

## New Testament Letters - Colossians

### How much do you know about NT Letters? FACT finding exercise:

1. There are 27 books in the NT. How many are letters?
2. How many letters is Paul said to have written?
3. Who wrote Hebrews?
4. In terms of number of verses, what are the longest and shortest letters?
5. How many letters are named after churches?

### How do we communicate today? (Characteristics)

Emails and SMS

vs

NT Letters

### Characteristics of NT Letters

1. Part of Gospel mission to preach the Gospel and establish the church.

2. Dealing with specific issues

NT Letters are not pre-packaged Christian doctrines. Instead they are doctrine applied to particular situations.

*“One will go to the epistles again and again for Christian theology; they are loaded with it. But one must always keep in mind that they were not primarily written to expound Christian theology. It is always theology*

### 3. Carefully argued

### 4. Written with apostolic authority

NT Letters are written by apostles and so the original audience, when they heard the letter, would have treated them as if the author himself was speaking to them.

*Paul, an apostle – sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead – (Gal. 1:1)*

*Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God. To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:1)*  
*Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours (2 Pt. 1:1)*

**The apostles write as Christ's authentic representatives.** Even non apostles (e.g. James) who write are closely connected to apostles and are seen as God's appointed leaders.

Therefore:

- a. NT Letters carry significant authority because of their authorship (Eph 2:19-20)
- b. We share the same Biblical time frame as the apostles i.e. post Jesus' resurrection and pre Jesus' return (important because while culturally different worlds it is still the same theological world)
- c. The apostles had a unique status and function within the church; be careful when applying their experience to today
- d. Christ, the author and the message go together

# Colossians

## Introduction

Who is it from? 1:1 -

Who is it for? 1:2 -

Where is it written? 4:10,18 -

When it is written? -

## Why is it written?

i What does Paul affirm?

CHRIST (see 1:18; 2:9; 3:11)  
son of God 1:14  
object of Christian faith 1:4  
the Redeemer 1:14  
the image of God 1:15  
Lord of creation 1:15  
head of the church 1:18  
reconciler of the universe 1:20  
in him dwells the fulness of the Godhead 2:9  
under him every power and authority is subjected 2:10  
the all knowledge and wisdom of God 2:3  
standard by which religious teaching is to be measured 2:8  
the reality of the truth foreshadowed in OT rituals 2:17  
by the cross power of evil and conquered 2:15  
after resurrection enthroned at the right hand of God 3:1  
our life is hidden with Christ, and will be revealed 3:3,4

## LIVE FOR CHRIST

3:1 set your hearts on things above  
3:2 set your minds on things above  
3:12 clothe yourselves  
3:15 let the peace of Christ rule  
3:16 let the word of Christ dwell  
3:17 do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus  
3:18 submit to husbands as is fitting in the world  
3:19 children obey... for this pleases the Lord  
3:20 whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though working for the Lord  
4:1 provide for your slaves... you also have a master in heaven  
4:2 devote yourselves to prayer  
etc...

ii What does Paul challenge / warn against?

CAUGHT UP IN FALSE TEACHING

hollow and deceptive philosophy 2:8

rituals of circumcision, dietary laws, holy day observance 2:11,14,16,17

mysterious powers that need to be placated and worshipped 2:15,18,19

some ascetic - body evil 2:20-23

claimed to be Christian teachers 2:3-10

CAUGHT UP IN SINFUL LIVING

put to death sinful nature 3:5

sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed = idolatry

rid yourself of

anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language

do not

lie to each other

### Stick with Jesus (Col. 2:6-7)

So what was this 'false' teaching they were to reject and what was the 'true' teaching they were to follow? We'll learn more about them as we study this letter. However, in Colossians 2:6-7, we find a sentence that gives us a *summary of the whole letter*. This will help us understand **why** Paul wrote the letter and what its **main message** is.

*"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness" (Col. 2:6-7)*

Paul is saying 'Stick with Jesus'. His message to the Colossians is also his message to us today because the false teaching then is still a danger for us today. Sometimes we hear people saying things like:

see 2,4,8,16,18 - suggest others...

By looking at Paul's letter, we'll learn not only **how to recognize and deal with false teaching, about Jesus and also what it really means to be a Christian**, both in terms of *privileges* and *responsibilities*.

