

A Study in Colossians

by Nicole Love Halbrooks Vaughn

Proven Path Ministries

Colossians 1:1-14 (NASB)

1) Always begin a Bible study with a research of the historical context of the book. The book of Colossians was written around 62AD. Research the city of Colossae and its people and its cultural influences. In your historical research also research gnosticism and eastern mysticism to get a better understanding of what was influencing the people of Colossae during this time.

2) Digging into Col 1:1-2

- (a) Who wrote the book of Colossians and what do you learn about them?
- (b) Who are the recipients and how are they described?
- (c) Notice in the greeting that grace precedes peace. Does this mean anything? Cross-reference this verse with Romans 5:1-2.

3) Digging into Col 1:3-4

- (a) Notice the word "heard".
What does this tell us about the writer and the circumstances of the letter?
- (b) What had the writer heard?

4) Digging into Col 1:5-6

- (a) How/Why did the saints of Colossae have faith in Christ and love for the saints?
- (b) What do you learn about the gospel?
- (c) Study the "bearing fruit" by cross-referencing John 15 and Gal 5:22-24.
- (d) Is the gospel bearing fruit in and through you?
- (e) Look at the word "understood" in the original context this was "came really to know"
- (f) Have you come to really know the grace of God in truth?

5) Digging into Col 1:7-8

- (a) How had the saints at Colossae learned of the gospel?
- (b) How had Paul heard of their love and faith?
- (c) Did Paul in any way play a hierarchy role as he wrote of Epaphras?
- (d) How did Paul refer to Epaphras?

6) Digging into Col 1:9-10

- (a) Notice "For the reason" and ask yourself for what reason?
- (b) Compare Col 1:9 with Prov 9:10 and Job 28:28
- (c) How does the knowledge of God differ from the knowledge of the gnostics?
- (d) How is Col 1:10 connected with Col 1:9?
- (e) Can you walk in a manner worthy of the Lord apart from His knowledge, apart from knowing Him?
- (f) Go back and read John 15 again.
- (g) Does every good work bear fruit?
- (h) Cross-reference with Heb 6:1 and Heb 9:14.
- (i) Are you increasing in the knowledge of God in your good works?

7) Digging into Col 1:11-12

- (a) How does Col 1:11-12 connect with Col 1:9-10?
- (b) Pay close attention to the word "all" and how it relates to the gnostic teaching as we continue through this chapter.
- (c) Focus in on "steadfastness and patience and joyously giving thanks".
- (d) How steadfast and patient are you in suffering?
- (e) Compare with Isaiah 26:1-9.
- (f) Can you joyously give thanks while you remain steadfast and patient in suffering?
- (g) Who are they giving thanks to and what did He do?
- (h) What is something you have had to qualify for?
- (i) What are the qualifications for the kingdom of Light?
- (j) Cross -reference with John 1:9-13, Acts 26:18, Eph 5:8.

8) Digging into Col 1:13-14

(a) Compare with Romans 5:1-11 and 1 John 1:5-2:11

(b) We have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and this kingdom no longer has authority over us.

(c) How does the knowledge of this truth strengthen your boldness in Christ and your ability to walk in a manner worthy of your calling, the calling of being a Christian?

Colossians 1:15-23 (NASB)

1) Begin by reading these verses and make lists of all that you learn about Jesus, about the Father, and about the "you". Continue to pay attention to the word "all" as you study these verses.

2) Digging into Col 1:15

- (a) According to the text who is this "He"
- (b) What preceding verses let you know who "He" is?
- (c) What does it mean that He is the image of the invisible God?
- (d) Cross-reference with John 1:8, John 14:6-9, 2 Corin 3:16-4:6, Heb 1:1-3.
- (e) Focus on the word "firstborn" and take the time to research the Greek meaning and the way God uses this word throughout all of Scripture.

3) Digging into Col 1:16

- (a) What is in heaven and on earth?
- (b) Focus on the "visible and invisible".
- (c) What is the invisible creation?
- (d) Cross-reference with Prov 8:22-31.
- (e) Who is the "me" in Prov 8:22?
- (f) Look back at Prov 8:12.
- (g) Could this be part of God's "invisible" creation?
- (h) What thrones and dominions and authorities are being referred to in this verse?

