

Lesson 11 - Colossians Study Summary

English Standard Version (ESV)

Lessons 1-10

Bethel Bible Resources

Lesson 1 – Colossians 1:1-14 Walk In a Manner Worthy of the Lord

Q6,7 – Walking (living) in a manner worthy of the Lord that brings Him pleasure can be shown in three “progress” developments in my life:

- a) As I grow in my knowledge of God, I also become more fruitful in Good Works that bring others to Him
- b) Relying on God’s mighty power in my life, I remain joyful and patiently endure life until He returns (hanging in there; not quitting or giving up on my faith)
- c) I regularly express my gratitude to God for including me in His inheritance

Lesson 2 – Colossians 1:15-23 (Part 1) Christ is Preeminent

Q1,2 – No one has, or can, see God; He abides in unapproachable light. Jesus came from the Father’s side to make Him known, and He is the “radiance” of God’s glory, the exact imprint of His nature (Hebrews). To know Jesus is to understand, know and see God.

Q3 – Jesus is the “firstborn” among the dead, that is, “greater and higher” than all others (not literally the first to be brought back from the dead). His name is above all names in heaven or earth, and He sits at the right hand of God, the position of honor and authority above the angels.

Q4,5 – Everything in our world was created by and through Jesus, visible and invisible, and in Him “all things hold together.” He upholds the universe by His powerful Word.

Lesson 3 – Colossians 1:15-23 (Part 2) Christ the Reconciler

Q2 – God the Father reconciled all things to Himself through God the Son (Jesus). It is the blood of Jesus that brings peace between God and man.

Q3 – Jesus’ sacrificial death on a cross was God’s act of love for us. Jesus’ death is our “propitiation” --- the satisfying action for the Father --- for all mankind’s sin (and our personal sins!).

Q4,6 – We no longer are to live in fear of God’s punishment, but to draw near to Him in confidence as His redeemed and reconciled children. We now live in hope, and Jesus intends to present us as “holy” to the Father, blameless and above reproach.

Lesson 4 – Colossians 1:24-2:5 God’s Mystery Revealed: Christ...in Us!

Q1 – Paul became known as the Apostle to the Gentiles. He usually started by sharing the Gospel at the local synagogue until they rejected it, and then he would reach out to non-Jews in the cities.

Q2 – Paul identified three key purposes for Christian ministers in local churches: 1) To make God’s Word fully known to those they serve; 2) To present every member of their church as “mature” in Christ Jesus; and 3) To see member’s live in “good order,” firmly established in their faith.

Q3,4 – “Progressive Revelation” refers to God’s practice of revealing only so much information at a time. Old Testament prophets announced things they didn’t fully understand, but many fulfillments --- and the understanding --- are provided in the New Testament.

Seven “mysteries” were explored in Q4. From Ephesians we learn that the barriers between Jews and Gentiles have been torn down, and that in Christ all are united into one body as Christians. In Colossians we learn that Christ lives “within” believers.

Q5 – Be careful: some people claim God gave them special revelation to explain God’s “mysteries,” and their intent is only to deceive us, to make us their followers instead of followers of Christ.

Lesson 5 – Colossians 2:6-15 Christ Makes Believers Come Alive!

Q1 – “Walking” (living) in the Lord and “abounding in thanksgiving” arises from spiritual stability. We all benefit from: 1) meditating on God’s Word (Psalm); 2) validating “messages” in/out of church against God’s Word (Acts); 3) and gaining God’s approval from correctly handling God’s Word, which completes us by teaching, reproving, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy).

- Q5 – Circumcision is a covenant for Jews from the time of Abraham, but the “Circumcision of Christ” refers to believer actions of the heart, putting off (setting aside) our fleshly desires so we can embrace spiritual matters and offer our bodies to God as instruments of righteousness.
- Q7 – God “makes us alive” (born again) in salvation.
- Q8 – The imagery focuses on my “list of sins” being nailed to the same cross upon which Jesus died.
- Q9 – If worldly rulers had understood God’s mystery – Jesus’ atoning sacrifice for the whole world on the cross that day – they would not have crucified him (1 Corinthians 2:1,8)

Lesson 6 – Colossians 2:16-23 Don’t Live by Rules, Live by Faith

- Q1,3,6 – Don’t pass judgment on other Christians and how they live in Jesus. Only God can disqualify. We all die to sin and are to no longer allow our bodies to serve sin. We are to follow our own conscience for biblical obedience and pursue what leads to peace and edification with other believers. *The Kingdom of God is not about eating and drinking, but about righteousness.*
- Q7 – My Christian freedoms allow me to do many things, but not everything I would do helps to build up faith in others. Without being offensive, I should focus on things that honor and glorify God.

Lesson 7 – Colossians 3:1-17 (Part 1, vs.1-11) Put Off the Old Self

- Q3,5 – I must put to death what is “earthly” within my nature: immorality, an impure thought life, evil drives, cravings to do wrong, wanting what others have, and lying to people --- plus heart issues (like anger, wrath, and malice) and speech issues (like slander and obscene talk).
- Q4 – People living sensually, driven by their passions and desires, drives God’s wrath and is the reason for His coming judgment of all mankind.
- Q6 – The Christian witness to the world is when we come together united in Jesus despite our diversity!

Lesson 8 – Colossians 3:1-17 (Part 2, vs. 12-17) Put On the New Self

- Q1,2 – As we Christians “put off” our natural, earthly, sinful habits and behaviors, we are to “put on” a new self through faith that is being renewed daily into the image of our Creator in holiness.
- Q3 – The new man is characterized by compassion and kindness to others, gently deferring to their needs, and patiently showing tolerance and forgiveness. S/he is grounded, motivated by love, and marked by peace (calmness), gratitude and obedience to God’s Word.
- Q4 – To be forgiven by God, we must be willing to forgive others who live with and around us now.
- Q5,6 – Love is “above all things” and binds everything in perfect harmony, while thankfulness to God should flow freely for the believer in Christ.

Lesson 9 – Colossians 3:18-4:8 Family Life, Work and Prayer

- Q1,2 – Wives are to submit to their own husbands, not fight them for household control. Husbands are to love their wives and not be harsh to them or the children. Children are to obey parents.
- Q3,4,5 – We ALL work for God. Don’t try to be a man-pleaser in the workplace, currying favor. Do good work always. And employers need to be fair and just because they, too, have a boss in God!
- Q6 – Be steadfast and devoted to praying; expect and look for answers, and be grateful when they come. Some things will never happen without prayer, and righteous people pray with power!
- Q7 – Be wise among non-believers. Make the best use of your time, and speak with grace and salt.

Lesson 10 – Colossians 4:9-18 A Band of Brothers

- Q5 – John “Mark” was an early follower of Jesus, and Barnabas’ cousin. He quit on one missionary journey but redeemed himself later. He wrote the Gospel of Mark after years with Peter & Paul.
- Q7 – Luke was Paul’s companion on missionary journeys. He wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts.
- Q8 – Laodicea was reprimanded as a “lukewarm” church in Revelation, resulting in the remark that God wanted to spit them out of His mouth: the context for, “Behold I stand at the door and knock...”