

Schedule

Thursday:

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Check-in
6:00 pm	Welcome (Erynn Sprouse) and Dinner
7:30 pm	Introduction to Colossians and Philemon (Kristy Huntsman)
8:30 pm	Ice Breaker Games
9:00 pm	Devotional (Pat Surles)
9:30 pm	Free Time / Games

Friday:

8:00 am	Early Riser Devotional (Kayla Hyde)
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Colossians Chapter 1 (Sarah Fallis)
11:00 am	Break
11:30 am	Colossians Chapter 2 (Leih Brumback)
12:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	Colossians Chapter 3 (Wendy Rutledge)
2:30 pm	Free Time
5:00 pm	Colossians Chapter 4 (Mona Popejoy)
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm	Somebody Help Me Please!
9:00 pm	Devotional (Denise Surles)

Saturday:

8:00 am	Early Riser Devotional (Lisa Puckett)
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Breakfast
10:00 am	Philemon (Sandi Smith)
11:00 am	Announcements
12:30 pm	Lunch

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Kristy Huntsman

Kristy Huntsman is a woman's speaker and the Finer Grounds editor for the Come Fill Your Cup website. She is the author of Sanctified: Set Apart for a Purpose (a study of 1 & 2 Peter). Kristy has earned her B.M. and M.M. and continues her education with the Internet School of Biblical Studies. She organizes and teaches classes, retreats and seminars for teen girls and ladies. Kristy is the mass media coordinator for the Dallas area Lads-to-Leaders program. Kristy lives in Stonewall, OK with her husband Lance. They have two daughters, Taylor and Makayla whom she homeschools.

Introduction to Colossians and Philemon

Colossae Background:



- ❖ One of the three cities on the Lycus River (one of the branches of the Meander) along with Hierapolis and Laodicea (cf Colossians 4:13)
 - ❖ Located about 3 miles from Mt. Cadmus (8,013ft. high)
 - ❖ A Roman province of Asia in what is now Asiatic Turkey
 - ❖ There was a mixture of Jews, Greeks and Phrygians
-
- ❖ This was a little “backwater” town compared to Ephesus
 - ❖ The gospel probably reached this area while Paul was living in Ephesus (Acts 19:10) through Epaphras who was a Colossian (Col 1:7)
 - ❖ The area was famous for its black and purple dyed wool

Paul's Situation:

- ❖ Paul now finds himself in Roman imprisonment for preaching the gospel.
 - According to Acts 28:16, 30, 31, describe Paul's imprisonment:

 - Because Paul was a Roman citizen, he was allowed certain freedoms. Even under "house arrest," he continued to preach and teach others. Paul was not one to waste an opportunity; many of his letters were written while in prison. He loved his brothers and sisters in Christ so much that he didn't want to waste one minute of the time God gave him on this earth.

- ❖ It is likely that Paul heard of the church in Colossae from a slave he encountered named Onesimus. There is no evidence to suggest that Paul had actually visited the church at Colossae. The work was planted by Epaphras (Colossians 1:7). It was through Epaphras that Paul received reports about the Colossians (Colossians 1:8).

Introduction to Colossians:

- ❖ Despite some of the challenges they faced, Epaphras brought a glowing report back on the church at Colossae. According to the following verses, describe the positive attributes of this congregation.

- Colossians 1:2

- Colossians 1:4

- Colossians 1:6

- ❖ This congregation of believers was growing and bearing fruit. They were embedded in an ungodly and immoral society and yet they were a shining light to those around them. What an amazing testament to the power of the gospel!
- ❖ The problem that the Colossian church was facing was that they were allowing their Jewish and pagan friends to shake their confidence in their faith.
- ❖ This letter is full of encouragement; however, Paul does take some time to warn against threats that will devour the congregation if they are not careful. He warns of false teachers and tries to impart the importance of knowing their obligations to their

families. All of these issues are addressed within the major theme of the deity and sufficiency of Christ.

