

You are about to begin an inductive study on a short but profoundly deep and life-altering book. In this book, you will be challenged to live in a way that is so contrary to all that the world has to offer. It has the ability to shake you to your core, ground you in the truth of who you are in Christ and what that means in your life, and transform how you live your life. Are you ready to be challenged? Are you ready to set your feet solidly on the Word of God so that you can stand in times of trouble and hardship (which are coming at us at great speed)?

Paul tells you in Colossians 1 that if you truly belong to the Lord, you have been transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of God's beloved Son - light. Your salvation is secure, but Satan is not happy. He is a murderer and has been since the beginning. He doesn't want you following the Lord, and if you are, he certainly doesn't want you to be an effective witness to those who are in his domain. He will stop at nothing to keep you from studying God's Word, especially a book like Colossians. You need to be prepared for a battle of your time and your mind when you embark on this study. Jesus told us that we need to count the cost of following Him. The closer you try to walk with the Lord, the more Satan will hurl his fiery darts in your direction. As Daniel did, make up your mind now to not allow Satan to have victory in this. Dedicate this time and this study to the Lord and ask Him to give you the strength and perseverance not only to get through this study but to allow it to renew your mind.

This study will firmly establish your feet upon the solid rock of Jesus Christ. If you put forth the time and effort to understand what you will be studying, you will no longer *"be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but . . . to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ"* (Ephesians 4:14-15). You need to do the work. You need to study and *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth,"* (II Timothy 2:15) so that you can be an effective witness to the dying world around you.

Are you ready? Take the time to commit this study to the Lord and praise Him for the opportunity that is before you to fellowship with other believers in His precious Word.

DAY ONE

1. Did you read the introduction to this lesson? If not, please go back and read that before you begin. The introductions to each lesson are important. They set the tone for the week's study. Get in the habit of reading the introduction and seeking the Lord in prayer before studying His Word. The book of Colossians is doctrinally rich and challenging and the Holy Spirit has been given as your helper to lead you into truth. Don't try to do this in your power. Allow God, through the Spirit, to teach you and guide you in your daily walk.
2. You are about to embark on an inductive study of the book of Colossians. There are three steps to inductive study: observation, interpretation, application. I know the propensity of man's heart is to skip right to the interpretation and application. What does it mean and how does that apply to me? That is why Christian bookstores sell hundreds of books telling us how to live the Christian life. The problem is that someone else spent precious hours in the Bible observing the Word of God and then tell you what they think you should believe and how you should act. If you skip the many hours of observing God's Word for yourself, you will not have your feet established solidly on the rock of Jesus Christ, someone else will. That will not help you in the storms that assail you through life. As you work through this study, you will be led through the steps to observe, observe, observe! Your blood, sweat, and tears will be to your benefit. You will come to understand who Christ is and how He can be your all in all.
3. Colossians was written within a certain historical context. The people of Colossae were struggling with their Christian walk because the world was bombarding them with worldly morals, philosophies, values, and religious beliefs. They needed to be established in God's truths, thus enabling them to withstand Satan's attempts to delude and deceive them. This book will do the same for you. Using the Observation Worksheets (this is the book of Colossians typed out for you with extra space giving you room to mark and make notes as you study), read Colossians in its entirety. Read it straight through. Don't analyze, mark, stop to ponder - just read! Record your first impressions of the book. Was it harsh, loving, instructive, difficult to understand, encouraging, uplifting, interesting? Did it seem to address one certain problem?

4. Read it one more time. This time give yourself a little more time to process the information. Are there anymore insights you want to add?

DAY TWO

1. Take the time to read through Colossians again. There are different literary styles in the Bible, There are prophetic, historical, letters, proverbial, poetic, biographical, and doctrinal books. Which type of literature is Colossians?
2. Did you answer that question by saying that Colossians was a letter? If you did, you are correct. Every letter has an author who wrote it and an intended audience (the recipients). Read through Colossians again. As you read, you are going to be looking at the author of the letter. As you read, you are going to mark every reference of the author. I use blue and underline every reference to the author. You can mark them however you would like. There is no right or wrong way to mark as long as you are consistent. Mark his name, a synonym referring to him, or a pronoun like I, me, my, etc. At this point in time, unless you are experienced at this type of study, I would encourage you not to be concerned about plural pronouns like “we” or “us.” When you are done reading through the book and marking the author, record what you learn by asking the 5 W’s and H questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) about the author. Just look for the obvious things that you learn about him at this time. Fill in what you learn on the chart entitled “Author and Recipients” on the next page in the column labeled “Author.” Don’t forget to indicate chapter and verse of where you found your information.
3. You are going to read through Colossians once again. This time you are going to look for the recipients of this letter and mark them. I underline mine in green. Mark any references of their name or synonyms and pronouns referring to them. This time you are going to look for pronouns like “you” or “your”. When you are done, record what you learn on page 4 by asking the 5 W’s and H about the recipients. This will be well worth your effort when you are finished observing.

Author & Recipients

Author	Recipients

DAY THREE

1. Remember to start your time in prayer and then read through Colossians again. You should be getting comfortable with the book by now. The consistent reading will familiarize you with the content and the context of this letter. This is adding to the information you are collecting during this observation process.
2. Did you see any geographic locations mentioned? If so, read through the book again and mark these in a distinct way. I mark mine with a green compass. There is a map at the end of this lesson. Refer to the map as you read and locate the places that are mentioned. You may want to underline them on your map for easy referencing later in your study.
3. Read through the book again and see if there are any natural breaks or sections in the book. As you were reading, did the author state that he was writing this letter because . . . Record your thoughts.
4. Keeping in mind all that you have learned to this point about the author, recipients, type of literature, and atmosphere, let's see what you can learn about the time period in which they lived. This will give you the historical background of the book. Record what you learn about the culture, the time period, and the religious background of the time.
5. Have you noticed that while you were reading, there were certain words that kept popping up as you read this letter? Read the letter again, and if there are key (important), repeated words record them. We will be taking a closer look at these tomorrow.
6. You have one last job to do today before we end this lesson. There is an "At a Glance Chart" on the book of Colossians at the end of this lesson on page 11. Fill in the author, recipients, and historical references that could help to pinpoint dates.

DAY FOUR

Studying inductively is like pulling back layers on an onion. You pull off one layer and it exposes the next. So far you have read through the book of Colossians multiple times. You are beginning to acquire a sense of the book and certain topics may have already started to reveal themselves to you. To continue the overview process, we want to focus in on key words. You have already done some of that on day one and two. You marked and made lists of the author and recipients which are, in a letter, key words.

Introduction to Key Words

You are going to be looking for key words today. Let me explain what a key word is. A key unlocks a door. A key word unlocks the meaning of the book you are reading. So the question becomes, how do I find a key word? You have probably found some by now, and you are not even aware of them. A key word is an important word that is repeated throughout the book. If that word would be removed, you would lose a big part of the meaning and purpose of the book.

When you find key words, you are going to mark them on your observation worksheets. You want to use different colors and different symbols. There is no right way or wrong way to do this. I am not an artist so I tend to go with simple symbols and shapes like arrows, stars, triangles, squares, underlines, etc. On page 10 there is a list of possible markings to help you get started or you can go to our website at <https://www.walkinlight.net/inductive-bible-study>, and you will find some handouts entitled **Marking Key Words** and **More Markings** which give sample pages of possible symbols. The important thing is that you use the same symbol and color for a particular word throughout your study. When you do, these key words will pop off the page at you.

When you read through the book looking at and marking one or two key words, you will find even more that strike you. When you do, read through again and mark those. One warning though. It is a key word to the book when it is mentioned all the way through the book. You may find a word that is repeated in one particular chapter and not the entire book. That word may be a key to that chapter but not to the book itself. We will mark those at a later time. If you mark it now and then realize later that it was only key to that chapter, it's okay. Just don't list that particular word on your list of key words for the book.

Any mention of the Godhead (God, Jesus, Holy Spirit) is always key; however, depending on how many times they are mentioned and how much time you have to put into your study, it may be a bit overwhelming to mark them at this time. If you choose not to mark them now, you will mark them, and make lists about them when we go to the chapter studies later on.

With that background, I believe you are ready for your assignment for today.

1. Start with the list of words you made yesterday. Determine the symbols that you will use to mark these words. Write these words and their corresponding symbol on an index card that you can use as a bookmark.
2. Read through the book again and mark these key words. If, as you are marking, you see other words that are repeated, jot them down here and then read the book again and mark those.
3. Record your key words on the "At a Glance Chart on page 11.
4. When you mark key words, it is important to make a list of what we learn about those words, just like we did for the author and recipient. On another piece of paper, record the key word and then list what you learn about that word remembering to indicate chapter and verse where you found that information. Do that for all the key words that you marked throughout Colossians. If you run out of time, you can finish this tomorrow.

Some of you may be able to mark three or more words at a time. Some of you may only be able to mark one word at a time. Let me encourage you. If you are one that can only mark one at a time, it will take you longer to complete this assignment than other students, but think of the blessings you will have because you have read and struggled over this book many more times. You will be blessed by your effort.