4) Digging into Col 1:17

- (a) Who is before all things?
- (b) Is it a "who" or a "what" that holds all things together?
- (b) In Him all things hold together, compare back with Hebrews 1:3
- (c) Google Louie Giglio's message on Laminin in light of this verse.

5) Digging into Col 1:18

- (a) What body?
- (b) Cross-reference with 1 Corin 12:27.
- (c) What does it mean that He is the beginning?
- (d) Cross-reference with John 1:1-3 and Rev 3:14.
- (e) What does it mean that He is the firstborn among the dead and why did He need to be? {hint: the "so"}
- (f) Cross-reference with Heb 2:14-17.

6) Digging into Col 1:19

- (a) Notice who the focus becomes in this verse.
- (b) What does it mean for "all the fullness to dwell in Him" and who is the "Him"?
- (c) Look at John 15:26 and notice the Father and Holy Spirit and Christ and truth and testify... this verse is just a small picture of the "fullness"

7) Digging into Col 1:20

- (a) Notice the flow of thought as this verse is connected with Col 1:19 with the "and".
- (b) Who is the "Him" and "Himself" in this verse?
- (c) What "all things" were reconciled?
- (d) Cross-reference with Isaiah 11:6-9, John 1:51, Rom 8:19-22, Heb 2:10-13.
- (e) How were all things reconciled?
- (f) How was peace made?
- (g) How does this compare to the teaching of gnosticism and eastern mysticism that was rampant in Colossae ?

8) Digging into Col 1:21

- (a) Notice the past tense of the verb in this verse.
- (b) Cross-reference with Romans 8:3-9.

9) Digging into Col 1:22

- (a) What were we reconciled in?
- (b) Read Heb 2:14-17 again
- (c) What were we reconciled through?
- (d) Cross-reference with Rom 8:10-13 and Heb 9:15-17.
- (d) According to Col 1:22 why did Christ do this?
- (e) Who is He presenting us to?
- (f) How does He plan to present us?
- (g) How will He be able to present You in this way? {hint: the answer is in Col 1:23 "if you continue"}

10) Digging into Col 1:23

- (a) What are we to continue in?
- (b) Why would God constantly challenge and charge us to "continue in the faith", to "hold fast", to "be steadfast", to "persevere" if we were already perfect and without sin?
- (c) Remember we have been saved from the power of sin, not the presence of sin, it is now the time to walk in our power over sin.
- (d) What is the "hope of the gospel"?
- (e) Cross-reference with Heb 6:9-20, Heb 10:14-39, 1 John 2:28-3:3.

Colossians 1:24-2:7 (NASB)

1) Digging into Col 1:24

- (a) Do you rejoice in your sufferings?
- (b) Are you willing to sacrifice your own wants and desires on behalf of the body of Christ?
- (c) Are you doing your share on behalf of the body?
- (d) Are you willing to be obedient to God at any cost?

2) Digging into Col 1:25

- (a) What are you a steward of that belongs to God?
- (b) Cross-reference with Luke 12:35-48, 1 Corin 4:1-2, 1 Corin 9:15-18, 1 Corin 12:4-7, 1 Peter 4:7-11, Eph 3:2.
- (c) Why did God give you this stewardship? {hint: notice the "so"}

3) Digging into Col 1:26-27

- (a) What does the word of God that we are to preach contain?
- (b) What is this mystery?
- (c) Who did God will to make it known to?

4) Digging into Col 1:28-29

- (a) Who are we to proclaim?
- (b) To who are we to proclaim Him?
- (c) Cross-reference with John 1:9, John 3:16, 1 Peter 3:9
- (d) For what purpose does Paul labor?
- (e) How does this relate to his prayer in Col 1:9-11?

5) Digging into Col 2:1

- (a) As you read through Colossians remember that Paul is the writer but God is the author. This is the Word of God to you as a church and as an individual. As you read this

verse compare it with John 20:29 and 1 Peter 1:8.

- (b) What does this say to you and your relationship with Christ and His church?
- (c) Remember that Paul is writing this letter while in prison. He does what he can from where ever he is, not allowing his circumstances to stop his service to Christ and His body.
- (d) Are you allowing your circumstances to be an excuse to not be obedient in service?

