

Colossians 3

Background

It's important to remember when reading a letter like Colossians that chapter breaks and verses were added well after the letter was written. In fact, they were added for convenience for the reader. The transition from chapter 2 to chapter 3 is a prime example of why the letter needs to be read together to keep it all in context.

Chapter 3 is the continuation and the next steps for the information provided in chapter 2. Colossians 2:20 reminds the church that we died with Christ and have been freed from the "basic principles of the world." It's because of this that we can look beyond the commandments and doctrine of men and truly look to Christ for our direction. Read on in chapter 3 to see how Paul builds upon this and encourages the church in their relationship with Jesus!

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.

1. Consider and start memorizing the verse below:

Colossians 3:16:

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Day 2 - Observations

2. In verses 1-11, **who** is the main focal point and example we are to follow?

3. As Christians and followers of Christ, **what** are some of the things we are to put off?
(Hint: there are more than 1 verse to pull the answer from)

4. In contrast to the previous question, **what** do we as Christians "put on?" **What** is above all the traits?

5. In verses 18-25, Paul addresses the Christian home. **What** members of the home does Paul have instructions for in these verses?

6. **(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.

Day 3 - Additional Observations

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

8. 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.

9. **Word Studies:** Use the "Blue Letter Bible" or your favorite word study method to look up the word listed below: Colossians 3:12 (NKJV), "**Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;**"
- This week's word from the passage above: "**longsuffering**"

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?

10. **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.

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.

11. In verses 1-4, Paul establishes that because they (the Collosae church and believers) were raised with Christ that their focus was to be on the things above where Christ resided. Not only that, but they would appear with Him in glory. In the verses that follow (v 5-11), what does Paul say the church's response should be as a result of this?

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

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.

13. As a modern day believer, you too were raised with Christ. Paul told the Colossae church that as a result of being raised with Christ that they were to put off the old nature, flesh, and desires and put on the new man. This is also an instruction for us. How are you practically putting off the old man and putting on the new man each and every single day? List things you do or things you can do that helps or would help in doing this.

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

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.

Notes from Teaching

Teacher: _____ **Date:** _____
