is experiencing on the church’s behalf in verse 1? This word “struggle” was also used to describe the training of Greek athletes. Imagine yourself with Paul in his prison cell. In what specific ways do you think he was exerting himself for them?

In verses 2-3 – what four outcomes does Paul hope will be produced in their lives through his struggles?

“That their hearts might be encouraged” What role does encouragement play in people’s ability to mature spiritually?

Why is it significant that Paul declares in 2:3 “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are hidden in Christ? (Hint: Keep reading to the end of verse 5 for clues.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Encouragement is a newly introduced theme in this section. What are some of your favorite ways to receive encouragement from others?

Be an encourager! Take a moment and choose three people to send a text, note, or email of encouragement today.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-8

DAY 5 | DON'T LISTEN TO NAYSAYERS

READ: COLOSSIANS 2:4-5

What explanation does Paul give in verse 4 for why he made these great claims for Christ?

What are some worldly “plausible arguments” that you see deceiving Christians in modern times?

Paul states in verse 5 that even though he is _____, he is still _____.

How does this encourage the believers in Colossae?

After studying Colossians 1:24-2:5 this week, summarize the top three learnings you feel Paul wants us to take away from this portion of scripture.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Looking at your own life, what are some “plausible arguments” from the world that have a tendency to delude or distract you from living in the truth of the gospel.

Which of the three learnings from above do you most need to apply in your personal life, and what steps will you take immediately to do it?

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6-8 FROM MEMORY

WEEK 3 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Were there any general takeaways from this week's message on Spiritual Maturity?

Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

What were some of the themes Paul focused on in this section of Colossians?

The original Greek for "sufferings for your sake" is *pathemasin huper humon* (read Acts 9:16, 1 Peter 2:21, 2 Corinthians 1:5). This refers to specific pain and suffering, not general suffering, that Paul experienced in place of the people in Colossae that he was writing to. Have you ever asked yourself: How many prayers and tears, or how much heartache and disappointment has someone gone through for you in order that you might come to Christ?

In verses 27–28 Paul lets us know that Christ in us is the glory of the mystery he is talking about, and then tells how to spread the gospel. What are the steps Paul lays out for us in these verses to do so? Are there other ways you find effective?

"Him we proclaim" is the beginning of verse 28. Paul was proclaiming Christ, not politics, philosophy, system of theology, theory of knowledge, or his opinions. He proclaims Christ! What does it mean to "proclaim" something? Why is it such a struggle to not proclaim those other things?

Look at examples of proclamation in the book of Acts: 8:5, 13:5, 15:36, 16:17, 17:3, 17:13, 17:23. What does this tell you about the importance of proclaiming?

Some translations for Colossians 1:29 use the word "strive" in place of "struggle." What does it mean to strive/struggle according to Christ's power in verse 29? (See 2 Corinthians 12:7–10; Ephesians 1:18–21; Philippians 4:11–13.) How do we practically depend on the strength of the Lord?

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

How are you personally striving according to Christ's power to reach people for the gospel? How do you see Grace doing that? What about your LifeGroup?

Spend time praying about how you can strive according to Christ's power.

WEEK 4 | **ROOTED IN CHRIST**

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**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOSGRACE"
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DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-23

Summarize these verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-9

DAY 2 | DEPENDENCE ON CHRIST

READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Paul begins by reminding them of their initial response to hearing the gospel “...as you received Christ Jesus the Lord...” Why is it important to remember those early days of faith?

How does Paul describe the ongoing dependence on Christ that should characterize believers in verses 6-7? (There are five aspects to this dependence.)

In verse 7, Paul uses the imagery of being rooted in Christ (thus the title of our current sermon series). Many people visualize spiritual growth as an upward process, but a tree can't grow up until the roots grow down. What benefits do roots provide a tree? What does it look like to grow deep roots spiritually?

Note what word Paul uses as he closes verse 7 -- “...abounding in _____.” Why is thankfulness so critical to our ability to grow in Christ?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Recall the moment or season in which you received Christ Jesus as Lord. What thoughts or emotions come to mind when you reflect on the gift of your salvation? Pray that God would restore the joy of your salvation to you (Psalm 51:12).

Like Paul's use of the words “rooted in,” there are several places in scripture the authors use trees as metaphors for Godly living. Read Psalm 1:1-3. Since the day you first received the gospel, how would you describe the growth of your roots? Are you a seedling, a sapling, or a tree? How do you account for this?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-9

DAY 3 | AVOIDING FALSE IDEAS

READ: COLOSSIANS 2:8-10

What descriptive phrases does Paul use in verse 8 to describe the false teaching?