## Colossians 1:1-8

Paul prays for Christians he has never met personally. in fact he never stops praying for them... he prays unceasingly. Prayers of thanks giving are linked to prayers of petition - thanksgiving 3-8 - linked to petition 9-14. Paul's common practice is not simply to pray when there are tough times - but to pray for ongoing concerns.

In these opening verses, Paul starts by thanking God for the progress the Colossians are making as Christians.

What are some of the marks of a Christian (vv.2-5)?

**Holy** (v.2) = set apart for God (we are now God's valued possession)

**Faithful** (v.2) and **faith in Christ Jesus** (v.4) = trust in Christ and what He has done for us

**Loving** (v.4) = for each other; they were committed to each other, putting others ahead of themselves

**Hopeful** (v.5) = this is a confidence about the future, not uncertainty; it is the confidence that there is a great future ahead of us in heaven with God and because we know that future is secure and sure and that God keeps His promises, we trust in Christ and love other Christians (hope causes faith and love).

**If these are the marks of a true Christian, how are we doing?**

What caused their hope (v.5)?

How is it described (vv.5-8)?

What is the gospel doing all over the world?

What else do we learn about the gospel in v.6? And what does it show us about God?

How did the Colossians become Christians?

**How did you [*personally*] become a Christian?**

**Colossians 1:9-14: See Bible Study**

**Colossians 1:15-23a - JESUS**

**Who is Jesus v15**

**What has Jesus done in the past (vv.16-17)?**

**Why has Jesus done this?**

**What else is Jesus doing now (vv. 17-20)**

**What is His status v18?**

**Who is Jesus and what has he done - according to v19?**

Summarize, *in your own words*, what Paul is telling us about Jesus

## Colossians 1:21-23a

**21** Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation - **23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

### Step 1: What is the passage saying?

- **How would you split the passage into smaller parts?**
  - (i) Once alienated from God (v.21)
  - (ii) God has reconciled you (v.22a)
  - (iii) Present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation (vv.22b)
  - (iv) Continue in your faith (v.23a)
- **How does each of the parts fit together? Focus on the key linking words.**

ONCE

BUT NOW

THROUGH

TO PRESENT YOU

IF YOU

**Review of Step 1: Briefly state what the passage is saying. Use your own words.**

## Step 2: Why is the passage saying it?

- **Does the passage tell us *why* it was written?**

Paul is encouraging the Colossians to continue in the faith and not to move from the hope of the gospel

- **What goes before the passage and how does it help us understand the passage?**

*Colossians 1:15-20*

- How does Paul describe Jesus in vv.15-17?
  - Image of the invisible God
  - Firstborn over all creation
  - Creator of all things
  - Holds all things together
- Why does Paul describe Jesus in this way?
  - He is supreme over everything in creation
- How does Paul describe Jesus in vv.18-20?
  - Head of the church
  - Beginning and firstborn from the dead
  - All God's fullness dwells in him (100% God)
  - Reconciles all things to God
  - Peacemaker through blood shed on cross
- Why does Paul describe Jesus in his way?
  - He is supreme over redemption (new creation)
- How do vv.15-20 fit with vv.21-23a?
  - The salvation of vv.21-22 depends on this supreme saviour
  - There is no one better qualified to reconcile you to God
  - So how secure is your salvation?

Why move from this Jesus? Look how great and supreme he is!

- **What goes after the passage and how does it help us understand the passage?**

*Colossians 1:23b*

- What three things does Paul mention about this gospel?
  - Gospel you have heard (cf. v7)
  - Gospel proclaimed everywhere (cf. v6)
  - Gospel of which Paul is a servant (v.1)
- Why does Paul mention these three things?
  - Stick with this gospel
  - This is not a new or a local gospel
  - Paul is not a false teacher, but a servant of this gospel
- How does v.23b fit with vv.21-23a?
  - Stick with this gospel

- **What are the key ideas or events of the book and how do they help us understand the passage?**

Key verses: Colossians 2:6-7

Key message: Stick with Jesus!

Paul is telling us to continue with this gospel and explain why we should (who Jesus is and what he has done)

### Step 3: Summary Sentence

Complete the summary sentence:

These verses were written to ...

{	teach reassure warn rebuke encourage motivate etc.	}	... us today ...	{	to by that etc.	}
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These verses were written to ...

Dorothy is worried. "Sometimes my faith is weak," she says. "There are times when I struggle as a Christian. I keep going, but it's hard. Am I going to lose my salvation?"

John is very confident. "This passage tells us great things about Jesus. He is so brilliant he has done everything to save me so I can live as I want.

