

4 WEEKS
in the
WORD



Colossians
Fall 2025

Four Weeks in the Word: Colossians

Welcome to *Four Weeks in the Word*. We invite you to come along on this journey with us as we read the Bible together and cooperate with God's Spirit with a simple goal: Life Change.

As you can guess, the journey begins with the Bible. There are 28 daily readings that we all study together, and this year these readings will take us through the book of Colossians.

In addition to reading each day, we will also go into the expectation that God is going to teach us something. We will analyze each passage and listen for the Spirit to show us how we believe God wants us to apply the passage in our own lives. As we meditate on the scripture, we will write down what we have learned. This practice is called journaling and the next section will explain how journaling works.

Each Sunday we will gather on campus and online to celebrate what God is teaching us. That Sunday's message will focus on that day's reading and encourage us to continue learning together.

I truly believe that participating in *Four Weeks in the Word* can start a habit that will change your life now and positively impact the rest of your life.

To contact us or learn more about the church:

- Go to our website at spoutsprings.org
- Consider taking your next step at <https://spoutsprings.churchcenter.com/pages/new-here>
- Email Pastor Barry Jones - barry@spoutsprings.org
- Email Heather Alford - heather@spoutsprings.org

How To Do a SOAP Bible Study

from Wayne Cordero

Start with a place to record your thoughts during your daily Bible Study. This can be a note app on your phone or a paper notebook and date the top of the page.

Choose a section of scripture - at most a chapter. You want to aim for a section that expresses a complete thought. Sometimes that will be a few verses, sometimes more. For Colossians we have divided the book up for you into very short daily readings.

Before you start each day's readings, ask God to show you what He wants to teach you that day. Then as you read, try to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting on what He wants you to focus on. It could be a phrase that seems to jump off the page at you, a verse that smacks right into the center of your present situation, or even a word or two that you weren't expecting, driving you to focus on them.

What does S.O.A.P. mean?

S stands for Scripture - You physically write out the scripture that stands out to you or speaks to you. You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you just by taking the time to slow down and actually write out what you are reading!

O stands for Observation - What do you see in the verses that you are reading? Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you? What questions do you have?

A stands for Application - This is when God's Word becomes personal. What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my own personal life? What changes do I need to make? Is there an action that I need to take?

This part can be difficult at times. See the section called "[Bible Application Questions](#)" at the end if you are having trouble.

P stands for Prayer - Pray God's Word back to Him. If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life.

Studying God's Word like this can take as little or as long as you have time to give. Some days it can take just 10 or 15 minutes, other days a bit longer.

Here is an example...

January 1st, 2020

Colossians 1:5-8

S - The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

O - (Many times I just bullet my observations.....what I'm seeing at first glance when looking at the verses)

- When you combine faith and love, you get hope.
- We have to remember that our hope is in heaven.....it is yet to come.
- The gospel is the word of truth.
- The gospel is continually bearing fruit and growing from the 1st day to the last.
- It just takes one person to change a whole community.....Epaphras

A - Something that stood out to me today was how God used one man, Epaphras, to change a whole town!!! I was reminded that we are simply called to tell others about Christ.....it's God's job to spread the gospel....to grow it and have it bear fruit. I felt today's verses were almost directly spoken to LGG....."all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth." Isn't it fun when God's Word becomes so alive and speaks directly where we are at?!!!! My prayer today is that all the women involved in this Bible study will understand God's grace and have a thirst for His Word.

P - Dear Lord, please help me to be an "Epaphras" ... to tell others about you and then leave the results in your loving hands. Please help me to understand and apply what I have read today to my life personally, thereby becoming more and more like you each and every day. Help me to live a life that bears the "fruit" of faith and love.....anchoring my hope in heaven, not here on earth. Help me to remember that the BEST is yet to come!

An Introduction to the Book of Colossians

Adapted from “How to Read the Bible Book by Book – A Guided Tour” by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart

What is the book about: The book of Colossians is a letter encouraging relatively new believers to continue in the truth of Christ they have received, and warning them against outside religious influences. Some of the books themes are:

- the absolute supremacy and all-sufficiency of Christ, the Son of God
- that Christ both forgives sin and helps us overcome it
- religious rules and regulations count for nothing, but ethical life that bears God’s own image counts for everything
- Christ-like living affects relationships of all kinds

Who wrote the book: the apostle Paul, joined by his younger colleague Timothy

When was it written: probably A.D. 60–61 (if Paul is in Rome, as is most likely)

Who was it written to: the (mostly Gentile) believers in Colosse (Colosse was the smallest of three towns noted for their medicinal spas [including Hierapolis and Laodicea] at a crucial crossroads in the Lycus River Valley, approximately 120 miles southwest of Ephesus); the letter is also to be read, as an exchange, in Laodicea (see verse 4:16)

Why was it written: Epaphras, who had founded the churches in the Lycus Valley, has recently come to Paul bringing news of the church, mostly good but some less so.