He uses the phrase “takes you captive” to describe what can happen to Christians when it comes to false teaching – it’s a phrase that means to be “carried away into slavery.” The danger of being enslaved by false ideas is as real today as it was in the 1st century. Our enemy still seeks to deceive us and take us captive. Read 2 Corinthians 11:14, 1 Peter 5:8, and John 8:44.

In verses 9-10, what reason does Paul give for rejecting false ideas?

Like the previous chapter (1:15, 19), Paul again lifts up Jesus in all His greatness. What does it mean to be “filled in Him”? How does that help us to combat the world’s false ideas about God?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

What are some modern “philosophy and empty deceit(s),” “human tradition(s),” and “elemental spirits of this world” that have the power to take people captive?

In which environments do you feel most filled in Christ (and thus protected from false ideas)? How can you prioritize spending more time in these environments?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-9

DAY 4 | WHAT JESUS HAS ACCOMPLISHED

READ: COLOSSIANS 2:11-15

Why do you think Paul chooses the graphic image of circumcision (cutting away) to describe what a new life in Christ entails?

According to verse 12, what does baptism (going into the water and coming up out of the water) point to?

What has Christ's death and resurrection accomplished for you? In your own words, write everything you observe in verses 13-15.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Take some time to reflect on what Christ has done for you and in you. Use the space below to write a prayer of gratitude for His victory over sin and the grace which has united you with Him:

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-9

DAY 5 | RELIGION VS. RELATIONSHIP

READ: COLOSSIANS 2:16-23

The Colossian Christians were being confronted by people who were imposing legalistic demands on them. What does Paul say that these believers should never let anyone “judge” them about in verse 16? (Five answers.)

In verse 18, what attitudes and actions does Paul condemn?

Why is staying connected to the “head” important for the functioning of the whole “body” according to verse 19?

In verses 20-23 – why are these man-made regulations the inferior path to take? What is the better way?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Where in your life have you replaced a personal relationship with Jesus (a vibrant spiritual connection) with religion (going through external the motions)?

Write down one step you can take today to revitalize your relationship with Jesus:

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6-9 FROM MEMORY

WEEK 4 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Explain what verse, idea, or application had the greatest impact on you this week. Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

Through conversation, work together to come up with the overarching theme for this section of Paul's letter.

Read Colossians 2:6-7. Describe what it could look like to daily "walk in" Jesus?

Paul challenges us to be rooted in Christ. What parallels can we form between earthly, physical root systems, and being rooted in Christ (e.g., nourishment, strengthened by resistance, keep us grounded when storms come, stronger the roots stronger the person, not always seen)?

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Why do you think we, Christians, who are saved by grace try to grow our faith through self-righteous effort? Give an example of how we could lean too heavily on our own righteousness instead of what Jesus has done for us.

Paul listed some that were affecting the Colossian church; however, what are some of the most common "Christian" legalisms that captivate people today and infect churches today?

Read Colossians 2:13-15. Do you believe that your record of debt has been cancelled and your sin nailed to the cross? How would we walk differently if we were confident about this?

Close in prayer thanking Jesus for being all sufficient, not only in our salvation but also in our daily walk in Him.

WEEK 5 | **RULES FOR HOLY LIVING**



**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 12:15PM EST**
FOR FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH PASTOR DEREK



**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOISGRACE"
ON SPOTIFY

DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-17

Summarize these verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 2 | A NEW MINDSET

READ COLOSSIANS 3:1-4

The first two chapters of Colossians have dealt primarily with who Christ is. But now Paul turns the letter toward us—how are we to respond in light of who Christ is?

As Chapter 3 begins, to whom is Paul addressing these remarks?

In verse 1 what does Paul say has already happened to believers? Because this is true, what does he tell us to do?

Paul is saying that if we really are believers, then we will act like it—we will set our hearts on the things he’s been explaining for the last two chapters about Jesus. Look back through your study guide from Chapters 1 and 2, and write down some of the things that you have learned that have encouraged or inspired you about who Christ is.

Paul goes on to add more reasons to keep our hearts focused on the things above. What are things we can know for sure from these four verses if we have been raised with Christ?

