

Study Questions for this Week

Research the Facts

- ❖ Obvious facts: Who, what, when and/or where.
- ❖ Key words/phrases: (Research definitions that are unclear to you).
- ❖ Connecting words and the ideas or relationships they connect (e.g., “if, but, therefore, as, so that”)
- ❖ List or sequence of words.
- ❖ Teachings about God and His character.
- ❖ How will these truths help correct the false teachings infiltrating the church at Colossae around 65 AD?

Review for Meaning

- ❖ Repetitions and comparisons – similar words and phrases.
- ❖ Contrasts – opposite words and phrases.
- ❖ Sequence of ideas – What is the main point? How does this text expose false teaching?
- ❖ How does this text encourage believers world-wide of all generations to grow in truth?

Respond for Life

Consider *one* of the following options:

- ❖ New understanding of God and His character – praise and thanksgiving...
- ❖ New promise to claim...key verse to memorize...
- ❖ Change needed: choice for confession and obedience.
- ❖ False teaching to guard against...prayer for wisdom.
- ❖ Something I question...

Hidden Treasures

A study on the books of Ecclesiastes and Colossians

".. that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." -Colossians 2:2b-3

Background Information

As you study Colossians, prepare your heart with prayer. Ask God to reveal His hidden treasures, through His spirit and give you a particular point of worship in response to His Word.

Begin by reading the entire passage. Take time to **research the facts** - who is writing, who he is writing to, and why he is writing. This will provide context for the teaching. It may help to mark your study sheet; e.g., underline key words, bracket related phrases, or pick up important points in different colors – for example, one color for truths about God, another for promises, one for commands, and a fourth for warnings.

The second step in study is to **review the passage for meaning** – what is God saying to His church in all generations all over the world? For example, GBC might not be infiltrated by sects in 2012 trying to teach us special new knowledge required to know God. But what from the text is universally true for all time?

And finally, underline a verse that speaks to you today. What does God want to do in my life at this particular time? There are some suggestions to help you **respond for life**.

Some notes as you study:

Colossians 1:1 – “Apostle” from Greek “apostolos”. Literally, one who is sent. At its deepest level, it marks an authorized spokesman for God, one who is empowered to act as his representative. Paul was not one of the original apostles, but he met the risen Jesus on the road to Damascus and received from Him the commission to preach to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15).

1:2 “grace” from Greek “charis”. The word expresses the essence of all God’s saving activity in Christ. It is used by Paul 115 times in his letters, but it is never a cliché.

1:12 – God qualifies us for the privilege of sharing in the heritage of God’s people. The verb tense Paul uses emphasizes that the “qualifying” is not a *process*; it is an *instantaneous* act.

1:13 – “dominion of darkness” – reference Luke 22:53 for background.

Warm-up questions:

1. How do you feel when others tell you specific things they appreciate about you?
2. Describe a time when you saw God express His love to you.
3. How does God go about building spiritual wisdom into us?