

# Colossians 1

## Background

Colossae was a small town to the east of Ephesus in Asia Minor with a mixed population of Phrygians, Greeks, and Jews. Colossae was an important trade center as it resided at the crossroads of Ephesus in the west to the cities of the east. It was also located about 10 miles from Laodicea. Like many cities in Asia Minor, there was a strong contingent of Gnosticism, paganism, and the worship of false gods and goddesses similar to Diana/Artemis in Ephesus. This letter was the result of faithful Epaphras, a leader in the church of Colossae that ventured to Rome to visit Paul in chains to give him a status of not only Colossae, but also Asia Minor as a whole.

## Day 1 - Read and Memorize

1. Read the chapter at least twice. If possible, use different translations. Optionally, have the passage read to you. Many apps, including the Blue Letter Bible, have a feature that will read the Bible to you. Meditate and pray on the passage.
2. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

### Colossians 1:16

*"For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him."*

## Day 2 - Observations

3. **Who** is writing the letter? **Who** is the letter addressed to? **Who** is the faithful minister that ministers on behalf of the church?

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4. **What** tangible activity does Paul do for this church? **What** does he hope for them? (Hint: v. 9-12)

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5. **What** are some of the things Paul attributes to God throughout the chapter?

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6. **What** pleased the Father?

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7. **(Optional)** Write down any **additional** observations from your study time this week not covered in the observation questions above. This is the 'who, what, when, where, why, and how' of the passage.

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### Day 3 - Additional Observations

8. Take note of any repeated words, thoughts, or phrases in our passage this week. Write those down below.

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9. Did any parts of the passage you read make you think about other stories in the Bible? This includes similar narratives, but could also include similarity in lessons being learned by different people at different times. We call these links "purposeful parallels." If so, write those down below.

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10. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Colossians 1:9 (NKJV), "**For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**" - This week's word from the passage above: "**knowledge**"

Write out the Greek word phonetically so you can learn how to pronounce it. What are some definitions of the word provided by the Greek dictionary? How does understanding the Greek word help you in understanding this passage more fully?

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11. **Optional Word Studies:** Look up words you are curious about in the passage in a Greek dictionary. Write the word out phonetically and how understanding the Greek word helps you understand the passage more fully.

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#### **Day 4 - Interpret**

Now that we have determined what the text says, move into interpretation. The meaning of the text is not subjective. The goal of interpretation is to discover God's intended meaning for the text we just read and provided observations for.

12. In verses 24-25, Paul talks about the sufferings he endures for them (and other believers sakes). What example is Paul trying to set for the Colossian church when it comes to the sufferings that are endured when serving the Lord?

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13. **Optional:** Write down additional interpretations from your study time down below.

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#### **Day 5 - Life Application**

Reading the Bible should change you! The purpose of reading any passage or passages is to gain life changing applications you must consider for your own life.

14. Are you rejoicing in the suffering/hardship/persecution that you endure for the sake of the church or for the sake of serving the Lord? Explain below.

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15. **Optional:** Write down any additional life applications from your study time this week down below.

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**Day 6 - Closing Thoughts and Memory Verse**

As you've had time to meditate on this week's passage, write down any closing thoughts and/or list ways this passage has challenged you. How are you going to take the application from Day 5 and make it a tangible application for you? What are some additional things that you'd like to share with your group? These are just a few ideas to jot down as you close out this week.

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**Notes from Teaching**

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