:1 - Jesus is _____ at the _____
of the _____. — *We are reminded that Christ is in control.*

:3 - Our life is _____ with Christ in _____. — *We are reminded that our salvation is completely secure, and nothing can take it away.*

:4 - When Christ appears, we will _____ with Him in _____.
— *We are reminded of the promise of Heaven—that we will be like Him and with Him.*

Do you live as if these things are true? Which of them is the hardest for you to believe?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Take a moment, and meditate on the things that God promises are true in this passage. Ask Him to help you believe them in your heart. Thank Him because they are true.

What is one aspect of your mindset that has changed since becoming a Christian?

What are some earthly things that you tend to “set your mind” on in a way that is unhealthy? What are some practical ways you can set your mind on Christ this week?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 3 | KILL THE BAD STUFF

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:5-11

How do you think the vices in verse 5 are related to each other?

Paul calls us to put these things to death—it has the feeling of an immediate, decisive action. What does it mean to put one of these things to death? How does one accomplish it?

In verse 5, Paul mentions covetousness (or greed) as something that is synonymous with idolatry. It is different than monetary greed, and instead refers more to the total orientation of a person's mind towards getting and having what he or she does not have at the moment. Why is that way of thinking so offensive to God?

Paul's second list, starting in verse 8, is about how we treat other people, particularly how we speak to others. Why do you think Paul made such a heavy emphasis on verbal sins when it comes to our relationships with others?

Paul ends this section with a plea for unity (:11). Each sin listed breeds disunity. In what ways do you see Colossians 3:8-10 at play today to cause disunity in our community?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Write down one attribute of the inner spirit from verse 5 and one attribute from the outward behavior in verses 8-10 that you particularly struggle with. Pray to God to help you put it death. Write down one practical action step you are going to take to do that this week.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 4 | PUT ON THE GOOD STUFF

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:12-16

In verse 12, Paul calls us “God’s chosen ones” and “holy and beloved.” How does remembering who we are in Christ help us to “put on” the character qualities in the rest of the verse?

According to verse 14 what is the most important virtue? How does it bind the others together?

Read verses 12-16 again. Which things are we to actively do, and which are we to let God do to us? Why do you think that is?

What do you think it means to “let the word of Christ dwell in you richly” (verse 16)?

In the rest of verse 16, what are the four things that Paul commands us to do?

1. _____ one another
2. _____ one another
3. Sing _____, _____, and _____
4. _____ in our hearts to God

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Rank these qualities from verse 12 from strongest (5) to weakest (1) in your own life.

___compassion ___kindness ___humility ___meekness ___patience

In verse 13, Paul commands us to “bear with each other.” Is there anyone in your life who is difficult to bear right now? Take moment to pray specifically for them right now.

Verse 16 encourages us that singing is a part of this process for every believer. Take a moment to look up the song There’s No Other Name by Francesca Battistelli and Bethel Music, and listen to it. Look for truth about God that you can be encouraged by. Afterward, journal some thoughts about it here.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 5 | WHATEVER YOU DO

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:17

What does it mean to do everything “in the name of Jesus”? How does it change your thinking to imagine Christ is doing everything you do?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31, Proverbs 16:3, and 3 John 1:5. How do these verses help your understanding of the message of Colossians 3:17?

Paul uses the phrase “giving thanks” in the present tense, which suggests an ongoing lifestyle of gratitude. This is only possible “through Him” (Jesus). Explain in your own words what we should be thankful for through Him in whatever we do. (See Hebrews 10:19–22 for help.)

Name one job, task or activity that seems unspiritual on the surface, but could be done in the name of the Lord? Be specific as to how.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

“Whatever you do” is another way of saying “make no exceptions.” What areas of your life are you excluding from your relationship with God? Is there any area where you are still doing things your own way instead of being “in Him”?

Look through your calendar today. Pick out one or two seemingly non-spiritual activities or appointments, and pray that God will allow you do them in a way that honors Him and brings glory to His name.

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6–10 FROM MEMORY

WEEK 5 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Explain what verse, idea, or application had the greatest impact on you this week. Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

In this section, we moved from theology to practical application.

What would the danger be if we started with Chapter 3 without the foundation of Chapters 1-2 (e.g., legalism, trying to earn favor with God, etc.)

In the same way, what is the danger of only having Chapters 1-2 and never moving to Chapter 3? (e.g., faith without works)

Why is it important that Paul lists both things to put away and things to “put on”?

On Day 2, each of us was asked which of the three truths about who we are in Christ from verses 1-4 that we had the hardest time believing. Would someone share which one they struggle with the most, and why?