6) Digging into Col 2:2-3

- (a) In this verse we discover what Paul struggles over, what do you learn?
- (b) What wealth does Col 2:2 want us to attain to?
- (c) Cross-reference with Eph 1:7-2:4, Eph 3:16.
- (d) How do we attain to this wealth?
- (e) Do a little research on the word "understanding" include research of the greek translation.
- (f) Who is Christ's mystery and how does this relate to the mystery of Col 1:26?
- (g) What is hidden in God's mystery?
- (h) Read Isaiah 5:13 and Hosea 4:6.
- (i) Are you beginning to see the true circle of life?
- (j) Read Rom 11:33-36

7) Digging into Col 2:4

- (a) Do you see persuasive arguments today?
- (b) Has what you have learned thus far in Colossians begun to strengthen your ability to discern the truth when faced with these arguments?

8) Digging into Col 2:5

- (a) Is Christ absent in body?
- (b) Is He with you in Spirit?
- (c) Can He rejoice to see your good discipline?
- (d) How are you to discipline yourself?
- (e) Read John 14:23, 1 Corin 9:27, 2 Tim 2:15, Heb 10:25.

- (f) Are you stable in your faith or does it waver according to your circumstances?
- (g) Read Isaiah 33:5-6.

9) Looking at Col 2:6-7

- (a) How did you receive Christ?
- (b) Cross-reference with Gal 3:1-5 and 2 Corin 5:6-15.
- (c) Notice the verb tense in Col 2:7, what "were" you and what "are" you?
- (d) What does this tell you about your relationship with Christ?
- (e) Remember faith is like a muscle, it must be worked in order to grow.

Colossians 2:8-23 (NASB)

1) Digging into Col 2:8

- (a) If your parents, your teachers, your boss, your loan officer told you to "see to" something what does that mean to you?
- (b) Whose responsibility is it to "see to it"?
- (c) What philosophy and empty deception plagued Colossae and how does this relate to us today?
- (d) What are traditions of man and the elementary principles of the world?
- (e) Read Isaiah 5:13, 1 Corin 1:30-2:16, Gal 1:6-3:9, and Heb 5:11-6:8.

2) Digging into Col 2:9

- (a) Cross-reference with John 1:32, John 14:10-11, John 15:26, 2 Corin 4:4, Rom 11:36, Phil 2:6-11, Rev 1:5, 12-18.

3) Digging into Col 2:10

- (a) The word "complete" is "full" in the original translation.
- (b) What does it mean for you to be complete in Christ?
- (c) What were you lacking?
- (c) According to this verse what is Christ head over?
- (d) Cross-reference with Matt 28:18, 1 Corin 8:5-6, Eph 3:8-19, Col 1:15-17.

4) Digging into Col 2:11-14

- (a) Make a list of what happens to us "in Him" and "with Him"
- (b) Read Rom 5-8 in light of the verses.

5) Digging into Col 2:11

- (a) Compare with Rom 2:25-29 and how does this relate to Col 2:8?
- (b) What is the removal of the body of flesh?
- (c) The word removal here is "apekdusis" and it means a putting off, laying aside.
- (d) Compare with Rom 13:12-14.

6) Digging into Col 2:12

- (a) What does it mean to be buried with Him in baptism?
- (b) Research the word baptism and its usage, include a Greek word study.
- (c) How were you raised up with Him?

7) Digging into Col 2:13

- (a) In what state did Christ find you?
- (b) How were you made alive?
- (c) Remember Col 1:13-14, 20-22.

8) Digging into Col 2:14

- (a) What is the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us?
- (b) Cross-reference with Romans 3:9-26
- (c) What did He do with that certificate?
- (d) Cross-reference with 2 Peter 2:24-25.
- (e) For a beautiful picture of this substitutionary death in the Law look at Mark 1:40-44 and then go to Leviticus 14:1-7.
- (f) As you look at Mark 1:40-44, consider why Jesus would have this man go to the priest and follow this commandment?

9) Digging into Col 2:15

- (a) What else happened due to the cross of Christ?
- (b) Look back at Col:2:10, Matt 28:18, 1 Corin 8:5-6, Eph 3:8-19, Col 1:15-17.
- (c) What was the relationship of man and "the rulers and authorities" before the cross?
- (d) Take a dive into Isaiah 3:13-15 and compare with Prov 28:2, Mark 1:21-28, 32-39, Mark 3:7-27, John 12:27-31, Eph 2:2, Eph 6:12, Isaiah 10:17-19.
- (e) How did Christ make a public display of them? (Mark 1:23-27, Mark 3:11,14-15)
- (f) How did He triumph over them?
- (g) Read 1 Peter 3:18-22.