- ❖ Keywords:
 - **Wisdom (SOPHIA):** wisdom that God imparts to those who are close to Him
 - **Knowledge (EPIGNOSIS):** knowledge or recognition, usually referring to God or Christ
 - **Faith (PISTIS):** state of believing on the basis of the reliability of the one trusted; confidence
 - **Mystery (MYSTERION):** not necessarily something unknowable but something hidden from those uninitiated

- ❖ Also pay special attention to the use of “all” and “in Him” (or before Him, through Him etc.)

- ❖ The central theme that runs throughout the book is that of full assurance. Pay attention to any words or phrases that lend to this idea of assurance. Look for places where Paul tells them that they already know something or have already been told something.

Introduction to Philemon:

- ❖ This letter sets some high standards for equality in Christ that will resonate throughout the ages.
- ❖ In this letter we have three main key players: Paul, Philemon and Onesimus.

- Onesimus:

- What do we learn about Onesimus from Colossians 4:9?

- “One of your number” meant that he belonged to their congregation. From this verse we can see that Onesimus was from Colossae, this would imply that Philemon was also.
- Onesimus held a special place in Paul’s heart. Paul was the one who converted this runaway slave to Christianity. Onesimus was serving Paul in prison, but Paul sent him back to his master in Colossae.

- Philemon:

- Try not to jump to the conclusion that just because Philemon owned slaves he was a bad man. While the ownership of slaves certainly defies the nature of a Christian relationship with a fellow human (something we will look into more next week), it was a part of the Roman culture and an issue Paul was wise enough to handle with care.
- Paul thought extremely highly of Philemon and said so many times throughout this letter.

- Not only was Philemon a wealthy man, he was using his wealth to further God's kingdom. The church actually met in his home.

 - Philemon had a deep abiding love for his Christian brothers and sisters. This love was about to be challenged and the very foundations of his social structure would be shaken and Onesimus, his runaway slave, gained equal footing with him as his Christian brother.
- Paul:
- Paul's extreme wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit come across very strongly in this letter. As we examine this writing, not only is it important to understand the matter of Christian equality, but we should pay particular attention to how Paul approaches the situation.

 - Dealing with other people can often be a delicate matter and Paul treats this encounter with the utmost care and respect. He is very careful to get his message across without offending Philemon in any way. This letter is an amazing example of boldly proclaiming the truth with extreme tact and respect.
- ❖ As you study this book consider the reflective nature of these relationships. Paul is appealing to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus. Onesimus' relationship with Paul is the same as the one we have with Christ. He is there to make an appeal for us.

Sarah Fallis

Sarah Fallis recently retired as assistant professor of mathematics at the Northwest Campus of Tarrant County College; she teaches 2 courses part time now since she retired. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and English from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M, Commerce), a master's degree in mathematics and education from Texas Woman's University, and has done graduate work in Bible and counseling at Abilene Christian University. Sarah has always put her family first, not reentering the classroom until 1983 when Paden was in second grade and Gary entered graduate school at ACU.

Sarah is married to Gary Fallis who served 15 years as instructor in the Brown Trail School of Preaching in Bedford, Texas and is now the coordinator of the Extension Studies Graduate Program for the Bear Valley Biblical Institute of Denver. In addition to her work as a mathematics professor, Sarah was Director of the Women's Program at the school of preaching and taught regularly in that program. She has taught Bible classes for children, teenage girls and women and is currently teaching the Ladies' Bible class at the Bridgewood congregation in Ft. Worth. Her work has included workshops and lectureships such as World Vision for Christ in San Antonio, Texas, Oklahoma Christian University Lectureship, Ft. Worth Lectures, North Texas Bible Teachers' Workshop in Dallas, Texas and numerous ladies' days and retreats, including The Mid-Atlantic Retreat and Cold Harbor Road Lectures in Virginia, the Connecticut Ladies' Retreat, and the European Christian Women's Retreat in Spyer, Germany in 2007. Sarah travels with Gary each summer to Tanzania, East Africa and other mission areas, teaching and maturing the women. Gary and Sarah have two children—a daughter, Tonya, and a son, Paden.