DAY FIVE

1. If you have not completed the assignment for key words, please complete that before you move on.

2. Next, you are going to discover general subjects or themes covered in Colossians. The subjects the author mentions center around those key words you found. One more layer of that onion is now exposed. Isn't this great? Read through Colossians looking for these themes. Remember that right now you are just looking for things that are obvious.

a. Chapter 1 - main topics

b. Chapter 2 - main topics

c. Chapter 3 - main topics

d. Chapter 4 - main topics

3. Record these general topics on the chart on the “At a Glance Chart” on page 11 in the left-hand column entitled “Themes”. You are going to do this for each chapter.

4. Looking over what you recorded for step two, do the topics in each chapter tie together into one major theme that runs through that chapter? This would become a chapter title for each chapter. These can be recorded on your Observation Worksheets as well as the “At a Glance Chart.” I suggest that you record these in pencil because as you study more, observe more, you may discover you want to change your mind.
 - a. Chapter 1 - Title

 - b. Chapter 2 - Title

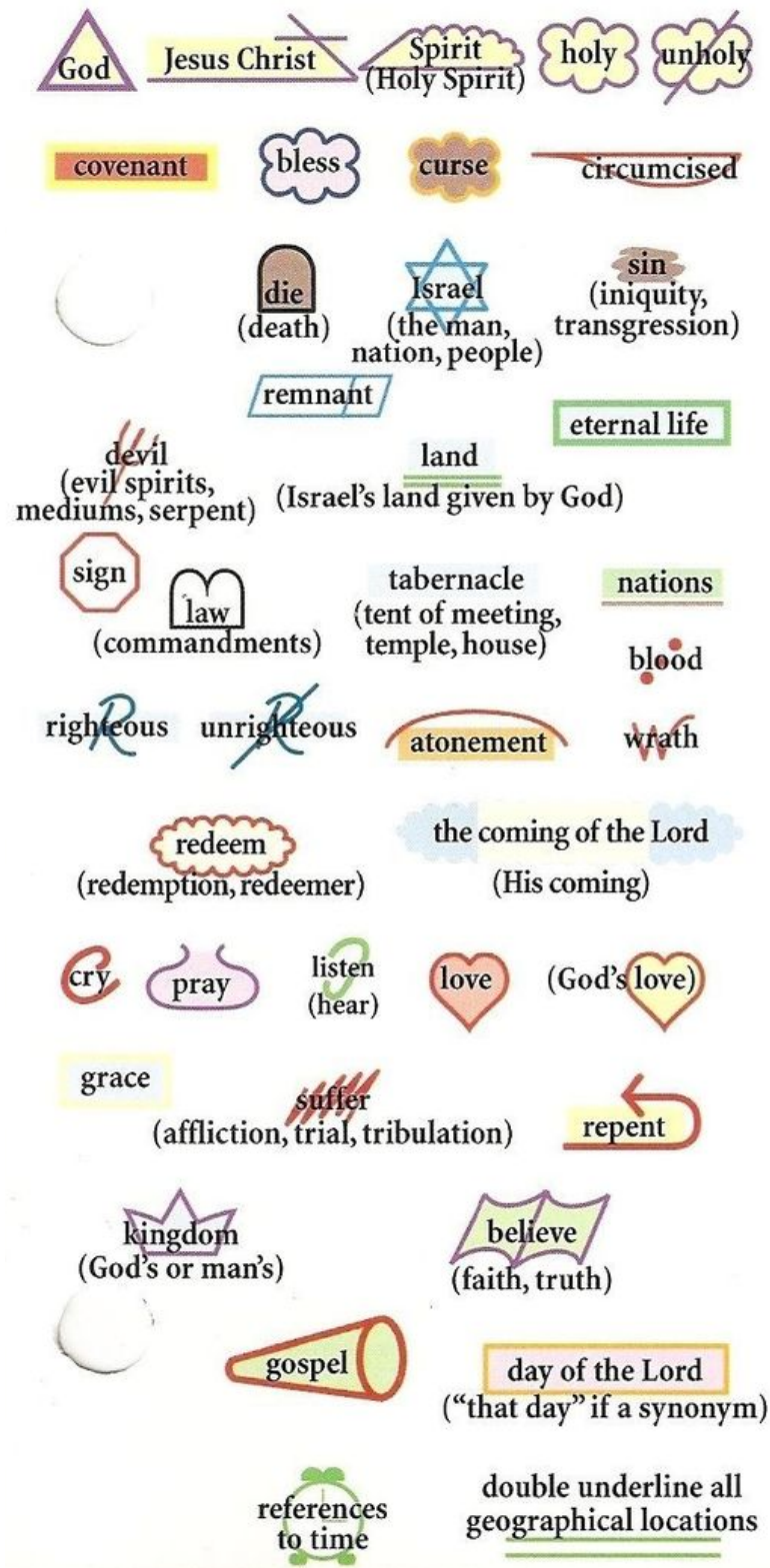
 - c. Chapter 3 - Title

 - d. Chapter 4 - Title

5. You now know the important key words. You know the general topics covered in each chapter. You may have even found a major theme that runs through each chapter. Armed with all this information, read through Colossians one more time and look for the author’s purpose in writing the book. In some books like Luke, John, I John, and Jude, the author plainly states the purpose of his writing. Look at Luke 1:1-4, John 20:30-31, I John 5:13, and Jude 3. Other books, the author doesn’t come right out and say it. You have to acquire that information from the key words and topics the author covers. When you can see the general theme running through the entire book, you have caught a glimpse of his purpose. This is why he is writing to you! This is what he wants you to see! If you can find his purpose, record that on your worksheets on page 11.

6. If you are beginning to understand the purpose, and you know the main topics discussed, can you pull all this together to give a title to the book of Colossians? Give it a try and see what you can come up with.

7. Are there any questions that this book has raised in your mind? You can record these in the space below. We are not going to answer them right now, but if you have those questions written out, then as you study and wade deeper into this book, you may begin discovering the answers to your questions.

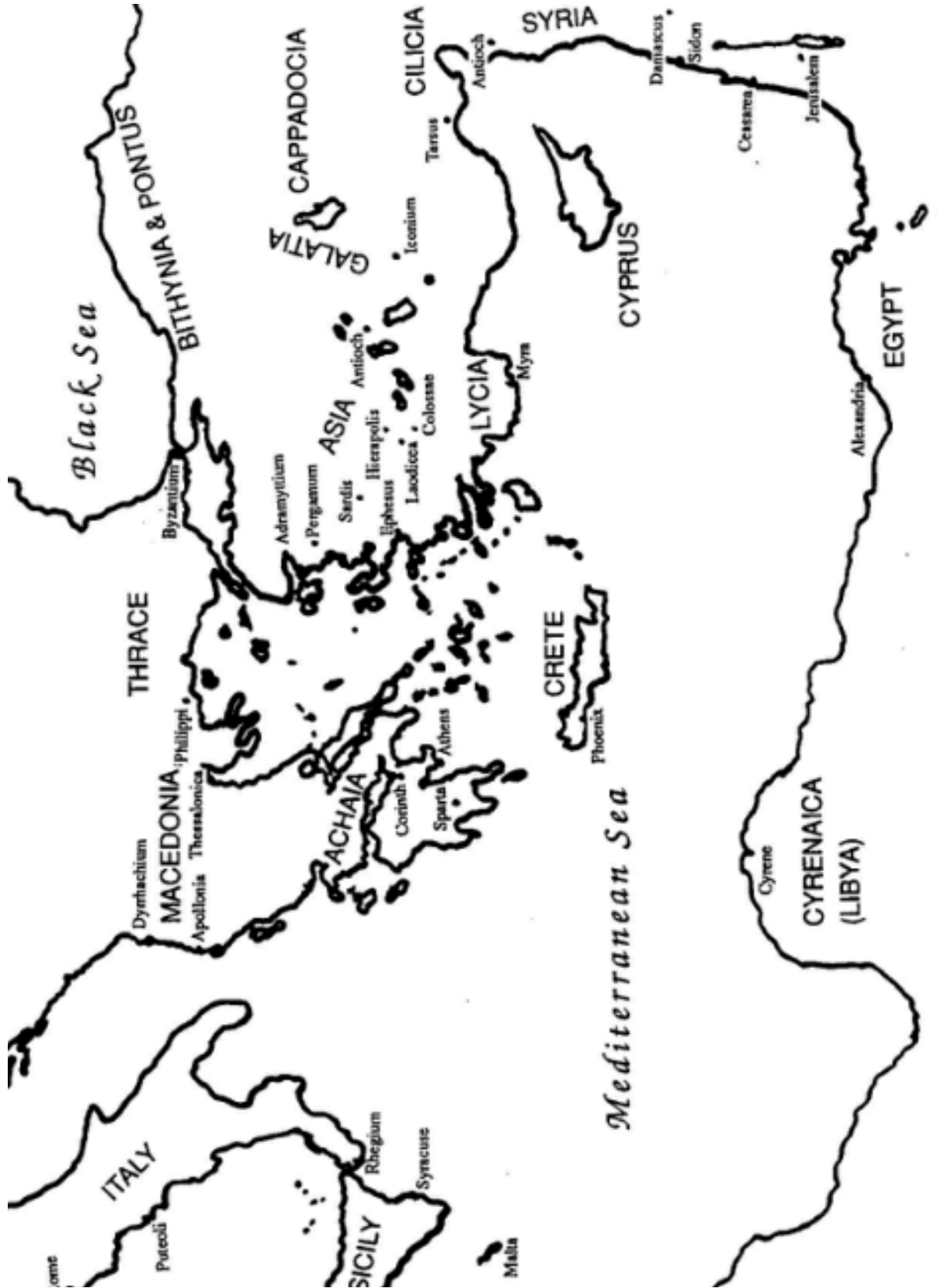


Colossians - At a Glance Chart

Book Title: _____

Author:	Themes and Titles Chart		Segment Divisions
Recipient:	Themes	Titles	
Historical References (date):		Chapter 1	
Purpose:		2	
Key Words:		3	
		4	

You have spent time this week laying an important foundation on which to build in the weeks to come. This time and dedication to studying the book of Colossians will help you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called.