10) Looking at Col 2:16-17

- (a) Compare with Isaiah 1:10-20
- (b) Is God's desire for His people before the cross any different than after the cross?
- (c) Cross-reference with Hebrews 9:23-10:23.

11) Digging into Col 2:18-19

- (a) Paul writes "Let no one keep defrauding you", what does this tell you about the church at Colossae during this time?
- (b) Cross-reference with Gal 1:6-9 and Gal 5:7-16.
- (c) Read this verse and consider the background and beliefs of Mormonism, Islam, Jehovah's Witness, Buddhism, Hinduism, New Age Mysticism, and Scientology, etc
- (d) As you read Col 2:18 recall Col 1:17-18 and recall and read 1 Corin 12:4-14:38.
- (e) Read Rev 2:7, 2:10-11, 2:17, 2:26, 3:5, 3:12, 3:21 to get a glimpse of "your prize"

12) Digging into Col 2:20-22

- (a) Cross-reference with Gal 2:20-21, Gal 4:8-11, and recall Gal 5:7-16.
- (b) What had man done to God's Law through the years?
- (c) What kind of requirements comes with the worship of false gods and idols?
- (d) Read 2 Kings 17:24-26.
- (e) Recall the cross-references from Col 2:8.
- (f) Compare Col 2:20-22 with Isaiah 2:22
- (g) Are you regarding man or Christ?
- (h) Are you seeking man's approval or the approval of Christ?
- (i) Are you using your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh?
- (j) Have you passed the elementary principles or does someone still have to slap and hold your hand? (Consider having a professor in college speak to you as a kindergarten teacher, handing out rules, like keep your seat in your seat and your hands to yourself)

13) Digging into Col 2:23

(a) The commandments and teaching of men have an appearance of wisdom, as there is a form of godliness (2 Tim 3:5), as Satan appears as an angel of light (2 Corin 11:14), but things are not always as they appear. In Christ we have assurance not mere appearance.

(b) Read 1 Corin 3:18-4:4.

(c) Read James 3:13-18.

(d) There is only one way to defeat the flesh and that is by the Spirit (Rom 8:12-17, Gal 5:16).

(e) Go back and read the prayer in Col 1:9-14.

Colossians 3:1-17 (NASB)

1) Digging into Col 3:1

- (a) This chapter begins with a "Therefore", what is the "therefore" there for?
- (b) Back- up and read Col 2:20 and see if you notice the connection?
- (c) Pay close attention to the word "if" as you read Col 2:20 -3:1.
- (d) How long are we to seek the things above?
- (e) Where is Christ according to Col 3:1?
- (f) Cross-reference with Psalm 110 and Heb 9:23-10:25.

2) Digging into Col 3:2

- (a) The word "Set" in the original manuscript is "be intent on".
- (b) According to Col 3:2 what are we to set our minds on or be intent on?
- (c) Cross-reference with Matt 16:21-23, John 12:42-43, Rom 12:1-2, and Phil 3:18-21.

3) Digging into Col 3:3

- (a) What does it mean to be hidden with Christ?
- (b) Compare with Gal 2:20 and 1 John 5:18-20.
- (c) Consider how Noah was hidden in the ark to receive salvation through the flood and compare with 1 Peter 3:18-22.

4) Digging into Col 3:4

- (a) Notice the sequence of events in this verse marked by the "when" and "then"
- (b) Cross-reference with John 17:20-26, Rom 8:23,29-30, 1 Corin 15:53, 1 John 3:2, and Rev 19:7-8,14

5) Digging into Col 3:5

- (a) We have another "Therefore" so what's the "therefore" there for?
- (b) Read Col 3:3 and see if you notice the connection?
- (c) As you read Col 3:5 refer back to Col 2:11.

- (d) Do a word study on this list of sins and notice what these particular sins are in the eyes of God.
- (e) Go read again 1 John 5:18-21. What is John's final word to the church?
- (f) What is idolatry and how far back does it go?
- (g) Are you purposeful in guarding yourself from idolatry?