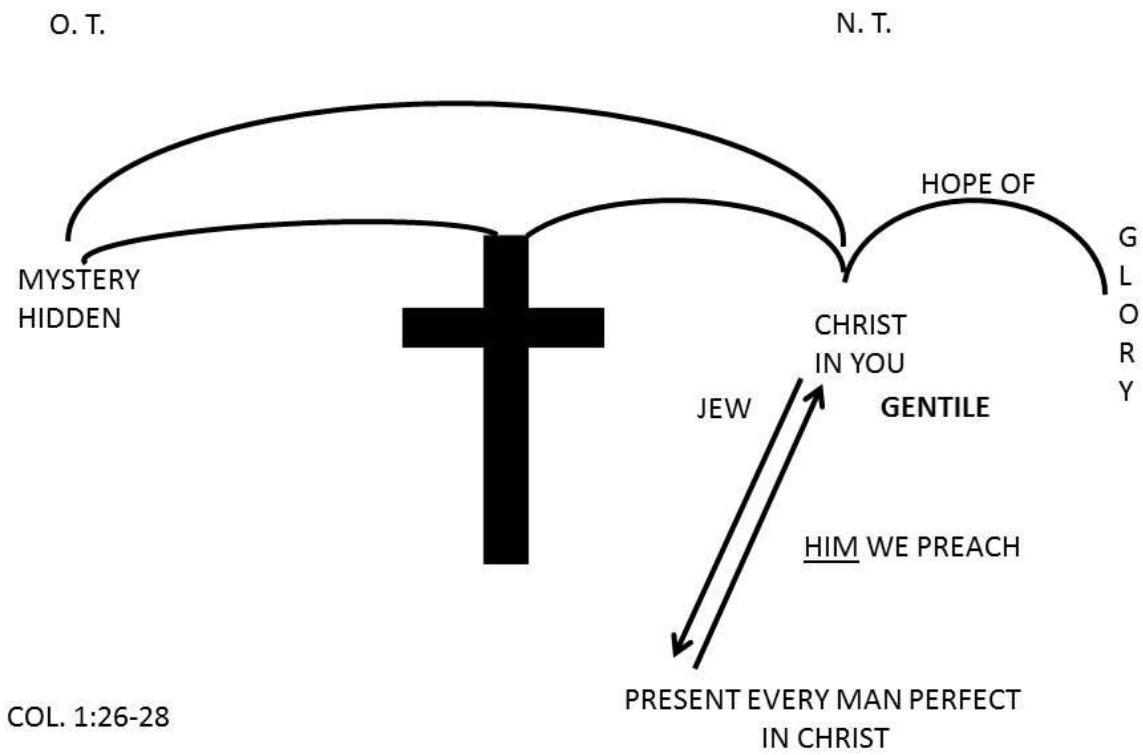
Colossians Chapter 1

Outline

- I. Introductory remarks, greeting – v. 1-2
 - A. Paul – apostle by will of God (note 1 Cor. 9:1-2, 15:9; 2 Cor. 12:11-12)
 - B. Timothy – “our brother” (also “son in the faith” – 1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:22; 1 Tim. 1:2, 18; 2 Tim. 1:2, 2:1)
 - C. Saints and faithful – saints are faithful – can’t be one without the other.
 - D. Grace and peace – Grace is the source; peace is the result of grace. Common greeting in Paul’s letters.
 - E. Paul’s thanksgiving for the Church – v. 3-8
 1. Faith in Christ Jesus – Christ is the object and realm of their faith.
 2. Love for all the saints (1 Cor. 13 is Paul’s exposition on love. Note also I John 3:16-18)
 3. Hope → heaven – blessed and eternal hope; comes through faith (Titus 2:13)
 4. Note importance of truth (v. 5,6); of hearing (v. 5,6); of knowing (v.6) of learning (v. 7). Christianity is a taught religion—based on evidence. Knowledge is important to becoming a Christian and to remaining faithful.
 5. Epaphras – of Colosse, reported their situation to Paul; may have been the one who brought the gospel to them.
 - F. Paul’s prayer for the Church – v. 9-14
 1. Filled with knowledge of His will – v. 9
 2. Walking worthily – v. 10
 - a. Bearing fruit in every good work (see also v. 6 – gospel brings forth fruit; we are to be fruitful.)
 - b. Increasing in knowledge of God (see also v. 9 – knowledge is important; it comes through diligent study – 2 Tim. 2:15, 3:14-16 – and takes time and prayerful effort. Knowledge is also validated and increased by doing – John 7:17.)
 3. Strengthened with might or power – v. 11 (The “power” is God’s power, not ours. Note that the power is according to God’s glorious power – not just a little power, but immeasurably great power – Eph. 3:20.)
 4. Giving thanks to God – v. 12-14
 - a. Made us partakers
 - b. Delivered us out of darkness (ignorance, sin, etc.)
 - c. Translated us into the Kingdom.
 - d. Gave us redemption.