What does it mean to gain a true knowledge of Jesus Christ? We are told that in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found. If we really know Him, what He has done for us, and who we are in Him, and we have grasped the wisdom and knowledge that are found in Him, how could anyone delude us or shake us from the foundation of our faith?

Let's get to know Jesus. Let's focus on Him. If you can do that, you won't be disturbed by the circumstances of this life.

DAY ONE AND TWO

This week we are going to begin to study Colossians chapter 1. This is such a powerful chapter, especially the prayer that Paul prayed on behalf of the believers of Colossae. But before you dig in, there is a bit of background work you should do first. You need to understand a bit about the city and a pervasive mind set called Gnosticism.

Colossae History

Colossae was a city in the area of Phrygia in Asia Minor, modern day Turkey. It was located in the valley of the Locus River. According to Xenophon, a writer from the 5th century BC, it was a "populous city, wealthy and of considerable magnitude". It was part of the main trade route and it was famous for its wool. During Paul's time, the population was made up of Jewish, Phrygian, and Greek settlers making it a diverse cultural center. This diversity left the people of Colossae open to new ideas and doctrines from the East. The area of Phrygia had strong ties with Oriental mysticism.

Gnosticism

This word comes from the Greek word "gnosis" meaning "to know". It is the pursuit of knowledge. There is nothing wrong with the pursuit of knowledge/wisdom as long as we are pursuing it in the right place. We are told in Scripture that there is heavenly knowledge or wisdom which comes from above and then there is an earthly knowledge (James 3:13-18). The two are vastly different!

Gnosticism is a philosophy which focuses on the search for higher knowledge. This was a pursuit of something far beyond what the ordinary man was capable of finding. There were the chosen few who, by faithful, diligent searching came into possession of this extraordinary knowledge and this is what brought him to "salvation."

This led to many strange and convoluted notions. It scoffed at the simplicity of the Gospel message and the purity of being devoted to Christ. Instead it led to two unique thoughts or doctrines. The first major doctrine was the supremacy of knowledge. Only the "enlightened ones" claimed to have a special knowledge of truth that was not

available for most men. The second major doctrine was the separation of spirit and matter. All matter is evil or the source of evil and the spirit was considered good.

Gnosticism had its roots in the philosophers of the day Plato, Philo, and eastern religions coming out of Persia and India. It was not grounded in God's wisdom and knowledge but that of worldly men. When Christianity spread into the Gentile nations it crashed head on with these false doctrines. Do you remember when Paul was in Athens and the men were more than happy to hear what Paul had to say? They were open to any new thoughts in the religious world. According to Acts 17:18 they wanted to hear this proclaimer of strange deities. They brought him into the Areopagus because they wanted to hear something new (Acts 17:16-34).

When confronted with this God/man Jesus, they were faced with a dilemma. How could a supreme being as God - pure in spirit - create a world of matter which they considered evil? More than that, how could a pure and holy God (who is spirit), come to earth in human form (matter which was evil)? This made no sense. They began taking these teachings from the Bible and twisting them to fit their perverted mind set.

- The Old Testament needed to be allegorized - its teachings were not literal.
- They distorted the teachings of creation, sin, and how mankind could be restored.
- Since God (spirit) is good, He didn't come to earth in flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus didn't possess a flesh-and-blood body. He was a ghost of sorts. He only seemed to have a body.
- Another group of Gnostics explained that Jesus was a man and only a man. The Spirit descended on Him at His baptism and stayed with Him through His ministry but departed before His death.
- They denied that Jesus was God come to earth to bring redemption to mankind.
- They eliminated Jesus as the only way to God.
- They believed and taught that they could make their own way to God by acquiring knowledge.

1. In light of this background, read through the book of Colossians and look for any place where Paul may be addressing these false doctrines, these heresies that might have been infiltrating the Colossians church. How did Paul combat those teachings? Take your time and think through this prayerfully. Remember that you have two days to complete this assignment as well as number 2 which is on the top of page 16.

2. With whatever time you have remaining for this second day, look at any Bible study tools you may have to collect any other pertinent information on Colossae and the Gnostics. You can read the introduction to this book in your commentaries, but go no further than the introduction.

DAY THREE THROUGH FIVE

You have three days to complete a chapter study on Colossians 1. If you are unfamiliar with the steps, I have listed them here for you. Remember, you are only looking at chapter 1 at this time.

1. Read through Colossians 1 and make sure that you didn't miss any key words from your marking last week. If you didn't make lists of your key words last week, please do that now.
2. Read through chapter 1 again, this time marking the key words of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (if you didn't mark them last week). I mark God in a purple triangle, Jesus with a red cross, and the Holy Spirit with a purple dove. You can mark them anyway you wish. When you complete marking the Godhead in chapter 1, record what you learn about each Person of the Godhead on the pages of key words that you started last week. Make sure to really focus in on what you learn about Jesus and it is very important that you make a list of all you learn about Him.
3. Read Colossians 1 one more time. Are there any other words that are key in just this chapter? If so mark them and then make a list of what you learn about them.
4. Look for and mark geographical locations. I use a green compass over the place.
5. Are there certain people other than the author and recipient that are mentioned in the chapter? If so, mark that person in a unique way.
6. Look for and mark expressions of time. I use a blue clock. These could be mentions of feasts, day or evening, or words like when, then, after this, until, now, soon, etc.
7. Look for and mark instructions. I underline mine in orange. Look for specific "do this" commands. Then make a list of instructions on a separate paper.
8. Look for and mark warnings. I put my warnings in a black box. Make a list of the warnings you have marked. I put them on the opposite side of the paper as my instructions.
9. Look for and mark contrasts. These show the differences between two words or concepts - opposites. I mark mine with a yellow lightening bolt through the word, then I put that lightning bolt on the side of the observation worksheet next to the verse and put the two words that are being contrasted on either side. Look for words like - but, however, yet, nevertheless, on the other hand.

10. Look for and mark comparisons showing the similarities between two or more words or concepts. I mark mine with brown lines going in both directions over the word and then I draw a line to the two words that are being compared. Look for words like - like, as, such as, also, etc.
11. Look for and mark terms of conclusion. These are words like - wherefore, therefore, for, for this reason, finally, etc. The author has stated certain facts and then states that this is how you should respond, this is what you should do. I put the word in a red box and draw lines that tie the fact with the response.
12. In each chapter, there are several paragraphs. These paragraphs are distinguished by vertical lines separating two verses. Summarize the paragraph by giving it a paragraph title. Follow the same procedure as you did for chapter titles.
13. Are you happy with the chapter title that you gave Colossians 1 last week? If not, you can change it now.
14. This is such a rich book, that you will want to carry these words with you wherever you go. The only way to do that is to memorize portions. Why not put some time into memorizing Colossians 1:9-10 this week. For those of you looking for more of a challenge try 9-14!

In Matthew 6:9-13, Jesus says pray this way, by this pattern. Have you ever been lost as to how to pray for someone? What should I be praying? Well, you are not alone. There are many who struggle with prayer. What better way to learn to pray than to look at what Jesus, Paul, Peter, Stephen, and many others prayed. Let the prayers recorded in God's Word become your teacher. If you want to pray for me, please feel free to repeat Paul's prayer in Colossians 1.

Your job this week will be to evaluate and understand this prayer and the power that is unleashed when you pray God's Word on behalf of others.

DAY ONE

You will be looking at Colossians 1:1-14 this week. I pray that this will greatly encourage you in your prayer life and in your life in general. This is your opportunity to learn and discover truth for yourself. Don't read commentaries or footnotes in your Bible, or anything else that will deprive you of sitting at God's feet, through the power and help of the Holy Spirit, learning from Him alone. Allow His Word to teach you about Jesus Christ and what He has done on Your behalf. Lift today's study in prayer and listen to God's still, small voice speak to you and fill you with awe of Him and His great love for you.