How do we put sin to death practically? (verse 5)

How does getting involved at church or in a life group help to develop the virtues listed in this passage? How does it help to avoid some of the vices?

Which parts of your daily/weekly life are easiest for you to do in the name of Jesus? Which do you struggle with?

Verse 16 encouraged us to sing hymns, songs, and spiritual songs. If you have a capable person, ask them ahead of time to prepare to lead a song of worship in your group. If no one in your group is able, play a song or hymn from your computer or phone—pass out lyrics if possible, and have your group sing along with and/or meditate on the truth about Jesus.

WEEK 6 | **EVERYDAY FAITH**

USE THIS SPACE FOR SERMON NOTES AND ANYTHING ELSE DURING THE SERVICE THAT YOU WANT TO RECORD AND REMEMBER. LATER TODAY, TAKE 5-10 MINUTES TO REFLECT ON TODAY'S EXPERIENCE.



**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 12:15PM EST**
FOR FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH PASTOR DEREK



**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOISGRACE"
ON SPOTIFY

DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-41

Summarize these verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 2 | HUSBANDS AND WIVES

READ COLOSSIANS 3:18-19

What is Paul's one instruction to wives? Why is this "fitting in the Lord"?

What are Paul's two instructions to husbands?

Book after book has been written filled with marriage advice. Why do you think Paul chose only these simple instructions for husbands and wives? How do they complement each other? How would a marriage change if each spouse was following these instructions intently?

Read Paul's instructions in Ephesians 5:21-33 and Peter's instructions in 1 Peter 3:1-7. How do those passages help you better understand Paul's simple instructions in Colossians?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

If you are a wife, how can you honor and respect your husband as a leader in your home this week? If you are a husband, how can you love your wife and avoid being harsh with her?

If you are not married, how do you want God to change your heart in preparation for marriage OR in order to love your friends and family better?

It is tempting to base your treatment of your spouse on how they are treating you. But Paul challenges the Colossians to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (1:10) and to "do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus" (3:17), including marriage. How would loving your spouse based on how Jesus loves you change your approach to marriage?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 3 | PARENTS AND CHILDREN

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:20-21

Which of the 10 commandments comes to mind when you read Paul's instructions to children? Why is this so important to God? What results when children are obedient to their parents?

Paul warns fathers against provoking their children. Why should parents guard against discouraging their kids in the process of raising them?

Although it is helpful instruction for mothers as well, Paul addresses fathers specifically. From Paul's perspective, men have a tendency to be harsh with their wives (3:19) and to discourage their kids. Do you agree with his perspective?

Earlier Paul instructed Christians to put off the old self (anger, wrath, harshness) and put on the new self (compassion, kindness, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love)? What is the significance of Paul turning his attention to marriage and parenting on the heels of those commands?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

If you are still living with your parents, how can you honor and obey your parents this week?

If you are a parent, you are called to walk the difficult balance between consistent, loving discipline and unnecessary discouragement. Are there things you're doing or saying to your kids that are unnecessarily discouraging? If you're not sure, ask them. Apologize if you need to. Remind them God has called you to love them, and teach them to love God and others. Pray with them – thanking God for them and asking for His help and wisdom to parent them well.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 4 | WORKING FOR JESUS

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:22-24

In this 1st century culture, slaves made up a large percentage of the workforce and were often considered lower-level members in the family of their masters. So, it makes sense for Paul to address slaves and masters immediately following his instructions to families. What are the three instructions Paul gives to slaves?

Like us, these Christian slaves had a job to do and an employer to answer to. In verse 22, what are the two different motivations to obey their employer that Paul identifies?

What temptations do you think these slaves faced in their work that you can relate to?

How would their work be an opportunity to display Jesus to unbelievers?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

“Work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men” – this passage reminds us that we are ultimately working for Jesus. What bad attitudes, motives, and habits have you fallen into when it comes to work?

How would you approach work differently (attitudes and actions) if you worked first and foremost for Jesus?

Think of someone you work with who doesn't know Christ. Ask God to help them see Jesus in you.

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 5 | CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

READ: COLOSSIANS 3:25–4:1

Verse 25 is applicable for all people. In your own words, what is Paul saying in this verse?

Why would this truth of God's justice be helpful for slave masters to keep in the forefront of their mind? Why does it give more weight to his instructions to masters?

Like slave masters, we have all been given some measure of influence and authority, and there will always be a temptation to misuse it for selfish gain. How does this passage keep us in check?