You can also watch a [summary video](#) on the book of Colossians - along with many other books and topics - at bibleproject.com.

The link to Colossians is <https://bibleproject.com/videos/colossians/>

All bible verses are taken from the New International Version.

Day 1 - Sunday, August 31 - Read Colossians 1:1-6a

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

2 To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for

all God's people— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in

heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel 6

that has come to you.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 2 - Monday, September 1 - Read Colossians 1:6b-8

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 3 - Tuesday, September 2 - Read Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, 10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 4 - Wednesday, September 3 - Read Colossians 1:11-14

11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, 12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 5 - Thursday, September 4 - Read Colossians 1:15-17

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 6 - Friday, September 5 - Read Colossians 1:18-20

18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 7 - Saturday, September 6 - Read Colossians 1:21-23

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 8 - Sunday, September 7 - Read Colossians 1:24-27

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 9 - Monday, September 8 - Read Colossians 1:28-29

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 10 - Tuesday, September 9 - Read Colossians 2:1-5

1 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. 2 My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. 5 For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 11 - Wednesday, September 10 - Read Colossians 2:6-7

6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 12 - Thursday, September 11 - Read Colossians 2:8-12

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, 10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. 11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 13 - Friday, September 12 - Read Colossians 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. 15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 14 - Saturday, September 13 - Read Colossians 2:16-17

16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 15 - Sunday, September 14 - Read Colossians 2:18-19

18 Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. 19 They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 16 - Monday, September 15 - Read Colossians 2:20-23

20 Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: 21 “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 17 - Tuesday, September 16 - Read Colossians 3:1-4

1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 18 - Wednesday, September 17 - Read Colossians 3:5-8

5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. 8 But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 19 - Thursday, September 18 - Read Colossians 3:9-11

9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. 11 Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 20 - Friday, September 19 - Read Colossians 3:12-14

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 21 - Saturday, September 20 - Read Colossians 3:15-17

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 22 - Sunday, September 21 - Read Colossians 3:18-19

18 Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 23 - Monday, September 22 - Read Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 24 - Tuesday, September 23 - Read Colossians 3:22-4:1

22 Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. 25 Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs, and there is no favoritism.

1 Masters, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 25 - Wednesday, September 24 - Read Colossians 4:2-6

2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. 3 And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 4 Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. 5 Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. 6 Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 26 - Thursday, September 25 - Read Colossians 3:7-9

7 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. 9 He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 27 - Friday, September 26 - Read Colossians 3:10-15

10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) 11 Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my co-workers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me. 12 Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. 13 I vouch for him that he is working hard for you and for those at Laodicea and Hierapolis. 14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Day 28 - Saturday, September 27 - Read Colossians 3:16-18

16 After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

17 Tell Archippus: "See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord."

18 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

Scripture:

Observations:

Application:

Prayer:

Bible Application Questions

BY RICK WARREN

“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” (James 1:22 NLT)

Christian meditation means thinking about Scripture. You meditate on Scripture in the same way a cow chews her cud: by chewing on it and chewing on it and chewing on it.

The “probe-it” method of Bible study is a great way to do that. When you use this method, you probe the text with questions, almost like a jackhammer. To help with that are nine questions to ask about a passage in order to see how to apply it.

1. **Is there a SIN to confess?** Does God’s Word make you aware of something you need to make right with God?
2. **Is there a PROMISE to claim?** There are more than 7,000 promises in God’s Word. Ask yourself if the passage you’ve read contains a universal promise. Ask whether you’ve met all the conditions of the promise. Every promise has a premise!
3. **Is there an ATTITUDE to change?** Is there something you need to think about differently? Do you need to work on a negative attitude, worry, guilt, fear, loneliness, bitterness, pride, apathy, or ego?
4. **Is there a COMMAND to obey?** Is there a command you need to obey, no matter how you feel?
5. **Is there an EXAMPLE to follow?** Are there positive examples to follow or negative examples to avoid?
6. **Is there a PRAYER to pray?** Paul, David, Solomon, Elijah, and Isaiah, among others, pray in the Bible. You can use their prayers and know that they’ll be answered because they’re in the Bible and in God’s will.
7. **Is there an ERROR to avoid?** It’s wise to learn from experience, and it’s even wiser to learn from the experience of others! We don’t have time to make all the mistakes ourselves. So what can you learn from the mistakes of those in Scripture?
8. **Is there a TRUTH to believe?** Often, we’ll read something in Scripture that we can’t do anything about. We simply have to believe what it says about God the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the past, the future, Heaven, Hell, or other topics in the Bible.
9. **Is there SOMETHING for which to praise God?** You can always find something in a passage you can be grateful to God for, like something God has done or protected you from.