1. Read through Colossians 1:1-14. Let the words sink down into your very being.
2. Read these verses again. Record everything you learn about the people of Colossae. I know you have done this already if you have been doing your homework since you should have recorded all that you learned about the recipients throughout the book. This time your focus is just on these 14 verses. Be thorough and get to know Pau's audience.

3. There are people that Paul names throughout this letter. We want to make sure that if time was given to name them, we should get to know them. Record what you learn about Epaphras from this letter. Look at Colossians 1:7-8 and 4:12-13.

4. Is Epaphras mentioned anywhere else in the Bible? Use your Bible tools (Concordance, Word Study New Testament, or the internet) to find all the places this man is mentioned. Record the references below, along with any information you glean. Make sure to read the verses in their full context.

5. Read through Colossians 1:1-14 one more time. This time record everything that Paul prays on behalf of the Colossian Christians. Carefully follow the sentence structure so you see how the thoughts relate to each other. What modifies what? What does Paul ask? What is His purpose in asking? Can we pray these things for just anyone? Why can Paul ask these things on behalf of the Colossians?

DAY TWO

1. Today I would like you to begin by reading through Colossians 1:1-14 again.
2. There are a couple of words that need to be understood in this passage. In Colossians 1:9-10, the words “knowledge,” “wisdom,” and “understanding” are used. Take the time to use your concordance, expository dictionary, Word Study New Testament, the internet, or any other Greek study tools you may have at your disposal to look up the transliteration and definition of these words.

a. Knowledge

b. Wisdom

c. Understanding

DAY THREE

What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects? If you do this, your life will bear fruit! What does that mean? What is fruit? Let's see what God's Word tells us about fruit.

1. Look up each New Testament Scripture reference that mentions fruits. Record what you learn from each.

a. Matthew 3:7-10 (Luke 3:7-9)

b. Matthew 7:15-23 (Luke 6:43-45)

c. Matthew 12:33-37

d. Matthew 13:18-23 (Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15)

e. Luke 13:6-9

f. John 4:34-38

g. John 12:23-26

h. John 15:2-11

i. John 15:12-17

j. Romans 7:4-6

k. Romans 8:23

l. Galatians 5:22-25

m. Ephesians 5:6-13

n. Philippians 1:9-11

o. Colossians 1:3-6

p. Colossians 1:9-12

q. Hebrews 12:11

r. Hebrews 13:15-16

s. James 3:17-18

t. Jude 1:12-13

2. Look back over all the references and summarize what you have learned about fruits in a believer's life.

DAY FOUR AND FIVE

1. Paul asked God that the Colossians might be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience. What does it mean that they would be strengthened with all power. Look up the word for "power" (might - KJV). Record what you learn.

5. Look up these verses about the saints. Record what you learn.

a. Romans 1:6-7

b. I Corinthians 1:2

c. I Corinthians 1:26-31

d. I Corinthians 6:9-11

6. There are three words that need to be defined in Colossians 1:13-14. Use your study tools to look up the transliteration and definition of each word.

a. Delivered

b. Transferred (translated - KJV)

c. Redemption

7. Let's look at some other passages that talk about what it means to be transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of the Light - the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Read the following verses and record what you learn, keeping in mind all that you have learned in Colossians.

a. Acts 26:18

“. . . but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:31

In I John 5:13 John also writes, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”

John wants you to KNOW that you have eternal life if you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Do you know this Jesus? I mean do you REALLY KNOW this Jesus? When is the last time you read the book of John? If you haven't read it lately, I challenge you to do that.

This week you are going to come to know the Christ on a more intimate level. Pray that God will open your eyes of understanding, and you will see what He wants you to see. Behold the Lamb of God who loved you so much that He willingly endured the cross on your behalf and mine.

DAY ONE

In John 17:17, Jesus prays that God will sanctify His disciples in truth and then states that His Word is truth. The Psalmist proclaims “For You have magnified Your word according to (together with) all Your name.” Psalm 138:2b. If we want to keep from being deluded, we need to understand the truth and gain a deeper knowledge of Jesus Christ as He is presented in God's Word - the truth.

Paul prayed for the Colossians to increase in the knowledge of God. That is my prayer for you as you set out on your studies this week.

1. Without looking at any of your notes or lists, I want you to read slowly, carefully, and prayerfully through Colossians chapters 1 and 2. As you do this, write down everything you learn about Jesus Christ. Again, I know you did this when you made your lists, but remember that the goal of this weeks study is to learn more about Him. There is more space on the next page if you need it (and you should!).

2. Remember that the goal this week is to KNOW Jesus Christ. In order to know Him, there are certain questions that you have to have assurance of in your own mind. These are vital doctrinal issues. If you have these nailed down, you are on the right path to knowing Jesus. Here are some questions.
- What relationship did Jesus have with God?
 - Was Jesus man or God?
 - Was He a son of God or the son of God?
 - Was He some illusion sent by God or was He the incarnate God - God in the flesh?

How you answer these questions determines where you will stand on the other side of eternity. It is a matter of life (eternally in the presence of God) and death (eternally separated from Him).

g. Hebrews 10:1 (form)

h. Genesis 1:26-27

5. Who is the person of Jesus Christ? Who is He in relationship to God? What are His claims? As you read these Scriptures be sure to read them in context. Also, handle the passages carefully allowing Scripture to speak and watching how Scripture interprets Scripture. Don't add anything or take anything away from the truth of God's own Word. Don't go to commentaries for answers, instead wrestle through these verses on your own. If you have questions, go to the One who gave you His Word. Ask Him, through the Spirit, to teach you and lead you into truth. If necessary, look up any words that may help clarify what the author is communicating.

a. Hebrews 1:1-3, 8

b. John 1:18

c. John 12:45

d. John 14:7-11

e. Exodus 3:14; John 8:58, 24

f. John 10:30-33

g. Colossians 2:9

h. Philippians 2:5-11

6. So now for a little application. If a person refuses Jesus Christ, whom and what are they refusing? Write out your thoughts below.

7. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:13-15.

DAY TWO

1. Paul says that Jesus is “the first-born of all creation” in Colossians 1:15. What does that mean? Does this mean that Jesus is a created being? To understand who Christ is, we need to understand what this means, so let’s do some investigation. First you need to know the meaning of the phrase “first-born of all creation” in the original language. Then you need to understand the phrase in the context of the passage (it’s setting). Then you will look at how Scripture interprets Scripture.

a. Look up the phrase “first-born” in your study tools. Record what you learn.

b. Read Colossians 1:15-20. When you read this passage, does it seem like Paul is saying that Jesus was born before anyone else - that He was the first one God created? Explain your answer.

c. Now let’s take a look at how this is used in other Scriptures, allowing Scripture to interpret Scripture. Record what you learn from each reference.

1) Colossians 1:18

2) Romans 8:29

3) Revelation 1:5

c. Hebrews 1:8-12

5. According to Colossians 1:15-20, what have you learned about Jesus?

DAY THREE

Today you are going to begin looking at the mystery of the church. Many Christians would be hard pressed to define the church using a Biblical definition. That is about to change.

1. The word “church” is used five times in Colossians. Read each of these verses and record what you learn about the church.

a. Colossians 1:18

b. Colossians 1:24

- c. Colossians 1:25 (translators added the word for emphasis)

 - d. Colossians 4:15

 - e. Colossians 4:16
2. Now carefully read through Colossians 1:18-2:5 and record all that you learn about the church.
3. Using your study tools, look up the Greek word for “church” and record what you learn.
4. Let’s move to another of Paul’s epistles and discover what it says about the church. Take a look at these two passages in Ephesians and see what you learn.
- a. Ephesians 1:22-23

b. Ephesians 5:22-33

5. Summarize what you have learned about the church from both Ephesian passages and what you looked at in Colossians 1. Be thorough in your answer.

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

Why is the church called a mystery? That is what you are going to determine today as you continue to study the topic of the church.

1. The word “mystery” is used in Ephesians several times. Look up these verses and record what you learn.

a. Ephesians 1:9-12

b. Ephesians 5:32

c. Ephesians 6:18-20

2. Let's add a couple of other passages to your information. How do these add to your understanding of the mystery of the church.

a. Mark 4:11-12

b. Romans 16:25-27

c. I Corinthians 2:6-13

d. I Timothy 3:16

3. There are a couple of other verses that you need to look at before we leave the topic of the church. What do you learn from each?

a. Matthew 16:13-20

b. Hebrews 12:22-24

c. I Corinthians 12:12-13

d. I Timothy 3:15

e. Acts 2:46-47; John 15:16

4. When did the church begin? Keep in mind all that you have looked at so far in your study this week.

a. Acts 2:1-21, 36-41

b. Acts 10:1-48; 11:1-18; 15:1-11

5. From all that you have studied, define the church. Make sure your description is complete.

6. If you have time, you can see what the commentaries say about Colossians 1:15-2:5. There is room on the next page to record any insights you may have.

Here is a very important recipe for you. Take God's mystery, Jesus Christ Himself, and add the little insignificant word "in". Mix it together and watch what it makes.

