

Colossians chapter 1

What does Paul thank God for [4]? What does Paul ask God to do [9]? What does Paul hope (expect) will be the result of that prayer [10-12]? Is there a command or instruction contained in these verses? How, by what means, would Paul's requests be accomplished?

Verses 15-20 are the heart of this letter, and provide perhaps the most concise and complete description of the Christ in all of scripture. What key facts do we learn here about the Son of God?

The *reconciliation* spoken of in verses 20 and 22 is conditional: what is required in order to be reconciled with God [23]? Is Paul suggesting that he is himself completing the (unfinished) work of redemption accomplished through Christ's suffering -- that Jesus left the job half done [24]?

Colossians chapter 2 - What to Know

What did Paul want the saints of Colossae and Laodicea to have or experience [2a]? Why [2b-4]?

In this chapter does Paul provide a list of sins to avoid, or a catalog of desirable traits to cultivate, as we see in some of his other letters? What central truth is he trying to convince his readers of in this chapter?

Colossians chapter 3 - What to Do

Verses 1-4 continue the argument begun in 2:20: you have died with Christ to the things of this world, now you are risen with Christ to life in a new kingdom. What ways of living are **not** part of the plan for this new life [5-11]?

What ways of living are described as characteristic of the new life [12-17]? Are these lists of things that we pick and choose from, like a menu? In verses 18-25 Paul gives instruction to specific groups; would it be inappropriate to apply each of those instructions to all believers?

Next week: 1 Thessalonians chapters 2, 4, and 5