- e. When/how did God do all this? Through grace; at the cross; through our faith; when we obeyed in baptism – noted in chapters 2 & 3; see also Eph. 2.
- II. Preeminence of Christ – v. 15-22
 - A. Relation to God – v. 15
 - 1. Image of invisible God
 - a. John 1:18 – declared Him
 - b. John 10: 30 – “I and the Father are one..”
 - c. John 1: 1-3, 14 – Word was God
 - d. Heb. 1:3 – “brightness... image of His person”
 - e. Isa. 6 → John 12:41
 - 2. Eternal as God is eternal – v. 17
 - a. John 8:58 – “I AM”
 - B. Relation to Creation – v. 15
 - 1. Firstborn over all creation--v. 15--not in time, but in priority, first place, chief.
 - 2. Purpose – through and for Him – v. 16
 - 3. Creator, sustainer, ruler – Heb. 1:2b; John 1:3
 - 4. “In Him all things consist” – v. 17
 - a. Holds the physical world together – Heb. 1:3
 - b. Holds the Church together – 3:11
 - C. Relation to the Church – v. 18
 - 1. Head – authority – Eph. 1:22
 - 2. Beginning of the Church – Matt. 16:18
 - 3. “Firstborn from the dead” – v. 18
 - 4. “Alive forevermore” – Rev. 1:18
 - 5. Therefore – Heb. 6:20 – forerunner implies after runners – Heb. 2:10
 - D. Conclusion – v. 18-19
 - 1. Jesus – preeminent in all things – v. 18
 - a. Every knee will bow – Phi. 2:10
 - b. John fell at His feet – Rev. 1:17
 - 2. Jesus – all fullness dwells – v. 19
 - a. All wisdom and knowledge – 2:3
 - b. Fulness of godhead – 2:9
 - E. Relation to me – v. 20-22
 - 1. Peace through His blood! – v. 20
 - 2. He is our peace; He made peace; He preached peace – Eph. 2:14-18
 - 3. Reconciler – v. 20, 21

- 4. Presenter – v. 22
- F. My responsibility – v. 23
 - 1. Hold onto Jesus with conviction.
 - 2. Grounded and steadfast
 - 3. Don't be moved away from the hope in Christ.
- G. Paul's ministry → My ministry – v. 24-29
 - 1. Rejoice in suffering – v. 24
 - 2. Stewardship – v. 25
 - 3. Goal → present every man perfect in Christ – v. 28
 - 4. God works in us – v. 29 (Phil. 2:13 – "God works in you...")



Additional notes:

Verse 16:

If indeed, as generally supposed, the Colossians were being drawn away into various philosophies and speculations involving the worship of angels, spirits, demons, and the supposition that certain emanations from God were responsible for the creation itself, this verse was the divine thunderbolt that cleared the atmosphere and let the light of God shine in. Hayes' quotation of Farrar regarding what Paul did in this passage is as follows:

To / Paul opposed:

A cumbersome ritualism -- A spiritual service

Inflating speculations -- A sublime reality

Hampering ordinances -- A manly self-discipline

Esoteric exclusiveness -- A universal gospel

Theological cliques -- An equal brotherhood

Barren systems -- A new life

All their problems -- Christ as the answer

***From Burton Coffman's Commentary on Colossians, ACU Press

Verse 23:

"It seems strange that the gospel had been preached among all the nations; but, if we consider the earnest character of the Christians, who gloried in persecutions and death for Christ's sake, it will not seem so strange. The greatest hindrance to the gospel in our day is the lukewarm and indifferent character of professed Christians?" *** David Lipscomb's Commentary on Colossians.