Jonah believes in Jesus, but also thinks that he must keep his church's rules and speak in tongues and prophesy in order to remain friends with God and stay close to him.

Lerato believes in Jesus, but he is worried about the ancestors. He has had dreams. They seem so powerful. He is worried what will happen if he does not honour them.

## **Colossians 2:1:24-2:7**

Read verses: what do we learn about Paul's mission and concerns for the Colossians?

## **Colossians 2:8-23**

### **2:8-10**

What danger are the Colossians in (v8)?

The false teachers came with fine sounding arguments (2:4), but what does Paul say their message is really like?

What's behind their message (v8)?

From Colosse to Kampala: what's Paul saying they should do with this offer?

What's the key word in vv.9-10?

What do we learn about it in v.9?

What do we learn about it in v.10?

Why does Paul remind them that Christ is the Head?

How do v9-10 help deal with the problem in v8?

## 2:11-12

- Verse 11: circumcised (with/by Christ)
- Verse 12a: buried with Christ
- Verse 12b: raised with Christ
- Verse 13: made alive with Christ

When did they receive these benefits?

When they trusted in God's power (v.12)

Underpinning vv.11-12 is the fact that Christians have been united with or joined to Christ. We are **IN** Him.  
**Illustrations:** Sugar in the tea (where the tea goes the sugar goes; they are united together)

## 2:13-15

Paul outlines the amazing benefits that the Colossians (and us) now enjoy because of what Jesus has done

- Verse 13a: God made you alive with Christ  
They were dead in their sins  
While they were sinners, their sinful nature with its impulses had not yet been cut off by Christ  
*So what? What benefit did we receive?*  
You are now alive with Christ; His resurrection life is in us
- Verse 13b: God forgave all our sins
- Verse 14: God cancelled the written code
- Verse 15: God disarmed and triumphed over the powers and authorities  
No need to fear these powers or obey them (cf. v.8)

## Conclusion

'You have been made complete in Christ' (v.10) so ...

- Stick with Jesus (look at all the benefits you have received)
- Don't buy the false teaching (look what it's really like)

## 2:16-17

Here Paul commands the Colossians not to let anyone judge them on the basis of things that foreshadowed Christ. It seems the false teachers were saying, "You're not a complete Christian! Complete Christians believe in Jesus *plus* ..." For example, they will say you are not complete if you don't keep certain food laws (no pork, no alcohol) and religious festivals (worship on Sabbath not Sunday).

They were probably influenced by the Old Testament and Jewish traditional thinking.

In fact,

There is nothing wrong with these things in themselves.  
But they are not the way to become a complete Christian  
They are a *shadow* (they point us to Jesus)  
The *reality is Jesus* and, according to 2:10, we are complete *in Him*.  
So why bother with the shadows, when you have **the real deal – King Jesus!**

## 2:18-19

Now Paul commands the Colossians not to let anyone disqualify them for the prize.

These false teachers

Delight in false humility (they appear humble, but they aren't really)  
Worships angels (probably call on angels to protect them)  
Goes into great detail about what he has seen (constantly talking about their visions)  
Unspiritual mind is puff up with idle notions (proud & worldly)

How might such a person disqualify you?

Why is such a person dangerous?

What will not happen to you?

What's the way to grow spiritually?

## 2:20-23

Paul tells the Colossians not to submit to the rules and regulations set up by false teachers.

Actually, Paul is probably mocking the whole approach of the false teachers to this world

'Don't do this ... don't do that ... don't go there ... don't talk to those people ... etc.'

These false teachers were probably suggesting that Jesus *plus* obeying rules and regulations was the way to becoming a complete Christian (i.e. the way to overcome sin and be godly in a sinful world was to keep certain rules).

Paul gives **3 Reasons** why the Colossians should not to submit to these rules and regulations. That is,

- 1) **Verse 20:** You died with Christ and have been freed from these rules
  - a. Illustration: You worked for a company that actually treated you badly and you had an awful manager. Then you moved to a new company with a great manager. But, one day, you meet your old manager and he treats you just like before: shouting at you, ordering you around, etc  
What do you do?

