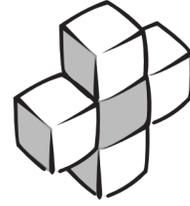




SMACC

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



Bible Study Series:

Colossians



Our Mission:

*To glorify God together in response to his grace
by making disciples of Jesus Christ*

About These Studies

These studies were written by various SMACC leaders for use among university students. You are most welcome to use and adapt these studies for your own context. Where you do so please provide the following acknowledgment.

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Study 1: “Continue Where You Started” (Colossians 1:1–14)

Getting Started

1. What stereotypes do people have of Christians?

Digging In

2. Read Colossians 1:1-14 and divide the passage into smaller sections.

Verses	Key Ideas

How they are doing at present

1. Who are the Colossians? (Col 2:1, 5)

2. Why does Paul thank God?

7. Why would the Colossians need such great strength? Are they going to fight something/ someone? (cf. Col. 3:5,7-8)

Application

8. Do your friends/ colleagues/ relatives think you are Christian? Why or why not?
9. Are you filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him? Really, why is that?
10. How can you be more like Epaphras or Paul?
11. So, what is a Christian?

Study 2: “Jesus is Everything” (Colossians 1:15–23)

Getting Started

1. How would you explain who Jesus is? What is so significant about the person Jesus?

Context

In our previous study, we have seen how the Colossians started living when they became Christians after hearing the gospel. Their faith in Jesus Christ and love for all the saints is the result of their understanding of the gospel. Today, we will look at who the person Jesus is and his authority over all things.

Digging In

2. Read Colossians 1:15-23 and divide the passage into smaller sections.

Verses	Key Ideas

3. Who does the “he” in this passage refer to?

4. The table below summarizes verses 15-19. Split into pairs and discuss what each verse means.

Verse	Who is Jesus?	What does it mean?
v15a	The image of the invisible God.	
v15b	The firstborn of all creation.	

v16	All things were created by Jesus and for him.	
v17a	The one who is before all things.	
v17b	In him all things hold together.	
v18a	The head of the body, church.	
v18b	The beginning and the firstborn from the dead.	
v19	All God's fullness dwells in him.	

5. What does it mean to be the firstborn of all creation? Is Jesus created first before Adam?

6. Notice the word "all things" and "he/him" are repeated in the passage from v15-23. If you can, count them out. How do these words relate to Jesus?

7. a) What does it mean that everything is reconciled to him?

b) Does this mean all people will be saved?

8. a) What were the Colossians once like? What was their attitude to God?

b) How are the Colossians now after they accept the gospel?

c) What should the Colossians continue doing in v23?

Think it through

9. Who is Jesus Christ to you? Are you trusting in him as your Lord and Savior?

10. How do we know that we are trusting in him as Lord? Knowing that Jesus is our Lord and Savior, how then should we treat him in our life?

11. Can you think of anyone to share the gospel with in your college/university/workplace/family?

Study 3: “Rejoice in suffering for Proclaiming Christ” (Colossians 1:24–2:5)

Getting Started

1. What are some steps/plans you make to achieve a goal you have?

Context

Previously, we read about who Jesus is – he is the Lord of Creation, the Lord of Redemption and he brings us peace and reconciliation to God our Father. The Colossians were once sinful and rejected God but now are presented holy and blameless and above reproach before God by Jesus’ death/work at the cross.

Digging In

2. Read Colossians 1:24-2:5 and divide the passage into smaller sections.

Verses	Key Ideas

Colossians 1:24-29

3. How does Paul describe his ministry?

2. What could be still lacking with regards to Christ's afflictions? (v24). Wasn't his work finished at the cross? (See also Rom 8:16-17; 1 Thess. 3:1-4.)

3. What is the mystery that is now revealed to the saints (v26; see also Eph. 3:6)?

4. Why does Paul continue to proclaim Christ despite his toil and struggle?

Verse 2:1-5

5. What does Paul want for the Colossians (and those in Laodicea)?

6. What is Paul warning the Colossians against?

Study 4: “What more do you need?” (Colossians 2:6–23)

Getting started

1. What is the most important practice for us to grow as Christians?

Context

Paul started off the letter (Colossians 1:1-14) by thanking God for and commending the Colossian Christians for their genuine conversion seen in their faith and love. He prays that they will never cease growing in Christ and proceeds to remind them of how Christ is supreme over all things (Colossians 1:15-23). This motivates Paul to proclaim Christ even in chains, suffering for God (Colossians 1:24-2:5).

So why is he writing this letter? What does Paul need to remind the Colossians?

Digging In

2. Read Colossians 2:6-23. Divide the passage smaller sections and give each section a title.

Verses	Title

Colossians 2:6-15

3. Paul begins with his classic ‘Therefore...’. What is he referring to, and what instructions does he give? (V6-8) What should the Colossians NOT do?

4. Paul points out the motivations for standing firm in Christ in verses 9-15. List them out and try to explain what they mean.