In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. In Him all fullness of Deity dwells. In Him you have been made complete. In Him the body of flesh has been cut away from you. In Him you have been raised up from the darkness of death. In Him you have been made alive and forgiven for your transgressions. In Him your certificate of debt has been cancelled having been nailed to the cross. In Him you walk having been firmly rooted and established in your faith so that no one can delude you!

This is the recipe for VICTORY!

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

Spend these two days to do a complete chapter study. Take your time. Think about what you are reading. Meditate on the truths that are being presented to you. This isn't a long chapter, but it is powerful and deep. Who you are in Christ can be found here. Understanding these truths will transform your life!

If you need a reminder of the steps of a chapter study, you can find them in Lesson 2, pages 17-18. Remember to keep your lists about what you learn from the key words, especially what you learn about Jesus, and you will learn a lot from this chapter.

Record any questions you may have about this chapter in the space below.

DAY THREE

Take time to start your time of study in prayer as you read through Colossians chapter 2. Thank God for the truths that are revealed about His Son. Praise Him for what He has done for you. Pray the promises contained in these verses for yourself and others. Meditate upon these words.

1. Review what you have learned about Gnosticism from other lessons. Now read through Colossians 2 and record how Paul addressed the issues of where knowledge comes from, denying the deity and/or humanity of Christ, denying that Christ is the only way to God.

2. Read through this chapter again and record Paul's major concerns for these people.

3. Reading the chapter again, what does Paul present as an answer to their struggles?

- c. Could this apply to you and the people you deal with today? Explain how and why.

DAY FIVE

1. Paul was deeply concerned that the Christians at Colossae were being deluded by persuasive arguments that would take them captive and lead them into error regarding Jesus Christ. He warns them against philosophy and empty deception which is according to three things.
 - a. List the three things below (according to and rather than).
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - b. How does empty deception and philosophy relate to each other?
 - c. Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and record Paul's concern and what the answer would be.

5. Now it is time for a little soul searching. Spend some time in prayer and ask God to search your heart and expose any areas where you may be holding on to traditions of men instead of clinging to the truth that is taught in the Word of God. Write out what you learn and take these to the Lord in prayer.

Any teaching that is contrary to what God's Word teaches about the person and the work of Jesus Christ is heresy. Remember that Colossae was full of heresy. We are inundated with heresy today as well. Some is flagrant and very easy to spot. Other is subtle and pervasive. They serve truth and sprinkle it with just a touch of lies. They appeal to emotions, pride, and works. They make the message tasteful and enticing while watering down or completely ignoring the teachings that confront sin. They entertain the seekers that come into the church and would never think about calling them to live a godly life, acknowledging that suffering is a part of the life of those who follow Christ, holding their life to the light of truth that may make them feel uncomfortable.

We need to know the truth, so when we are confronted with heresy, we can quickly recognize it and speak out against it. We need to know Jesus Christ so that no one will delude us! Let's get to know that truth!

DAY ONE

You have learned that the purpose of this epistle was to help the readers know the Lord Jesus Christ, so they won't be deluded. That means that what Paul addresses in Colossians 2 is meant to counter the heresy that was being taught. If the Gnostics were proclaiming to the people that in them could be found wisdom and knowledge, Paul countered this teaching by saying that wisdom and knowledge can only be found in Christ.

Throughout this beautiful chapter, Paul emphasizes the person and work of Jesus Christ and what is true about those who are in Him. This was to combat the heresies that were being presented to and confusing the precious believers. Your job today is going to be to look at what Paul said and from that deduce what was being said and being taught in Colossae.

This is not going to be an easy assignment as it is going to require you to learn to be a Berean and search the Scriptures to see what is true - Acts 17:11. Isaiah calls us to come now, and reason together - Isaiah 1:18. In I Corinthians Paul said that when he was a child he spoke, and thought, and reasoned like a child, but when he grew up and became a man, he did away with childish things. Growing up and learning can sometimes be a hard task. Come now and reason through Scripture. You will have to think and reason. It will build your spiritual muscles and help you mature and grow up in Christ. Don't be intimidated. Think about the questions and pray through them as you work. There is a great blessing waiting for those who do.

1. Read through Colossians and fill in the chart below. Record what Paul taught about Jesus Christ and those who are in Him.
2. In the next column record the heresies he was most likely combatting. You are going to have to reason through and ask the question, "Why would Paul be saying that? What were the Gnostics/false teachers saying?"
3. In the last column read through the other three chapters of Colossians. Record references where Paul was addressing the same heresies, giving sound doctrine in its place.

Paul's Teaching	Heretical Teaching He Was Refuting	Other References in Colossians
About Jesus Christ:		
About Those in Him:		

b. Romans 6:1-11

3. If you haven't reasoned through this teaching completely yet, let me ask you this question. Why do you think Paul uses the word "circumcision" in Colossians 2:9-12? What relationship does circumcision have with baptism?

DAY FOUR

1. How did you do answering question #3 yesterday? If you felt a little overwhelmed with the question, let's take a closer look at the idea of circumcision. The word comes from the Greek #G4059 "peritemno" and #G4061 "peritome" meaning to cut around or cut off physically or figuratively (spiritually). Figuratively (spiritually) it means the putting off of the body of sins; being separated from the unclean multitude and consecrated to God; the extinction of passions and the removal of spiritual impurity. Look up the following verses and read them in light of what you have been studying. Record what you learn that can be helpful in your study.

- a. Genesis 17

- b. Exodus 12:43-48

- c. Leviticus 12:1-3

- d. Deuteronomy 30:1-6

- e. Romans 2:28-29

f. Romans 4:9-13 (Just a note - Isaac wasn't conceived until after Abraham was circumcised - stepped out in faith - Genesis 17:15-22)

g. Galatians 5:6

h. Philippians 3:2-3

2. Circumcision symbolized man's need for a cleansing of heart. It was an outward sign of an inward commitment that showed a cleansing from sin that comes only through faith. The believer undergoes a "spiritual circumcision" by the cutting away of the flesh (the sin nature - dying to self). Look at these verses and record what you learn.

a. Romans 6:6

b. II Cor 5:17

c. Titus 3:3-11

3. Having read these Scriptures, as well as Romans 6:1-11 from yesterday, what do you think Paul was communicating in Colossians 2 and how does circumcision and baptism relate to one another? Are they the same thing expressed in different ways, or two entirely different ideas?

DAY FIVE

Is your head spinning yet? Isn't it wonderful to watch Scripture interpret Scripture? The depth of truth is there for all those willing to dig for it. All we need to know about Jesus Christ has been laid out for us in great detail as long as we are willing to put in the effort to find those truths. Yes, it takes thinking and reasoning, but more than that, it takes time. We have been trained in this instant world to look for instant answers. When we learn to take time to sit at His feet and allow Him to teach us through His Word, we will come to know Him better.

In Colossians 2:13-14 there is a wonderful statement of what our lives used to be and what happened to change them. Paul says that we were dead in our transgressions (enemies of the cross of Christ - Philippians 3:18-19), and He made us alive together with Him. He forgave our transgressions and canceled our certificate of debt (decrees against us). He took those out of our way and nailed them to the cross. Praise the Lord! Do you see, do you understand as you read these words that it is all about Him? It is all about what Jesus Christ has done for you. This has nothing to do with you. You were dead! You were His enemy! You did it your way! It was His love, His compassion, His grace that reached out to you and changed you.

1. You were dead in your transgressions. There are a couple of words that you will need to define to help understand this passage. The author chose to use the word “transgression” (in the NASB) instead of two other words. Why? Do they mean the same thing? Was there a reason he would have chosen this word at this juncture of his message. I will help you sort this out a bit and let you take it from there. Look up the three different words that could have been used here.

a. Transgressions - verse 13 - (is translated the first time in KJV as “sins” and the second time as “trespasses” - but it is the same Greek word) Look up the meaning of #G3900 - paraptoma. Record what you learn.

b. Sin (#G266 coming from the root #G264 - hamartia)

c. Transgression (#G3847 - parabasis)

d. Can you see any difference in these words?

e. Are trespasses and transgressions sin?

2. Let's take a look at a couple of verses that define sin. What is God's definition of sin?
 - a. James 4:17
 - b. I John 3:4
 - c. I John 5:7
 - d. Romans 14:23

3. What did it look like when you were dead in your trespasses and sin? Read Ephesians 2:1-10. What did your life look like when you were dead? What changed you? What does your life look like now? Study this passage well. Ephesians is a great commentary on the book of Colossians! Record what you learn.
 - a. In Ephesians 2:1, Paul uses the words "trespasses" and "sins" (paraptoma and hamartia). Why do you think he used both of these words?
 - b. In Ephesians 2:5-6 you are told that God made you alive and raised you up with Christ. According to all you learned, how did He do that?
 - c. According to Ephesians 2:1-10, we walk on this earth, but where are we in God's view? How are we supposed to be living that out every day?

We are not done with these verses yet, but I am sure your mind is becoming weary. We will return to this passage next week as we complete chapter 2.