Paul uses the same Greek word for slave (*duolos* = bondservant) to describe himself and others in ministry as "slaves" of Christ (Philippians 1:1) or fellow "servants" of Christ (Colossians 1:7, 4:7). He is now encouraging the masters of slaves to remember that they too are slaves of their master Jesus. Why is it important for God's children to offer ourselves back to God as slaves and servants? (Read Romans 6:19–23.)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Where has God allowed you to have influence and/or authority at work, home, school, or in your relationships?

Thank God for the privilege of leading and influencing others.

Confess any ways that you are misusing or abandoning your influence.

What are a few ways you can be more like Jesus in your leadership? Ask Him for strength and help to do those things.

Think of specific ways Jesus is a good master and leader to you personally, and praise Him for those.

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6–10 FROM MEMORY

WEEK 6 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Thinking back on this week's sermon and study guide, was there a particular point or verse that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?

Read Colossians 3:18-21. Why do you think Paul instructed wives to "submit" to their husbands and husbands to "love" their wives? How do these two actions complement each other and make a marriage stronger?

[For married people] Can you think of a time when you chose to love or submit to your spouse even when it was hard? What was the result?

Paul warns husbands about being harsh and fathers about discouraging their kids. Do you ever struggle with being harsh or discouraging toward others (e.g., your spouse, your kids, your friends, your coworkers/employees)? How does taking a more gracious and gentle approach help those relationships?

[For parents] How do you balance high expectations and consistent discipline with grace and understanding?

Read Colossians 3:22-4:1. In your own words, what is the heart of Paul's message to slaves and masters?

Here are some common temptations when it comes to work:

Justifying not doing what we're asked • Slacking off instead of doing our best • Making pleasing others too important • Finding our sense of worth or identity in what we accomplish or how much money we make • Misusing our influence and authority • Mistreating our coworkers or employees – to their face or behind their back

Which of those are most difficult for you?

Whether at home, at school, or in the workplace, how would your work look different if your primary motivation was to serve and honor Jesus as your master? How would that change your attitude and actions? How would it change the way you treat the people you lead and work with?

WEEK 7 | **PRAYING FOR OPEN DOORS**



**JOIN US EVERY WEDNESDAY
AT 12:15PM EST**
FOR FACEBOOK LIVE
WITH PASTOR DEREK



**YOUR PLAYLIST
FOR ROOTED:**
SEARCH "WHOISGRACE"
ON SPOTIFY

DAY 1 | JUMPSTART

READ COLOSSIANS 4:2-18

Summarize these verses in your own words.

What words or themes were repeated in this section?

MAKE IT PERSONAL:

Did you find any phrases that jumped off the page at you? Maybe something that God wants you to apply to your life?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 2 | DEVOTED TO PRAYER

READ COLOSSIANS 4:2

In this one simple verse Paul gives clear instructions on how to pray. List the three qualities of prayer that Paul mentions:

What does “continue steadfastly in prayer” look like in real life?

“Being watchful” reminds us to be spiritually alert when we pray. What kinds of things should we be alert for?

How can you be thankful in prayer even if you have not yet received an answer?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

What are your own prayer habits like? Based on Paul’s habits and instructions, what changes could you make in the content of your prayers? In their frequency?

Read Revelation 5:8. This passage is a picture of our prayers as incense, being held in golden bowls, and presented to Jesus. Is there a person or circumstance in your life which needs devoted, watchful, thankful prayer that fills the bowls of Heaven? Write that here:

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 3 | OPEN DOORS

READ: COLOSSIANS 4:3-4

Keeping in mind that Paul is in prison as he writes these words, what does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for?

Paul's request for prayer here is remarkably selfless considering his circumstances. Why do you think this is? (See also Philippians 1:12-14, 19-21.)

Paul seeks open doors and to share the "mystery of Christ." This is the gospel, the good news. But what is it exactly? (See 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.)

Peter tells us that we must always be prepared to share Christ (1 Peter 3:15). Practically speaking, how do we prepare to share the gospel?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Cornelia Dalenberg, missionary to Muslims in the Middle East said, "A life set on fire by the Lord is an awesome thing. It sends out sparks. The sparks light other fires. The fires can sweep through entire nations!"

Every day your life brushes up against those who need the good news of Jesus Christ. Upon reflection, are there any people who God is opening the door for you to share with? (Often doors are open for people to hear the gospel during times of pain, change, and new beginnings.)