6) Digging into Col 3:6

- (a) What is the "these things" in this verse?
- (b) What is coming because of these things?
- (c) Cross-reference with Rom 1:18-32, Rom 6:12-22, Gal 5:16-24, Eph 5:3-6.
- (d) Notice the word "will" in this verse. What does this tell you about God's intentions? Is His wrath against these things up for negotiation?

7) Digging into Col 3:7

- (a) Col 3:7 is continuous with Col 3:6, what was your relationship to "these things"
- (b) Point out the past tense verbs and time/sequence marking word "when".
- (c) What should be your relationship with "these things" if you are raised in Christ?
- (d) Cross-reference with Eph 2:1-10 and Eph 5:7-21.

8) Digging into Col 3:8-9

- (a) What are we to put aside?
- (b) Why? What did we lay aside in order to be able to put them aside?
- (c) Who laid it aside?

9) Digging into Col 3:10

- (a) This is a continuous thought with Col 3:5-9.
- (b) According to this verse what have you put on?
- (c) Who put it on?
- (d) According to Col 3:8-10 whose responsibility is it to put aside, lay aside, and put on?
- (e) What is happening to this new self?

- (f) The word "renewed" here in the original text is "renovated".
- (g) What is the new self being renewed or renovates to?
- (f) According to what?
- (g) Compare with Gen 1:26-27 and consider the knowledge that Eve sought in Gen 3:1-6.
- (h) Where is true knowledge found?
- (i) Refer back to Col 2:2-3.

10) Digging into Col 3:11

- (a) What happens in the renewal of this new self according to Col 3:11?
- (b) Read John 17:23, what is Jesus' prayer for those who believe in Him?
- (c) Cross-reference with Eph 2:11-22 and Rev 5:6-10.
- (d) How does Col 3:5-10 relate to this verse?

11) Digging into Col 3:12

- (a) Who are we *in* according to this verse?
- (b) Cross-reference "chosen of God" with John 6:70, John 10:1-6,14-16, John 13:18, John 15:16,19.
- (c) When you are the chosen of God what do you become?
- (d) Cross-reference with 2 Corin 6:17-7:1, 1 Peter 1:13-16, 1 John 2:7-11, 1 John 3:2-3,21-22, 1 John 4:1,7,11.
- (e) How are we to conduct our lives as His holy and beloved?

12) Digging into Col 3:13

- (a) Focus on forgiveness.
- (b) Cross-reference with Matt 6:14-15, Matt 18:23-35, and Eph 4:1-6.
- (c) Is there someone you need to forgive or someone you need to seek forgiveness from in a heart of true repentance?

13) Digging into Col 3:14

- (a) What else are we to put on according to this verse?
- (b) If we have to put it on what does that say about your responsibility?
- (c) In reading what we are to "put on" in Col 3:10-14, can you "put on" a feeling?
- (d) What does your answer tell you about the things listed in this verse?
- (e) Cross-reference with John 17:20-23, Eph 4:1-16, and 1 John 4:7-5:3.
- (f) Notice the word "love" is used 31 times in 1 John 4:7-5:3 alone.

14) Digging into Col 3:15

- (a) The word "rule" in this verse in the original text is "to act as arbitrator" what does an arbitrator do?
- (b) What is to rule in our hearts?
- (c) Cross-reference with Isaiah 9:6-7, Isaiah 26:3-4, Isaiah 54:10, John 14:27, John 16:33, and Phil 4:4-7.

15) Digging into Col 3:16

- (a) How can the word of Christ richly dwell in you if you neglect to study it?
- (b) What are we to do "with all wisdom"?
- (c) Refer back to Col 1:9-11,28 and read Prov 8-9:10.
- (d) Look up the meaning of admonishing in the greek?
- (e) How are we teach and admonish one another if we are not gathered together?
- (f) Read Heb 11:24-26 and 1 Peter 2:17-22 and yourself how long does it take a believer who has forsaken the assembly and/or neglected the study of the Word of God to become a dog returning to its vomit?

16) Digging into Col 3:17

- (a) What is God's charge to us in this in verse?
- (b) "Whatever you do in word" cross-reference with Matt 12:33-37.
- (c) "Whatever you do in... deed" cross-reference with Prov 20:11, Acts 26:20, and Titus 1:15-16.

- (d) Compare Col 3:17 with 1 Corin 10:23-31 and recall Col 2:16-23 as you read.
- (c) Through whom are to give thanks to God the Father?
- (d) Read Eph 5:20.