***I couldn't resist including the following quotation from G. Campbell Morgan in "The Living Message of Colossians:"

“This Christ is the Origin of creation, the Creator. We are made full in Him. That means that we are restored to our true place in the creation. It means that in Christ man regains his scepter and his crown. Out of that fact grows part of our missionary responsibility. ‘Go ye into all the cosmos’; not merely travel over the earth, that is not all; but go into the cosmos, into the creation, crying, groaning, sobbing, agonized creation; go into it and preach the evangel of that risen Christ, Who is Lord and Master and the Redeemer of all creation. Every true Christian is restored to the place of dignity and rule in the creation of God...

“We are made full in Him, in our restored relationship to God by the way of His resurrection. By His resurrection the very life of God is communicated to the spirit of man, so that he (*that is, man*) takes his right place as subject to God, bending before Him, not by the breaking of his will, but by the capture and constraint of the will...

“We are restored to fellowship with God in Him. Fellowship does not merely mean that we receive from God; it also means that which to me is more and more amazing, indeed the most amazing fact of all, that we can give to God in service. **I think every day I live, the thing about the grace of God which amazes me most, is not that He loves me, not that He saves me, but that He calls me to be a fellow-worker with Himself. Christ has made it possible for me to be a worker together with God. I can help Him to bring His Kingdom, to establish His righteousness, to hasten the day of His ultimate victory.**” (*Emphasis, SEF*)

This last paragraph seems to sum up Paul’s statement of his ministry in verses 24-29. When we keep our focus as workers together with God, as strengthened by His power and not relying on our intelligence, education or special “gifts,” but relying on Him and working for His glory, He can use us mightily. As stewards, we own nothing; everything we think of as “ours” is really His. He has entrusted us with His goods to increase His business. It is required, only, that we be faithful. Is His fortune safe with you?

Comparison of Paul's Prayers in Ephesians and Colossians

Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-21

- v. 16 Thanksgiving:
- v. 15 Faith and love
- v. 17-19 Requests:
- v. 17 Wisdom and knowledge
- v. 18 Understanding
- v. 18 Hope → inheritance
- v. 19, 3:16 Know God's power; strengthened through Spirit
- v. 20 Jesus' resurrection
- v. 21-22, 3:21 Supremacy of Jesus
- v. 23 Relation of Jesus to Church
- 3:17 Christ dwell in you
- 3:17 Rooted, grounded in love
- 3:19 Know Christ's love
- 3:19 Filled with fullness of God

Colossians 1:3-14

- v. 3 Thanksgiving:
- v. 4 Faith and love
- v. 5-14 Requests:
- v. 9, 10 Filled with knowledge and wisdom
- v. 9 Understanding
- v. 5, 12 Because of hope → heaven
- v. 11 Strengthened by God's power for patience (endurance)
- v. 12-14 Delivered/redeemed/forgiven
- v. 13-23 Supremacy of Jesus
- v. 10 Walk (live) worthy
- v. 10 Increase in knowledge → fruitful
- v. 23 Grounded & steadfast (admonition)
- v. 13 In kingdom of Son of His love

Nathalie “Leih” Brumback

Nathalie Brumback is married to Rick Brumback, and they have three children, Catherine, Philip, and Edmund. She is native to New York state where she met Rick in college. Her formal training was in American studies, fine arts and art history. Sister Brumback gained her masters’ degree in education from Texas State University and taught elementary school for several years. In 2014 she became the church secretary at Southwest where she enjoys working closely with church and the Southwest School of Bible Studies. She has been very active with the Southwest Lectures and publications. Sister Brumback is a faculty member of the Christian Women's Studies program in the Southwest School of Bible Studies. She also teaches ladies’ and children’s Bible classes, and has spoken at Ladies’ Days. She loves to travel and in her spare time, she enjoys the arts especially making pottery and gardening.