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 4 | WALK AND TALK

READ: COLOSSIANS 4:5-6

“Outsiders” are those who do not yet believe in Christ. Paul encourages these Christians to be wise in how they act and speak when it comes to outsiders. What do you think Paul means by:

“Making the best use of time”

Conversations “gracious, seasoned with salt”

“Know how you ought to answer each person”

Why is it so important for Christians to be respectful when it comes to outsiders? Whose reputation is at stake?

Taken together, how do verses 1-6 weigh on you in terms of responsibility? How do they light a fire in you?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Looking at the current climate of dialogue in our country, where have you seen examples of Christians violating the principles in 4:5-6? Where have you seen examples of following them?

Consider your hours and days and the “outsiders” you encounter throughout each one. How can you do a better job of making the most of every opportunity?

What is one decision that you could make to get better at walking the talk?

MEMORIZE: COLOSSIANS 2:6-10

DAY 5 | COMMENDED

READ: COLOSSIANS 4:7-18

This passage provides a description of some members of Paul’s ministry team. Write the name and a brief description of each of the individuals mentioned by Paul in verses 7-15 of this letter. Circle one that stands out to you. Why?

What do the diverse backgrounds of this group of Paul’s associates tell you about the effectiveness of the gospel?

What does Paul’s “team roster” tell us about how God accomplishes ministry? What are some unique contributions that you could/do bring to a ministry team at church?

Almost all of Paul’s letters begin and end with GRACE (Colossians 1:2, 4:18). Why do you think this is? What is grace? (Ephesians 2:4-9)

MAKE IT PERSONAL

How do you want to be remembered? What do you want to be commended for in this Christian life? Write some adjectives here:

Now, pray over these adjectives. Thank Him for His grace. Ask God to give you a heart like His, a passion for His calling, and to open your eyes to His next steps for your life.

WRITE COLOSSIANS 2:6-10 FROM MEMORY

WEEK 7 | LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What aspects of the sermon or the daily readings stood out to you most?

Have several people share their summary from Day 1 of this study guide. Refamiliarize everyone with the passage.

Review Colossians 4:2. What does it mean to be steadfast, watchful, and thankful in prayer?

“The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied will not pray, the self-righteous cannot pray. No man is greater than his prayer life” (Leonard Ravenhill). Does this convict you?

How can we as a group encourage one another to grow in prayer?

Review 4:3-4. Paul lived every day and every circumstance as another moment to share the good news of Jesus Christ. How can the light of the gospel grow in us so that we too are consumed by fire for the Lord, ready to spark others?

Review 4:2-6. What is our responsibility and calling as Christ followers in a world of “outsiders”? For whom are we truly living—for Christ or for ourselves?

Consider these guidelines when determining how to act and speak with outsiders:

Guideline #1: Is it wise?

Guideline #2: Does it make the best use of this moment?

Guideline #3: Is it gracious?

Guideline #4: Does it either make the conversation palatable to the hearer? Or contribute a preservative/cleansing/saving function in the conversation or situation?

Review 4:7-18. What would be written about you and me? What inspires and convicts us in the lives of the men and women Paul describes?

Thinking back over the whole of this Colossians study, what next steps are each of you taking in your faith?

Spend time in quiet reflection: How has this study of Colossians motivated you to praise Him? Led you to confession? Inspired gratitude? Brought needs to your mind and heart to ask Him for? Lead the group in a time of prayer, allowing each person to pray what God put on their heart.