Either obey him and come under his tyranny again or you remind yourself that you no longer work for his company; you have died to that way of life; you have been freed from it and no longer belong to it

- b. As Christians we have died with Christ; we are no longer under the power of sin and the control of evil spiritual powers; so don't go living according to these rules

2) **Verse 22:** These rules are based on *human* commands and teachings and so will perish (cf. 2:8)

3) **Verse 23:** They lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence, although they appear wise

- a. The way to resist temptation and overcome our sinful desires is not by obeying the rules
- b. The answer is not to control our bodies or to put external controls in place
- c. Rules only show us how sinful we are or they make us (temporarily) proud because we keep them for a while; rules only change our behaviour

The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart

Who has dealt with our hearts? Jesus

Tim Chester, *You Can Change*, pp.46-53

## Conclusion

'You have been made complete in Christ' (v.10) so don't buy the false teaching – it **doesn't work** and it's **dangerous**; rather, **stick with Jesus**.

*If I am complete in Christ (and the false teaching doesn't work), how do I live as a Christian?*

## Colossians 3:1 - 4:1

### Stick with Jesus

2:20 Since you died with Christ - you died to laws - don't submit to them.

3:1 Since you have been raised with Christ - live a risen with Christ life - put to death the earthly nature

### 3:1-4

What two commands does Paul give?

Paul then explains why we should do these things. We'll look at it in two parts.

So why are we to set our hearts and minds on things above?

What does Paul say about Christ?	What does Paul say about us (Colossians)?
	We died (v.3a) Not physically, but spiritually, to our old sinful way of life (cf. 2:20)
He was raised (v1a) = Jesus' resurrection	We have been raised with Christ (v.1a) We have been raised to new life with Christ (cf. 2:12-13)
He is seated at God's right hand (v.1c) Christ is in heaven, in the place of all authority	Our lives are now hidden with Christ in God (v.3b) Our heavenly status is real, but is hidden at the moment; we look no different from those around us; however, where we are hidden (in Christ) is a place of safety and security Christ is your life (v.4a)
He will appear in glory (v.4) = Christ will return	We will appear with Christ in glory (v.4b) When Christ comes, our hidden heavenly status will be revealed

**3:5-11**

Paul has told us that if we're to live right, we must first think right.

Paul will now tell us how we're to live right. Paul assumes that, as Christians,

- we ...have a new identity (3:1-4)
- we ...still sin
- we ...can change

Look at vs.5-7. What are we to do?

Why are we to do this?

Look at vs.8-10. What are we to do?

Why are we to do this?

Look at v.11. This new identity we have in Christ isn't just for us as individuals. We are part of a new community. Paul mentions some of the major social and ethnic divisions that existed in society in his day. A barbarian was someone who wasn't a Greek and a Scythian was an 'ultra barbarian' i.e. a wild, 'uncivilised' person!

What are some of the major divisions in Uganda 2015?

Those divisions don't disappear, but how, as Christians, are we to view each other?

**So what?** When do you feel superior or inferior to other Christians?

How might v.11 change your attitude to them?

### **Colossians 3:12-14**

**12** Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. **13** Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. **14** And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

#### **Step 1: What is the passage saying?**

- How would you split the passage into smaller parts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Summarize what you think the passage is saying in your own words

#### **Step 2: Why is the passage saying it?**

- What goes before the passage and how does it help us understand the passage?  
*Colossians 3:1-4*  
What two things are the Colossians to do?
  - Set your hearts on things above (v.1b)
  - Set your minds on things above (v.2)

Why are they to do these things?

As believers, we are united/joined to Christ. He died, was raised to new life and is currently in heaven. We too have died to our sinful way of life and have been raised to new life in Jesus. Our present status is as people who have a real and secure heavenly identity through Christ. It is currently hidden, but, when Christ returns, it will be revealed. In the meantime, we are to set our hearts and minds on the values of the heavenly kingdom we are part of and live them out.

*Colossians 3:5-11*

If we have a new identity through Christ, what are we to do?

Put to death whatever belong to your earthly nature (v.5a)

You must rid yourselves of all such things ... (v.8a)

- **What goes after the passage and how does it help us understand the passage?**

*Colossians 3:15-17*

What four commands does he give?

- Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (v.15a) = believers should relate to each other in ways that promote and demonstrate the peace they have with God and through Christ
- Be thankful (vv.15b, 17b)
- Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (v.16)
- Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (v.17)

Paul continues with his positive message. His focus, once again, is on Christ.