Colossians 2:14 says, “He canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”

Do you realize what that means? Do you understand the dilemma you were in before Jesus Christ reached out His hand to you and drew you to Himself? My heart just aches for all those who walk in darkness, rejecting the love that God has offered to them through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. They live in darkness, fear, anxiety, and hopelessness. They don’t have to! Jesus is just waiting to take their debt and nail it to the cross and set them free from a life of sin and death.

We have a message of hope to share with a dying world. Let’s go out in boldness and share that message!

DAY ONE

1. Read through Colossians 2 and see the context of Colossians 2:14. Record how verse 14 fits into the context of what we have been studying.

2. What does it mean that Jesus canceled out the certificate of debt? In that culture, this certificate of debt would be a handwritten notice that acted as a binding legal document. It stated the amount of indebtedness of the debtor. If this debt was not paid in full, by law, it was a punishable crime. Last week we looked at the Greek word for sin, “hamartia.” It means to miss the mark. God created man to be perfect. At the time of creation man walked with God in purity and perfection. He hit the bull’s eye (the mark) with every thought and every decision of his life, until that fateful day when he made a decision to choose a direction contrary to God’s. He rejected God’s truth, opting to listen to Satan’s lies. On that day he missed the mark, and mankind has been missing the mark (sinning) ever since. Read Romans 3:23 and record how this relates to this certificate of debt that each one of us has against us.

DAY TWO

Wasn't yesterday's study rich? Remember that the purpose of the book of Colossians was so that you would have a true knowledge of Jesus Christ, and through that knowledge you would not be deluded or deceived by the false doctrines that are so prevalent in our world today. Let's continue exploring the depths of His graciousness and power.

1. You have seen how Jesus has taken your certificate of debt with Him to the cross. But how can a righteous God forgive us of our sins and allow us into His kingdom when we know that the wages of sin is death and those who are unrighteous will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Read the following verses and record what you learn.

- a. II Corinthians 5:21

- b. Isaiah 53:5-6 and I Peter 2:24-25

2. In day one, we saw that to break one law was to be guilty of breaking all the laws and there is no one since Adam who has not broken God's laws at some point in time. So are we doomed forever? How do we break away from the law and its penalties? How can you and I be free from the law of sin and death? Read the following verses and record what you learn.

- a. Galatians 3:13

- b. Romans 7:4-6

- c. Galatians 2:19-20

6. One more question for today. In Colossians 2:15 Paul states, *“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”* When did this occur? Look up these verses and see what you learn.

a. John 12:27-36

b. Hebrews 2:14-15

c. Ephesians 1:19b-23

d. I Peter 3:17-22

7. When did God disarm the rulers and authorities?

DAY THREE

As we come to Colossians 2:16, our verse begins with the word “therefore.” It is always important to see what the “therefore” is therefore!

1. Go back and read Colossians 2 from the beginning to get a running start into verse 16 and see if you can discern why the “therefore” is there.

2. Paul talks about food, drink, festival, new moon, and Sabbaths. What do you think these things refer to? Were these Jewish practices or Gentile practices? Explain your answer.

3. The word “festival” (holiday - KJV) is #G1859. Look this word up in your study tools and record its transliteration and definition.

4. Now let’s look at some Scriptures that help us better understand these terms. See what you learn from each.
 - a. Leviticus 11:46-47

 - b. Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:23-28

c. I Chronicles 23:30-31; II Chronicles 31:3; Nehemiah 10:32-33

d. Hebrews 8:1-6, 7-13

e. Hebrews 10:1, 8

5. From everything you have read, why is no one to act as your judge with respect to food, drink, feasts, new moons, or Sabbath days?

3. Throughout the Old Testament angels were used as God's messengers. Some people had begun to worship the angels. Those who worshipped angels claimed the visions and revelations were the means of communication. When you add this to the growing movement of Gnosticism, you may be able to understand how the believers were getting caught up in persuasive arguments and false teachings if they stopped holding fast to the Head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

a. Look up the following verses and note what you learn from each.

1) Galatians 3:19; Hebrews 2:1-3

2) Hebrews 1:1-7, 13-14

3) Galatians 1:6-8

4) I Timothy 5:21

5) Hebrews 2:5

6) I Corinthians 6:3

7) Romans 8:38-39

- b. From everything you learned from your study in these Scriptures, why should we not worship angels?

DAY FIVE

1. Today we are going to look at visions and revelations. Hang in there as we complete our study on chapter two. There is a lot of misinformation out there about visions and revelations. Anytime there is something with which people quickly become entangled, it seems like the Bible speaks out to clarify the confusion. Let's let the Word of God speak for itself.

- a. Record what you learn from each passage.

1) Isaiah 8:19-20

2) Deuteronomy 13:1-5

3) Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17

4) II Corinthians 12:1-7

5) I Corinthians 14:29

b. What have you learned from these verses?

2. Look at Colossians 2:18-19 and Ephesians 4:11-16. How do these two passages compare to one another?

3. Read Colossians 2:16-23 and then compare them with the following references. Note what you learn.

a. Galatians 4:8-11

b. I Timothy 4:1-8

4. Now you can go to your commentaries and see what they have to say about Colossians 2.

Once you lived and walked in the deeds of the flesh. Jesus took that sinful flesh and nailed it to the cross. Now that flesh is to be put aside, and you have put on the new self, created in the image of Christ. You have been raised up with Him and now your life is lived by setting your mind on and seeking the things above.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

Spend the next two days doing your observations on Colossians 3. If you thought the first two chapters were powerful, wait until you see what is in store for you next!

DAY THREE

For the last two days you observed chapter three. It is a wonderful chapter is it not? Let's put this chapter in the context of the rest of the book. Before I set you to reading, let me remind you that when Paul wrote the book of Colossians, there were no chapter and verse divisions. It was a letter that flowed from beginning to end. Sometimes we forget that when we read the Bible. We automatically break one chapter away, thinking that it is isolated from the chapters before or after it.

1. Your first assignment today then is to read through Colossians 1-3, trying to blind yourself to the chapter and verse divisions and just watching the flow of the letter. You should have your key words and phrases marked which will emphasize the topics Paul dealt with through the book. By thoughtfully reading a book like this, you will keep each part in its proper context and when you do this, you will not be deluded, defrauded, or captivated by persuasive arguments and the deceitfulness of man.
2. In the flow of this letter (from chapter two to chapter three - remember that they are not isolated from each other), Paul states that legalism - following a set of rules which will put you in a right standing with God - only has the appearance of wisdom. What it is is a self-made religion which is of no value in controlling the fleshly desires of man. As he continues into chapter three, he informs his readers of what will make a difference in their lives, what will curtail the pull of the flesh. What is the solution?

3. You saw that severe treatment of the body, self-abasement, and self-made religion won't keep flesh under control, but Paul told you what will in Colossians. Are there other places in Scripture where we are taught about keeping flesh under control. Of course there is since this is something that is common to man.

a. Read the following passages and record what you learn.

1) Matthew 26:41; 6:9, 13

2) Romans 13:14

3) Galatians 5:16-25

4) I Thessalonians 5:21-22

5) II Timothy 2:22

b. Take the information you have gathered today and summarize what you have learned about how to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects.

DAY FOUR

1. In Colossians 3, Paul reminds us of our position in Christ. We have died with Him but we have also been raised up with Him to the heavenly places. This was a key point in Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Read the following verses and record what you learn about your position with Christ and our relationship with the powers of this world.
 - a. Ephesians 1:3

 - b. Ephesians 1:18-23

 - c. Ephesians 2:4-7

 - d. Ephesians 3:10

 - e. Ephesians 6:10-13

2. Now read Colossians 3:1-4 and record how this relates to the verses above and how this can work in your life to help you deal with your struggle with the flesh.

3. From these verses we know where Christ is right now. Have you wondered what He is doing in the heavenly places?

a. Read the following verses and note what He is doing and for whom it is being done.

1) John 14:2-3

2) Hebrews 7:24-25

b. What does this mean for you and me?

1) Romans 8:1, 29-30

2) II Corinthians 5:14-17

3) John 10:27-29

4) John 17:6-26

4. Your life is hidden with Christ in God! When He is revealed you will be revealed with Him in glory. Oh, what a wonderful day that will be. We know that we have victory in the end which means we are living in victory now because we serve the victorious King. Why, then, do so many Christians live in complete and utter defeat? Could it be that they are not Christians at all? Possibly. Could it be that they don't understand who they are in Christ? Most likely. We don't hear much preaching today that stresses that we are not our own, but we were bought with a price. We need to glorify God with our body - in everything we do, say, think, and desire. If we have entered into a covenant relationship with the King of kings and Lord of lords, then our life is lived out for our covenant partner, it is not longer I that lives but Christ in me! We have died to self and live for Christ. Read the following verses and record how each one of these would affect your life if you were a doer of the word and not a hearer only.

a. Romans 8:9-13

b. Philippians 1:20-21

c. Philippians 3:8-11

d. Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14

5. When we have died to self and live for Christ then we have the promise that we will be revealed with Him in glory. Maybe if we truly understood what that meant, it would cause us to seek the things above and set our minds and affections there. Both the seeking and the setting of your mind (your affections - KJV) are a present active indicative verb. This means that they are both a continual action that we need to take; it is our everyday lifestyle. To keep seeking (Colossians 3:1) is #G2212, zeteo, in the Strong's Concordance, and it means to desire to worship God. Set your mind on (Colossians 3:2) uses the word #G5426, phroneo, and it means where your mind is set; to think - not only in thought but also with affections;

will or moral consideration and the actions that are linked to them. So what is above? What is in store for us? Let's take a look.

a. Revelation 4

b. Revelation 21

c. Psalm 73:25

DAY FIVE

We will be revealed with Him in glory. How is that going to happen? What will happen to those who are His body, His church. Let's take a look at some exciting Scriptures.