17) Digging into Col 3:1-17

- (a) As you study this week and recall all of Colossians thus far how thankful are you that it is Christ who holds all things together, including your new self?
- (b) How thankful are you that it is the glorious might of God that strengthens you with all power and enables you to be obedient to the faith?
- (c) Are you ready to go out and walk in the godly wisdom and true knowledge that you have attained through your diligent study of Christ?
- (d) Can you go out and proclaim Him to every man because you deeply know Him yourself?

Colossians 3:18 – 4:18 (NASB)

As we have studied through the book of Colossians we have seen how Christ is the focus. We have seen how learning more about Him and growing in true knowledge is vital to our ability to walk in manner worthy of our calling. We have looked at who Christ is and who we are in Him. We have seen that we are in Christ and Christ is in us and because this is true it should greatly affect our lives in every aspect. Now as we look at Col 3:18-4:18 we are going to look at some specific commands that are given for us to apply to our daily lives.

1) Digging into Col 3:18-19

- (a) Who are the wives to be subject to?
- (b) Why are they to be subject to them?
- (c) Cross-reference with Eph 5:22-33
- (d) Read Gen 2:18-25 and Gen 3:16-19 and go back and read Col 3:19 and refer back to Eph 5:22-33
- (e) Now read 1 Peter 3:7 and ask what does this tell you about the way God expects a man to treat his wife?
- (f) Read 1 Peter 2:18-3:12 and notice that the "In the same way" in 1 Peter 3:1 refers back to 1 Peter 2:18.
- (g) What does this tell you about how a wife should respond to her husband?

2) Digging into Col 3:20-21

- (a) Who are children to be obedient to?
- (b) In Col 3:20 notice the "all"
- (c) Why are they to be obedient?
- (d) How does this "why" differ from the wife's why in Col 3:18?
- (e) Cross-reference with Eph 6:1-3 and Ex 20:12.
- (f) What does God desire more than anything from His children?
- (g) Read Jer 7:23.

- (h) How serious is God about children obeying their parents?
- (i) Read Lev 19:2-4, Lev 20:9, Deut 21:18-21, Deut 27:16, 1 Sam 15:23, Prov 19:26, Prov 20:20, and Prov 30:11,17.
- (j) How long are children to honor their parents?
- (k) Read Matt 15:3-9.

3) Digging into Col 3:21

- (a) In this verse we see the responsibility of the parent to the child, who has God placed the command on?
- (b) Look up the word exasperate.
- (c) Why is a father not to exasperate his children?
- (d) What are different ways that a father can exasperate or stir up or provoke his children?
- (e) Refer back to Prov 30:11 and notice that the word "kind" is "generation", what does this tell you about our families today?
- (f) Read Psalm 78:1-8
- (g) What does God command a parent to do? Read Deut 6:1-9 and Deut 12:28
- (h) Read these following verses and as you read consider how these direct you to live your life and how obedience to these will affect your children: Prov 13:24, Prov 14:26, Prov 15:16-17, Prov 20:7, Prov 29:15, and Eccles 8:12.
- (i) There are two verses that I believe are key in a parent/child relationship, read Deut 23:23 and Prov 27:5.
- (j) Your child must know two things: {1} your word is good {2} they have your unconditional love and attention

4) Digging into Col 3:22-25

- (a) This is not a day of slave and master but it is a day of employee and employer so as we look this passage for application let us in this way apply it to our lives.
- (b) How is a slave to obey his master?
- (c) Notice the word "all"
- (d) The words "on earth" is "according to the flesh" in the original text.

- (e) The phrase "external service" is literally "eye-service"
- (f) The word "heartily" is literally "from the soul"
- (f) Are we to only work hard when the boss is watching?
- (g) How does the way you work serve as a testimony to Christ and your faith in Him?
- (h) Who do you really serve?
- (i) When you evaluate your work ethic and attitude on the job along with others are you different?
- (j) How do you respond to ill or seemingly unfair treatment by an employer?

5) Digging into Col 4:1

- (a) How does this verse relate to Col 3:25?
- (b) According to this Scripture what is the employer to know?
- (c) How does Col 3:18-4:1 relate to Matt 7:12?