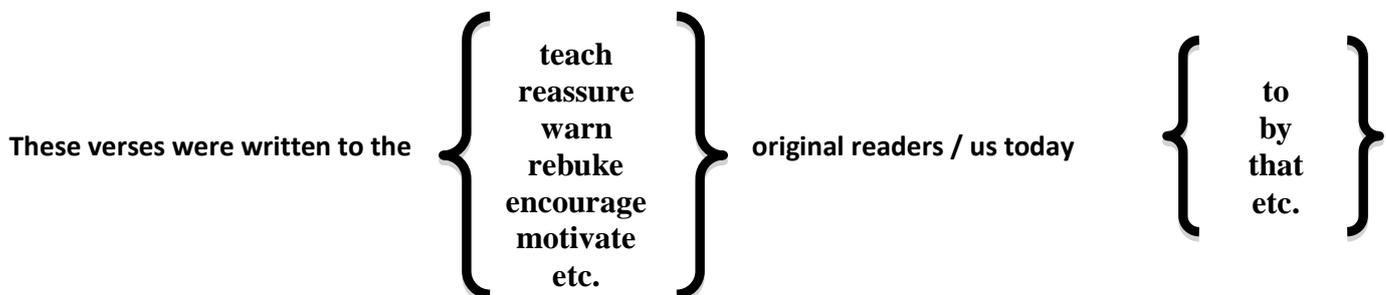
- **What are the key ideas or events of the book and how do they help us understand the passage?**

Key verses: Colossians 2:6-7

Key message: Stick with Jesus!

### Step 3: Summary Sentence

Complete the summary sentence: **These verses were written to ...**



### 3:15-17

#### ... to live together

Paul continues writing about how we should behave with each other, both in friendship and in meetings.

What four commands does he give?

1. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (v.15a) = believers should relate to each other in ways that promote and demonstrate the peace they have with God and through Christ
2. Be thankful (vv.15b, 16b, 17b) (this one appears in each verse!)
3. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly (v.16)
4. Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (v.17)

**Look around you.** Your church decides it will put vs.15-17 into practice. What might such a church look like?  
How might it start doing these things?

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

Who appears in each of these verses?

Jesus – so, stick with Jesus!

We belong to God ... so thank God for choosing, setting us apart, loving and forgiving us  
We should dress appropriately ... so pray for the help of God's Spirit to put the right clothes on

### Colossians 3:18-4:1

#### Introduction

What's the difference between being religious and being a Christian?

The religious person adds religious things to their lives (e.g. church, rules, experiences)

But underneath, no real heart change has taken place (i.e. the change is external)

They are still living with 'me' at the centre of their lives

But the Christian is different

Real heart change has taken place (they have died, been buried and raised with Christ)

This affects every area of life

They live with Jesus at the centre of life

Jesus is Lord and so they live with him as Lord (Colossians 2:6; 3:17)

## Remember

In Colossians 3:12-17, Paul told us to get dressed so we can live together as complete Christians.  
After his fashion advice, Paul now tells us how we are to live at home and at work with Jesus as our Lord.  
He's not interested in us being 'religious'. He wants us to live as *Christians*.

### At Home (3:18-21)

How should a married couple relate to each other? (Wives and Husbands [vs.18-19])

#### **Wives are to submit**

They are not inferior or passive

You are not to make your wife submissive *because* submission is a free, voluntary act

#### **Husbands are to love and not be harsh**

You are to lay down your life for your wife

You are to lead ... initiate ... care ... be gentle ... considerate to your wife

You are not to be harsh ... in what you say to her or about her ... in how you treat her

How should a children & fathers relate to each other? (vs.20-21).

#### **Children are to obey**

Do we reach a time when the obligation to obey our parents stops?

The dynamic is different when we are grown up, independent and have moved out from home

Yet we should still love, honour, respect and consult our parents

#### **Fathers must not embitter and discourage their children**

They must not be harsh and make unreasonable demands

They must not use critical words and attitudes (nothing pleases them, no love or affirmation)

They must not be absent or mistreat they wives

How can we deal with any bitterness and discouragement we feel because of our fathers?

Remember God is our heavenly Father and radically different from harsh earthly fathers

Talk about it ... listen ... pray for healing and forgiveness

### At Work (3:22-4:1)

What instructions does Paul give?

Obey in everything with sincerity and reverence

Work at everything wholeheartedly

Work for God, not men ultimately

Don't do wrong

Provide for those you are responsible for

Why should we obey Paul's instructions?

Because we are ultimately working for God, not men

There is a Future Reward

We know that anyone who does wrong will be repaid for his/her wrong  
We all have a Master ~ King Jesus (stick with Him)

## Hence in Summary

Paul has told us how we are to live at home and work with Jesus as our Lord.  
We are serving Him and it's His reward we will receive.