1. We will look at these passages in the order in which they will occur.

a. I Corinthians 15:51-54; I Thessalonians 4:13-18 (These are talking about the same event.)

b. II Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12

c. Revelation 19:7-9

d. Revelation 19:11-16

e. Revelation 20:4-6; 5:10; Daniel 7:27

2. Now it is time to do some soul searching. II Corinthians 13:5 tells you that you are to examine yourself and see if you really are in the faith. From all that you have studied to this point, you need to ask yourself whether your life stands up to the test of God's Word. Have you died and been raised with Christ? Have you allowed Him to circumcise the old man, the flesh or are you still living in the deeds of the flesh? Are you a new creature in Christ walking by the power of the Spirit in the newness of life? Have you been delivered from darkness or are you still walking in it? Have you remained steadfast in your faith? Are you firmly rooted in the hope of the gospel? What is the evidence of your salvation?

3. As you examine your heart, ask yourself whether you have been trying to bring your flesh under control. How have you been trying to accomplish that? Through man-made religion? Self-abasement? Works of any kind - trying to follow a list of do's and don'ts?

4. Where is your mind set? What are you seeking? What occupies your thoughts? What are your goals and desires? If you were to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ, what would He find when He examined your life - the good and the bad?

Keep seeking the things from above, setting your mind on the heavenly and not on the earthly. How is that possible? It isn't possible unless there is a change in your heart, in your life. There needs to be a laying aside of the old, evil self and putting on the new self that has been renewed to a true knowledge of Christ. As His Word richly dwells in you, your experience with God will dictate your relationship with those around you.

As people observe your life, will they see overwhelming proof that you are God's chosen one? That you have a true knowledge of Jesus Christ? Will they know by listening to your words and watching your actions that the old man is gone and the new man has come, the one redeemed by Christ's blood and clothed with His righteousness.

DAY ONE AND DAY TWO

The verses that you are going to work on over the next two days are very important. You have two days to complete this assignment, so make sure you do a thorough job.

1. Start this week's lesson by reading through Colossians 3 two or three times.
2. Last week you spent time looking at Colossians 3:1-4. Read Colossians 3:1-11. Verse 5 begins with the word "therefore." How do verses 5-11 relate to the first four verses of the chapter?
3. In verse 5 you are told to consider the members of your earthly body as dead. In the King James Version it says to mortify the members of your body. The word "mortify" is #G3499 in the Strong's Concordance. The transliteration of the word is nekroo. It means to make dead, to put to death, to slay, to deprive of power, to destroy the strength of, to subdue. It is an aorist imperative active verb which means that it was a command that you were given at some point in the past that

b. Impurity (uncleanness - KJV)

c. Passion (Inordinate affection - KJV)

d. Evil desires (evil concupiscence - KJV)

e. Greed (covetousness - KJV)

f. Idolatry

g. Anger

h. Wrath

i. Malice

j. Slander (blasphemy - KJV)

k. Abusive speech (filthy communication - KJV)

7. According to Colossians 3:9-10, from where do these things come?

a. What was supposed to happen to that part of you?

b. You are told that you needed to lay aside the old and put on the new. These are both aorist middle participles which means that at some point in time you did this; it is a statement of fact.

8. There are three places where this idea of this “old self” or “old man” is used. One of these places is in Colossians 3. Let’s take a look at the other two and carefully record what it says about the old and new man, the results of this action, and the lifestyle lived by those taking off the old and putting on the new.

a. Romans 6:1-14 (You have already read part of this once. What additional insight can you gain from your study?)

b. Ephesians 4:17-32

9. Read Colossians 2 and compare it with Colossians 3, Romans 6, and Ephesians 4. How would describe “the old man” to someone and what will happen in your life if you die to him?

DAY THREE

1. There are those who claim to be true believers, who claim to be rid of the “old self,” but they continually (habitually) allow the members of the body to be involved in the evil practices of the flesh. Are they just back-sliders? (By the way, that isn’t a Biblical term or idea!) Have they just lost their way for a time? Let’s see what the Bible says. Read the following verses and record your insights. Please allow the Word of God to speak to you. Don’t read anything into it or take anything away from it. God’s Word is truth, even if we don’t like what it says. Sometimes it is painful to allow God’s Word to be the mirror in which we see our reflection. It feels much better to measure ourselves against the world instead of the Word. As you do this assignment, look up any words that need defining.

a. I Corinthians 6:9-11

b. Galatians 5:19-21 (practice is a present active participle - our habit for life)

c. Ephesians 5:3-13

d. I John 3:4-10

2. You were to have put on the new self that is being renewed to a true knowledge of Christ. The word renewed is a present passive participle. This is not something that you do on your own but something that is being done to you and through you through the Holy Spirit. This is the continual (habitual) working out of His power, strength, and love through your life. By you putting on the new self (entering into a covenant relationship with Christ) you are now being filled, renewed, and empowered through Him. If that regenerating power is not at work in your heart, you need to examine yourself and see if you are truly in the faith! God is continually renewing the believer into the likeness of Christ through the Holy Spirit.
3. Take a look at Colossians 3:11. Why do you think Paul included this as being part of the transformed life?

4. What have learned through your study so far this week that you can apply to your own life?

DAY FOUR AND DAY FIVE

In the first couple of days of this week's study you have looked at what you were to have taken off, put aside, or died to. For the last couple of days you will look at what you are to have put on.

1. In the beginning of Colossians 3:12, how is the believer described?
2. If you are a child of God, then you are chosen, holy (set apart), and beloved. There are other places in Scripture where this idea of being chosen is presented. Let's take a look at a couple of those.
 - a. Matthew 22:1-14 (record how we know who are the chosen)
 - b. Luke 12:22-32 (note the lifestyle of the chosen and what God has given to them)
 - c. John 13:12-18
 - d. I Corinthians 1:26-31
 - e. II Thessalonians 2:13-14

f. I Peter 2:9-12

3. What are you to put on according to Colossians 3:12-14? There is ample space here for you to do a word study on each of these words and get a greater definition, so you understand exactly what you are to put on.

4. In verse 13, Paul states that we are to be forgiving one another. Forgiveness can be so hard can't it? God knows that and understands that. He instructs us through His Word of how important forgiveness truly is. Read the following verses and record what you learn.

a. Matthew 6:9-15

b. Matthew 18:21-35

c. Luke 23:34

d. Ephesians 4:32

e. What about you? Are you willing to forgive? If not, what have you learned by what you have read here?

5. Why should a Christian put on these things? Look at verse 14.

Our commitment to Christ is lived out by our commitment to others. Jesus said that we are to love the Lord our God and love our neighbor as ourselves. He came not to abolish the Law but to fulfill it, and according to Romans 13:10, love is the fulfillment of the Law. How does that love show in our closest relationships? How is that lived out between a husband and a wife? Between parents and children? Between slave and master?

This week we are going to finish this incredible book. Let's finish strong!

DAY ONE

1. Let's start the week by doing a chapter study on Colossians 4. It shouldn't take long because most of it is the closing remarks and greetings.
2. Now that you have completed your chapter study, read Colossians 3:18-4:1. There are six different relationships mentioned. Record the relationships and for what each person is responsible.
3. These instructions begin with the most personal, intimate relationship that you can have in this life - that between a husband and wife. Record how wives are to respond to their husbands and why and the husband's responsibility toward his wife.

4. Let's do a couple of word studies so you understand the commands of the Lord. Look up the following words and record their translation and meaning as well as what you learn about the mood, tense, and voice of the word.

a. Be subject (submit - KJV) - Colossians 3:18 (present middle imperative)

b. Love - Colossians 3:19 (present active imperative)

5. In the Jewish and pagan cultures women were looked at as possessions, put on the earth for nothing more than to be used for the pleasure of men and to have children. This mindset would be very hard on the women and very much against God's design of this foundational relationship of society. Let's read some verses and keep in mind what you learned in your word studies.

a. Colossians 3:10-11 (Galatians 3:27-29)

b. Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18, 22-25

c. Ephesians 5:22-33

- d. I Peter 3:1-12 (go back to I Peter 2:21-25 to see what “in the same way” refers to.
6. Take a couple of minutes to reflect on your relationship with your mate (if applicable). Note that this is not about their relationship to you. You can't change that, you can only see if you are being faithful to walk in a right relationship with God. Your attitude of honor, respect, and obedience toward God can be the strongest godly influence your mate may ever see. What is your life showing them? Are you living in obedience to God's Word as a continual, habitual lifestyle?