Verses	What they say	What they mean
9		
10		
11		
12-14		
15		

5. What can we conclude from these verses?

Colossians 2:16-23

6. Ah, another “Therefore...”! What is Paul referring to and how does he encourage the Colossians? (v16-19)

7. How does Paul then summarize this section of Colossians? (v20-23)

Application

8. How has this study informed/changed your understanding of the sufficiency of Jesus and His finished, perfect work? How can we continually hold fast to Christ?

9. *“Do keep me in prayer, I’ve been jumping between music ministry, children’s ministry, UCF meetings, camp preparation, children church... my mentor says I must serve with maximum capacity in church, but I’m feeling the burnout and I’m worried about losing favour with God if I take a break.”*

How would you encourage your fellow brother/sister who says this to you?

10. *“Hey! I won’t be coming to church next week because I’m going to a seminar! You should come too! Prophet X will be preaching, and I think it’s really going to deepen my bond with God. I hope to be touched like never before!”*

How would you respond to your fellow brother/sister who says this to you?

- Reflect on your own Christian walk. Are you rooted in Christ as your firm foundation?
- Think about someone who could benefit from today’s passage. Pray for them and find time to encourage them with this passage this week.

Study 5: “You Have Died and Raised with Christ” **(Colossians 3:1–17)**

Getting Started

1. When was the last time you felt very determined to change yourself? What was it for and what triggered you to make the change?

Context

From the previous passage, we learned that Christ’s work on the cross is enough to make his believers complete and perfect before God. Paul made a point, that we had been dead with Christ in our trespasses, but we were raised with Christ through faith in the wonderful work of God. Hence, we should hold fast to him and not be taken captives by other philosophies and regulations.

Digging In

2. Read Colossians 3:1-17 and then divide the passage into smaller sections.

Verses	Title

3. Paul asks the Colossians to seek and set their minds on things on things above, not the things on earth. What does Paul mean by that and why does he say that?

Application

8. *“Being a Christian is all about having faith that Jesus has saved us. It’s ok for me to continue watching pornography as long as I trust that Jesus has saved me.”*

How would you respond to your fellow brother/sister who says this to you?

9. *“I knew that I shouldn’t watch pornography anymore, but every time I just fail to resist the temptation when it comes. I feel so guilty that I can’t bear it anymore.”*

How would you encourage your fellow brother/sister who says this to you?

10. Are you struggling to resist any sin that you have been committing? How can we as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ help you to face the struggle together?

11. As a student, what can we do to help each other to know the word of Christ better and to encourage each other in our faith better?

12. We know that the gospel is for people from all kinds of backgrounds. Have there been any group of people whom you know you could have reached out to share the gospel, but you haven’t? What can be your first step to start reaching out to them?

Study 6: “Living with Christ as Lord” (Colossians 3:18–4:1)

Getting Started

1. What do people mean when they say they are doing something in the name of the Lord?

Context

Paul has shown us that as Christians, we only need to hold fast to Jesus Christ for our growth. We saw how we have died and raised with Christ; hence we should put off our old self and put on the new self. What then does put on the new self look like?

Digging In

Read Colossians 3:18-4:1

Role	What they do?	Why?	Verses

2. Why do you think Paul gives these instructions at this juncture? (look back to 3:1-17)
3. How do you see “Putting on the new self-attitude” in the relationships above?

4. What would relationships look like if the following people “put on a new self”?

a. Husbands and wives

b. Father and children

c. Bondservants and masters

5. What is the similarity of these 3 sets of relationships?

6. How should our attitude be to our work? (v22-23) How does this look like?

Study 8: “Fellowship with Saints in Christ” (Colossians 4:7–18)

Getting Started

1. What is gospel growth and why is it not a one-man show?

Digging In

2. How are the following people named in the passage described?

Name	According to Paul	According to the rest of Scripture
Tychicus		Acts 20:4 Eph. 6:21–22 2 Tim 4:12 Titus 3:12
Onesimus		Philemon 1:10
Aristarchus		Acts 19:29 Acts 20:4 Acts 27:2 Philemon 1:24
Mark		Acts 13:13 Acts 15:39 2 Tim 4:11 Philemon 1:24
Justus/Jesus		2 Tim. 4:11 Philem. 24
Epaphras		Philemon 1:23
Luke		2 Tim 4:11 Philemon 1:24
Demas		2 Tim. 4:10 Philemon 1:24
Nympha		
Archippus		Philem. 1:2

3. What does Paul show when he distinguishes between Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians?

4. What are Paul's and Epaphras' main concerns for the Colossians? (V12-13; 1:9-11)

5. Paul ends the letter by asking them to "remember my chains". Why do you think Paul says that?

Application

6. How can we better answer “how are you?”, after reading this text that may encourage or spur others on?

7. Are you on the team for the gospel or a benchwarmer? Why?

8. How can we be serving with other congregation in our church? What is our mission?

Prayer

- Praise God for gospel partnership we have with people around the world for the growth of gospel.
- Ask God to grow our understanding of what it means to be part of the team for the gospel.
- Ask God to strengthen our unity in the gospel and reveal to us ways in which we can use our diversity for the common good of Gospel growth.