## ***Colossians 4:2-18 (on your own)***

As Paul finishes his letter to the Colossians, he focuses on talking. He deals with two people we sometimes find it difficult to talk to. He has two things he wants us to grasp:

1. Talk to God about people
2. Talk to people about God

Then, in vs.7-18, he mentions friends who were doing just that: praying hard and telling others about Jesus.

## **Let's Recap > Colossians 2:6-7**

The big theme & key summary of the letter of Colossians is STICK WITH JESUS.

In Colossians 3:18-4:1, Paul told us he's not interested in us being 'religious'. He wants us to live as complete *Christians*. He outlined how we are to live at home and work with Jesus as our Lord. We are serving Him and it's His reward we will receive. Therefore,

### **1. Talk to God about people (4:2-3, 12)**

Often we struggle to pray, because

- We are too busy (really an issue of priorities)
- We don't know what to pray for
- We don't think we need to (we think we can do things on our own and so we often don't pray until things go wrong and we need God's help quick)

People are often devoted to a sports team or a job or people. What does it mean to be devoted?

- The idea is less of it consuming all our time and energies (although it may)
- Rather, it is that we persist with it through good and bad times; it becomes a cherished habit

What will this mean for us talking to God (v.2)?

- Paul tells us to be 'watchful and thankful'.

What are we to watch out for?

Look forward to Jesus' return

Watch out for false teaching (don't buy it!)

Watch out for each other (or look after each other)

How can it stimulate us to pray?

Need God's help to be ready for Christ's return

Need his wisdom and grace in the challenges of life as we wait

What are we to give thanks for?

Look back (at the Gospel and God's salvation) and (at past and current blessings)

How can it stimulate us to pray?

Out of gratitude we thank God for what He has done for us in Christ.

We can pray for lots of things. Paul highlights two. What are they? Why pray for them?

- Verse 3-4: Evangelism  
God's role to open the doors and it's our role to proclaim the gospel clearly
- Verse 12: Each other  
So we stand firm, matured and fully assured (and these counter the effects of the false teaching)

Yes, but how? How can we help each other to pray?

- Set aside time (be realistic about when and for how long)
- Pray for people (have a short list)
- Pray with each other

## 2. Talk to people about God (vv.5-6)

Why do we struggle to tell others about Jesus?

Don't know what to say

Inconsistency in our lives

Don't want to be laughed at or ridiculed (scared)

Have tried talking before and it had little effect

What do you think is 'wise' behaviour towards outsiders (= non Christians) (v.5)?

Treading a line between always being around non Christians, but being no different from them and never being around non Christians (always with Christians) and so not engaging with them?

Presumably, wise behaviour will lead to conversations. Why are you different? Paul says our talk is to be:

- Attractive
  - We know that often our talk can be judgmental,
  - However, our talk needs to be **full of grace** (kindly speaking the gospel of Jesus)
  - Hence, **seasoned with salt** = that is, salt gives food flavour (too little and it makes no difference ... too much and it puts people off the food).
  - May we wholeheartedly stick with Jesus & prayerfully point others to Him – the Hope of Glory!

## Small Group Bible Study

### Colossians 1:9-14

**9** For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, **10** so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, **12** and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. **13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

#### Step 1: What is the passage saying?

- How would you split the passage into smaller parts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How does each of the parts fit together? Focus on the key linking words.  
What Paul prays for (v.9)

**Why Paul prays it (vv.10-12a)**

**What God has done (vv.12b-14)**



- **What goes after the passage and how does it help us understand the passage?**

*Colossians 1:15-20*

- What is the big theme of these verses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How do vv.15-20 fit with vv.9-14?

- **What are the key ideas or events of the book and how do they help us understand the passage?**

Key verses: Colossians 2:6-7

Key message: Stick with Jesus!

Paul is telling us to continue with this gospel because it secures the beginning and end of our lives as Christians and shapes our lives in-between by enabling us to live lives worthy of the Lord.

- **How can we understand the passage in the light of**

- **Jesus Christ?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **The gospel message?**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- **How God's people should respond?**

**Review of Step 2: *Briefly* state WHY the passage is saying it. Use your own words.**

### Step 3: Summary Sentence

Complete the summary sentence: **These verses were written to ...**

These verses were written to ...

<p>teach reassure warn rebuke encourage motivate etc.</p>	... us today ...	<p>to by that etc.</p>
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