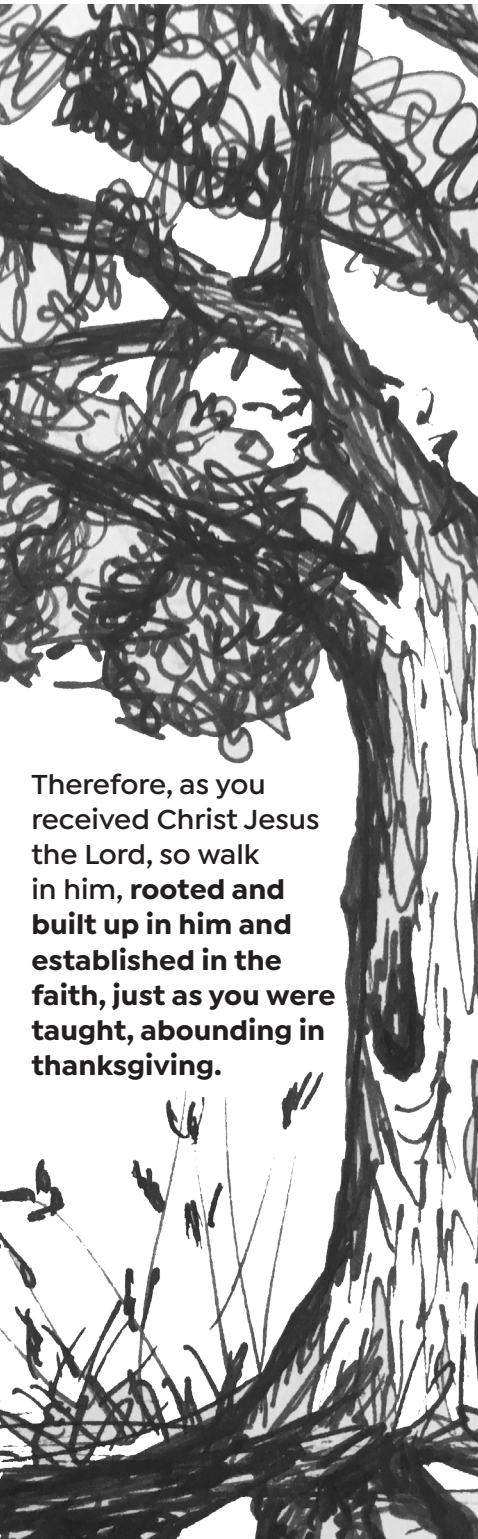
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SCRIPTURE MEMORY CARDS

USE THESE CARDS TO HELP YOU MEMORIZE COLOSSIANS 2:6-10!



“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”

Colossians 2: 6-7

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. -Colossians 2:6-10

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.**

Therefore, as you _____ Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, _____ and built up in him and established in the _____, just as you were taught, _____ in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by _____ and empty _____, according to human _____, according to the _____ spirits of the world, and not according to _____. For in him the whole _____ of deity dwells _____, and you have been _____ in him, who is the head of all _____ and _____. -Colossians 2:6-10

_____, as you received _____ the _____, so _____ in him, rooted and _____ up in him and _____ in the _____, just as you were _____, abounding in _____. See to it that no one _____ you _____ by _____ and _____ deceit, according to _____, according to the _____ of the _____, and not _____ to _____. For in him the _____ fullness of _____ dwells _____, and you have been _____ in him, who is the _____ of all _____ and _____.
- _____ 2:6-10

BOOKMARK

WRITE OUT THE ENTIRE VERSE ON
THE BACK OF THE CARDS, AS YOU
GET MORE CONFIDENT!



TOOLS, TIPS & TRICKS

HOW TO GET IN THE WORD OF GOD EVERYDAY:

- 1. FIND YOUR CHAIR:** It's important that you establish a place to meet with God every day with the scriptures in your hand. We like to call it "finding your chair." Maybe it's a chair in your family room overlooking the back yard. It could be a chair at your kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee before everyone wakes up. Maybe it's a side chair in your office during your lunch break at work, or even the front seat of your pickup truck 20 minutes before the rest of the crew shows up at your job site. The key is to designate a spot where you will meet with God.
- 2. CREATE THE RIGHT SETTING:** Once you've located your chair, make sure you create a setting around that chair that is conducive to your time with God. The setting should be simple, enjoyable, and repeatable. Maybe grab your favorite beverage, light a candle, and cue up your favorite Spotify worship playlist with your phone and a portable speaker. Whatever you choose, create the kind of setting that you'll look forward to.
- 3. CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIME:** When is the best time to spend designated time with God? It's when you're at your best. If you're a morning person, do it in the morning. If you're a night owl, do it at night.

SIMPLE TOOLS FOR BIBLE STUDY:

AN INSATIABLE CURIOSITY

This is the most important tool by far! Practice putting yourself into the Bible passage, follow your desire to track down information about words and historical references, and seek out conversations with others about how to best live out what you're learning.