Colossians Chapter 2

- I. Paul's Conflict (v. 1-3)
 - A. Paul's personal interest in the brethren (v. 1)
 - B. Specific goals in writing to the brethren in Colosse (v. 2)
 - C. Paul defines the location of wisdom and knowledge (v. 3)

- II. A Warning and Exhortation (vv. 4-10)
 - A. Paul's Concern that they not be tricked (v. 4-5)
 - B. Be thankful for Christ's foundation (v. 6-7)
 - C. Paul addresses competing teachings (v. 8-10)

- III. Paul Explains the Completeness of Christ (v. 11-23)
 - A. Christ's victory (v. 11-15)
 - B. Christ over Judaism (v. 16-17)
 - C. Christ over pagan philosophies (v. 18-23)
 - 1. Gnosticism: angels (v.18-19)
 - 2. Gnosticism: asceticism (v. 20-23)

Additional Thoughts:

1. The Faithful Church. –What does it look like?

2. Are the challenges in Colossians present today?
3. What is the apostle's prescription for spiritual health?

Additional Chapter 2 notes from Mona Popejoy

Someone Stealing Your Prize?

Introduction: Question: How concerned was Paul for these brethren at Colossae? Paul was in great conflict or concern for his brothers and sisters in Christ who he had never seen. We will consider in this lesson 4 warnings Paul gives and the reassurance that they should hold fast to in Christ.

- I. Red Flag Warning #1: (Col. 2:4-7)
 - a. Define: Beguile (G3834): To cheat By False Reckoning; To Deceive By False Reasoning. False Judgment; deceive: With enticing words; persuasive words.
 1. Does this still happen to us today?
 1. How? By Not knowing God's Words.
 - b. Paul's assurance to the brethren at Colossae
 1. I am with you in spirit, take comfort.
 2. Stay close to what you have received/taught.
 3. Be rooted; built up; established in
 - a. Always making Spiritual Progress; Never Stand Still; having Spiritual Discernment.
 4. Abound with Thanksgiving
 - a. Sign of Maturity
- II. Red Flag Warning #2: Spoil You, (Col. 2:8-15)
 - a. Define: Spoil (G4661: something that was taken in battle.
 1. How? Philosophy & vain deceit, traditions of men; rudiments of the world.
 2. Drinking Out of the Wrong cistern; Jer. 2:13
 3. John 4:10: Living Water
 4. Eph. 4:14: every wind of doctrine.
 - b. Paul's assurance again given.
 1. Brethren stay close to Christ.
 1. Why Paul?
 - a. V9: in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead.
 - i. John 1:1

- ii. John 1:14
- b. V10: ye are complete in Him.
 - i. Need anything else? NO
- c. V11: ye have been set apart through Him.
 - i. How? Baptism (immersion)
 - ii. Forgiven all trespasses (v13)
 - 1. How comforting is this verse?
 - 2. 1 Pet. 2:24: Bore Our Sins on the Tree.
- d. Judizing teachers: O.T. done away with.
 - i. How? Nailed to the cross

III. Red Flag Warning #3: Judge You, (Col. 2:16-17)

- a. Define: Judge You (G2919) (to pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong)
 - 1. O.T. Feast: Read the book of Leviticus..
 - 2. Meat, Drink, Holydays, new moon, or Sabbath days.
- b. Paul's assurance:
 - 1. They were to get us to Christ.
 - 1. Gal. 3:24-25- O.T. was a Schoolmaster
 - a. Child-leader, Tutor

IV. Red Flag Warning #4: (Col. 2:18-19)

- a. Define: Beguile You (G2603) Defraud of Prize. (different word)
- b. How? Taking delight in false humility and worship of angels.
- c. Paul's assurance one more time>
 - 1. Hold fast to the Head (Jesus Christ)
 - 2. He holds His body the church together
 - 1. Col. 1:18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.
 - 3. He nourishes us down to the inner most parts.
 - 4. He connects us together.