DAY TWO

1. Today, we will look at an extension of the husband-wife relationship, that of parents and children.
 - a. Read Colossians 3:20 and record the instruction to the children. Why are they supposed to do this?

b. Look up the phrase “be obedient” in your word study tools and record what you learn. By the way, this is the same word that is going to be used later in verse 22 when slaves are told to obey their masters.

c. Keeping the meaning of the word “obey” in mind read Ephesians 6:1-4. What is the responsibility of the child toward the parent and the parent toward the child? Look up the words “provoke” and “bring them up” in your study tools.

d. Since the family unit is the very foundation of the church and society, it is vitally important to understand this parent-child relationship. Look at the following verses and note what commands are given, to whom they are given, and how they apply to every day life.

1) Proverbs 6:20-23

2) Proverbs 23:22-25

3) Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-4

4) Proverbs 15:20

e. You have read about what the father is to do for his children. Read Colossians 3:21. What is a father not supposed to do and why?

1) Look up the word “exasperate.” Write down what you learn.

2) How does this compare to the command given to not provoke your children in Ephesians 6:1-4?

3) At the end of this lesson, you will find a two page article of how not to exasperate your children. Whether we have children living in our home with us or are just expose to children in our work or families, we need to all understand these principles. Take a couple of minutes to read through these pages and make some notes in areas that you may need to work on in your life.

2. Now let's turn our attention to the slave-master relationship. If you think this doesn't apply to you, you would be wrong. This would apply to the boss-employee relationship or any other relationship where we are working along side someone else. Have you ever wondered why the Bible didn't command the masters to free their slaves or tell the slaves they were to seek freedom from their slavery? I believe that even though cultures may be different from place to place or from time period to time period, there is still a hierarchy that comes when we work with others, and isn't the body of Christ to work together in unity to accomplish His purpose? Within any hierarchy there are those that lead and those that follow. The principles we find in God's Word when we study slaves and masters apply to how we relate to one another in every aspect of life.

- a. Colossians 3:22-4:1

- b. Ephesians 6:5-9

- c. I Timothy 6:1-2

- d. Titus 2:9-14

- b. What do these verses teach you about prayer? Be thorough in your answer.
- c. How important is prayer in a believers life and why?
3. If you are to pray in such a way that God will hear you and answer you, then you must first deal with sin in your life. Look up these verses and record what you learn. Give this plenty of time and thought!
- a. John 9:31
 - b. Psalm 66:17-20
 - c. Proverbs 28:9
 - d. Isaiah 1:15
 - e. Isaiah 59:1-2

f. I John 3:21-22

4. What determines the effectiveness of our prayer? As you read these verses and record what you learn, don't just write the verse but be sure to explain what it means. Pay attention to how you are to live if your prayers are going to be effective.

a. John 15:7

b. John 15:16

c. I John 5:14-15

d. Hebrews 11:6

e. Mark 11:23-26

f. Luke 11:5-10

g. Luke 18:1-8

h. James 4:2-3

i. James 5:16

5. When you read about the Old Testament tabernacle, which served as a pattern or picture of our relationship with Christ, you discover that there was a fire burning on the altar of incense at all times. That sweet smelling incense continually traveled upward toward God as a picture of our prayers continually rising before Him. We are to continually be devoted to prayer. Read I Thessalonians 5:16-18 (“rejoice,” “pray,” and “give thanks” are all present imperatives - commands that we are to continually, habitually do. How do these verses exhort us to be devoted to prayer?

6. Look up these verses. If we were obedient to principles, how would that encourage us to be devoted to prayer?
 - a. Psalm 37:5

 - b. Psalm 139:23-24

 - c. Proverbs 3:5-6

 - d. Matthew 26:41

e. Ephesians 6:18

f. Philippians 4:6

g. I Timothy 2:1-4

h. I Peter 5:6-7

7. To conclude our study on prayer, read Colossians 4:2-4 and record what Paul's desire for prayer included. What burdened his heart that he coveted their prayers?

DAY FIVE

As Paul concludes this letter, notice his concern, In the rest of the epistle he addressed the needs of the group of believers. He has nailed down who they are in Christ and what that means in their life. He has instructed them how to live with each other. Now his concern turns to the world of unbelievers around them. He is concerned with how he and they can reach those outsiders with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

1. Read through Colossians 4:2-6 and notice Paul's concern.

2. What does it mean to conduct yourselves with wisdom making the most of every opportunity?
 - a. Look up the following words.
 - 1) conduct (walk - KJV) - present active imperative (continual command)
 - 2) making the most of the opportunity (redeeming the time - KJV)
 - b. How does this relate to the lost?
 - c. How are we to redeem the time?
3. As you relate to other people, let your speech always be with grace. What do you think Paul meant by verse 6?
4. If you have time, you may want to spend some time looking at the people that are mentioned at the end of chapter 4. There are some verses listed that you can use to put together a character study of each one. You will want to keep notes on another paper.
 - a. Timothy - Acts 16:1; 19:22; Colossians 1:11; I & II Timothy; Philemon 1
 - b. Epaphras - Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13; Philemon 23
 - c. Tychicus - Acts 20:4; Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7; II Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12
 - d. Onesimus - Colossians 4:9; Philemon 10-18

- e. Aristarchus - Acts 19:29; 29:4; 27:2; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24
 - f. Mark - Acts 12:12, 25; 15:37-39; Colossians 4:10; II Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; I Peter 5:13
 - g. Jesus (Justus) - Colossians 4:11
 - h. Luke - Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24
 - i. Demas - Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24
 - j. Archippus - Colossians 4:17; Philemon 2
5. You can look at what your commentaries say about Colossians 3:18-4:18.

***Well done! You stayed the course and completed the race.
What a treasure trove we have uncovered in this wonderful little book!***

You exasperate your children when you...

1. Never admit you are wrong, tell your children when you have made a mistake and ask their forgiveness if you have sinned in your actions and attitudes.
2. Model hypocrisy, when you say one thing and do another.
3. Fail to keep your promises, be cautious with your words, you may not think you are making a promise, but your children may interpret your words or actions as promises.
4. Demand too much of them, don't expect them to act like adults if they are children. Be reasonable in your expectations of their actions, attitudes and how much responsibility you entrust or expect of them.
5. Over protect them, don't bail them out of problems, let them learn the hard way now, the cost will be less now than later in life.
6. Batter them with words, use your words sparingly
7. Abuse them verbally, don't call them names, don't add explanation marks to their names, do not predict failure. Compliment them! Praise them! Tell them all the things they do well not the failures.
8. Make discipline too severe.
9. Show favoritism towards their brothers and sisters; don't compare one child to another in their achievements, abilities and grades.
10. Embarrass them; be careful and cautious with how you speak about them to others especially when they are present.
11. Give no time warnings, don't come in the room and tell them to stop immediately, give them a few minutes to adjust to the next expectation. Tell them bed in 5 minutes; we are leaving in 10 minutes, finish up, clean up.
12. Try to be their buddy, YOU are their parent!
13. Withhold firm discipline and proper training, don't repeat! If you tell them dinner is ready and they don't come, no dinner. Don't debate things with them, you are the parent you are to train them up in the way they should go!

14. Discipline inconsistently, don't use different punishments for the same offense. Each child should receive the same punishment for the same crime. Being tired or busy is no excuse for inconsistent punishments. Keep a journal to ensure consistency.
15. Assert parental authority weakly. Don't let the children ask you repeatedly to do something, don't let them try to wear you down. If you have made a decision, stick to it unless you have a good reason for changing it!
16. Consistently believe evil of them. When you are being suspicious of them, making accusations of wrongdoing. Be happy with them, they are a gift from God.
17. Do not listen to them. Let them explain or complain about frustrations. This must be done in a polite and appropriate manner.
18. Continually criticize them when they share their innermost feelings.
19. Communicate to them that they are unwanted. You say things like I don't want any more kids; I had to give up this opportunity or that because of you kids.
20. Threaten them with rejection. If they are doing something wrong or will not abide by the rules in a certain period of time, have them leave the house. Love them but not the sin.
21. Never communicate your approval of them. You always find something wrong with their actions.
22. Neglect them. Allow the phone to interrupt your time together. Let the machine take a message. Dads take them with you to the store and on other errands, use the time to teach, to listen, and to communicate.
23. Overindulge them. Do not allow them to be part of the decision making. Example, when mom and dad are buying something. Age enters into this equation.
24. Reward insolence, sass, pouting, anger, raising their voice to you. Do not allow the conversation to go on, discipline not reward.
25. Cease a time of chastisement before it has produced humility. Do not cease unless you see fruit, fruit would be a change in action or attitude.
26. Never communicate your approval of them. You always find something wrong with their actions.

Adapted from Pastor Reb Bradley's seminar,
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