A GOOD STUDY BIBLE

- » ESV Study Bible (all references in this book are from the ESV)
- » NASB or NIV Life Application Bible
- » Thompson Chain Reference Bible

COMMENTARY

- » Expositor's Bible Commentary (blends scholarship with readability)
- » IVP Bible Background Commentary
- » Online at www.preceptaustin.org

A NOTEBOOK

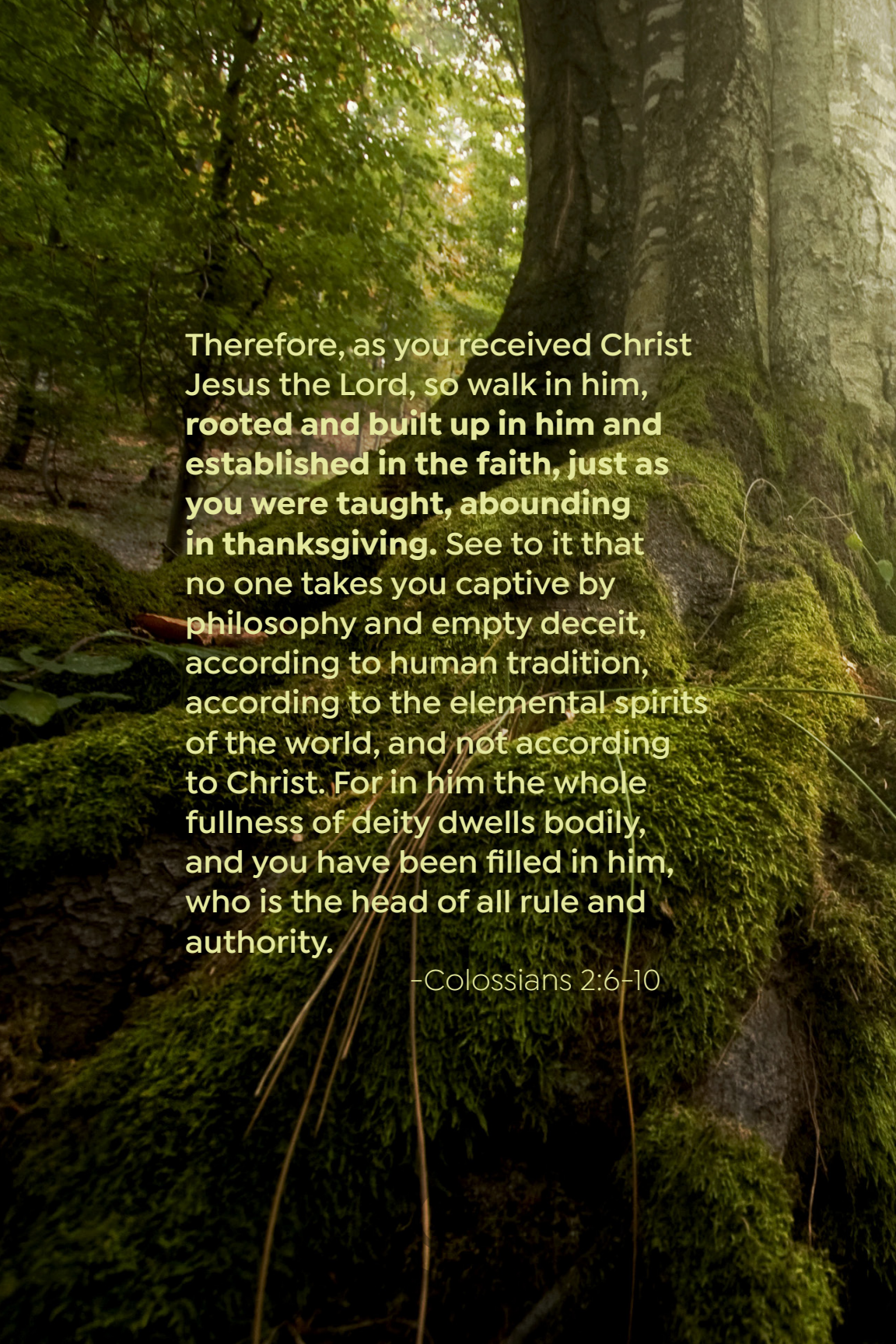
This can be a physical notebook or digital (Evernote or OneNote are both great). There is no better way to meditate and study than by writing things down.

- » It helps you organize your thoughts.
- » It helps you remember what you've learned.

It gives you something to review over time.

OTHER STUDY TOOLS

- » www.biblestudytools.com
- » www.biblegateway.com
- » Zondervan Handbook to the Bible
- » Peter O'Brien's commentary on Colossians.
- » N.T. Wright's "Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary"

A large, moss-covered tree trunk in a forest. The tree trunk is thick and textured, with a large amount of green moss growing on its base. The background is filled with lush green foliage and trees, creating a dense forest scene. The lighting is soft and natural, filtering through the leaves.

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.** See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.

-Colossians 2:6-10