6) Digging into Col 4:2-6

(a) The best way for me to see all the instructions given us in this verse is to break it down in outline form. I do this with large verses and passages that contain a central thought or point so that I might rest on each individual point so as not to miss anything that God is trying to tell me. So we will break down Col 4:2-6 and then dig further into each point.

- (b) {1} Devote yourselves to prayer
 - {a} keeping alert in it
 - {b} with an attitude of thanksgiving
- {2} praying at the same time for us as well
 - {a} that God will open up to us a door for the word
 - {b} so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ
 - [for which I have also been imprisoned]
 - {c} that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak
- {3} Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders
 - {a} making the most of the opportunity
- {4} Let your speech always be with grace

{a} as though seasoned with salt

{b} so that you will know how you should respond

(c) Cross-reference Col 4:2-6 with Eph 6:18-20.

7) Digging into Col 4:2

(a) The Greek word for devote: *proskartereo* means *to adhere to one, be his adherent, to be devoted or constant to one; to be steadfastly attentive unto, to give unremitting care to a thing; to continue all the time in a place; to persevere and not to faint; to show one's self courageous for; to be in constant readiness for one, wait on constantly*

(b) How does knowing the Greek definition of devote give you insight to what your relationship to prayer should be?

(c) As we read the charge to keep alert in prayer let us read Matt 26:36-46.

(d) What is our attitude to be in prayer?

(e) Cross-reference with Phil 1:4 , 4:4-7.

8) Digging into Col 4:3-4

(a) Are we to pray only for ourselves?

(b) Who opens the door for us to have the opportunity to share the word?

(c) Compare with Act 14:27, Acts 16:6-8,14 and Rev 3:7-8.

(d) What have you learned is "the mystery of Christ"?

(e) Why is it important that we pray that those who share this mystery are clear in the way they speak?

(f) Recall Col 2:4,8 and all the truths you have discovered in this book.

9) Digging into Col 4:4

(a) How are we to conduct ourselves with unbelievers, those outside the faith?

(b) How does this relate to the prayer in Col 1:9-12?

(c) Why do we need to make the most every opportunity? Read Eph 5:15-16.

(d) Cross-reference with Mark 4:11-25

(e) Are you making the most of your opportunity to grow in Christ and to reveal the parts of the mystery that have been revealed to you.

(f) If you keep the Light you have hid from others, do you think God is going to reveal more of His Light to you?

10) Digging into Col 4:5

- (a) How can your speech be with grace?
- (b) Cross-reference with Titus 2:11-3:7 and 2 Tim 2:24-26
- (c) Look at Peter's message to those outside the faith in Acts 2:22-4:4.
- (d) Does Peter deny their sin or omit their need to repent or hide the truth of destruction for refusing to submit to Christ?
- (e) Does Peter speak with condemnation and hate or with confidence and love?
- (f) Can you see Peter's message "seasoned with salt"?
- (g) Do a quick study on salt and its use.
- (h) Cross-reference with Matt 5:13-16 and Mark 9:42-50
- (i) Are you walking in a manner worthy of your calling among believers and conducting yourself with wisdom among outsiders or are you causing others to stumble?
- (j) Everyone will be salted with fire; will this fire consume you or refine you?
- (k) Notice we are to respond to "each" person, what does this tell you about the importance of being in tune with the Holy Spirit when it comes to sharing the Word of God?

11) Digging into Col 4:7-16

- (a) As you read through these verses notice the jewels of encouragement and truth.
- (b) As you read this passage of Scripture do you see the body of Christ at work?
- (c) Notice the encouraging descriptive words of the people listed: beloved, faithful servant, fellow bond-servant in the Lord, fellow workers for the kingdom of God, bond-slave of Christ.
- (d) Can a part of the body of Christ use these words to describe you?
- (e) In Col 4:12 what do we learn about Epaphras?
- (f) Are you an Epaphras in your church?
- (g) Do you see the importance of praying for the saints in this verse?
- (h) How are we to treat the church that meets in other "houses"?

12) Digging into Col 4:17-18

- (a) What is to be said to Archippus?
- (b) Precious ones this is my charge to you as well.
- (c) Cross-reference with 2 Tim 4:1-5.
- (d) Why do you think Paul wanted them to remember his imprisonment?
- (e) Notice that Paul's letter begins with grace and it ends with grace.

"For of His fullness we have all received and grace upon grace." John 1:16

May God bless you in the study of His Word.