V. Wherefore: (Col. 2:20-23):

- 1. Don't go back to the Old Testaments ordinances.

2. They will all perish.
3. Paul's reassurance will be continued in chapter 3.

Colossians 2 Word Study Sheet

V1: For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

- great conflict (G73): battle, struggle

V2: That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

- comforted (G3870): Know that I am there with you and very much interested in your Christian welfare.
- being knit: (G4822): (Connected/Joined Together) together in love: (Affection/Good will/Brotherly love)
- all riches (G4149): wealth,
- of the full assurance (G4136): full assurance, most certain confidence
- of understanding (G4907): a running together, a flowing together
- the acknowledgement (G1922): precise and correct knowledge

V3: In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

- hid (G614) : Stored up
- treasures (G2344): a place in which good and precious things are collected and laid up
- wisdom (G4678) : use of knowledge; broad full of intelligence
- knowledge (G1108): general intelligence; understanding
- they are hidden until we explore His word and obtain the knowledge that they give us.
*Question: Will a person's search find all the treasures in God's word? Absolutely not!
We must continue to search. 2 Timothy 2:15: "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

V4: RED FLAG: #1: And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

- beguile (G3884) : to deceive by false reasoning; to cheat by false reckoning; false judgment; deceive

V5: For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

- joying (G5463): to rejoice; be glad
- beholding (G991): to see, discern, of the bodily eye
- your order (G5010): Order: Arrangement/fixed succession; battle formation; solidly united
- and the steadfastness (G4733): fortified place/ solid front; as sturdy as concrete
- of your faith (G4102): conviction; belief. Where Paul? in Christ.

V6: As ye therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.

- as you have learned of Christ's teachings (1:7)
- so walk (G4043): continuing progress.. forward progress
 - a. Walk Worthy Col. 1:10; Col. 3:7; Col. 4:5

V7: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

- rooted (G4492):
 - a. Rooted: to strengthen with roots, to render firm, to fix, establish, cause a person or a thing to be thoroughly grounded: DRAW NOURISHMENT
 - b. No Need to Change Soils
- built up (G2026): build upon
- and established (G950): in the faith
 - a. to make firm, establish, confirm, make sure
- as ye have been taught
 - a. Restates verse 6... as you have received
- abounding (G4052): therein with
- thanksgiving (G2169):
 - a. Abounding: to exceed a fixed number of measure, to be left over and above a certain number or measure; an overflowing bank.

V8: RED FLAG: #2: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

- spoil (G4661): that which is taken in battle; in war the choicest spoils

- philosophy (G5385): love of wisdom; used either of zeal for or skill in any art or science, any branch of knowledge
- vain (G2756): empty; void of truth Deceit (G539): deceitful influences
- How:
 1. after the tradition of men, (i.e. handed-down, not from God)
 2. precepts received from the fathers (i.e. handed-down, not from God)
 3. After the rudiments (G4747): of the world: basic elements.
 - a. NOT: after Christ

V9: For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

- John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- John 1:14: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

V10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

- complete (G4137): to make full, to fill up
- head (G2776): in control of all entities/ Spiritual and Physical
- principality (G746): Beginning, origin
- power (G1849): physical and mental powers
 - (see Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:16)

V11: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

- circumcised (G4059): cut around
 - Spiritually speaking, through Christ, through baptism
- in putting off (G555): Lay aside.
- the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ.

V12: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

- buried with him in baptism (G908): Immersed: baptize. Rules out sprinkled, poured. etc.
- wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith (G4102): conviction
- of the operation: (G1753): efficiency
- of God who hath raised him from the dead.
 - a. Risen from the dead, because the foundation of the new Christian life lies in Christ's resurrection.

V 13: And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- being dead (G3498): lifeless
- quickened (G4806): made alive together with him
- How did he make us this way? Having forgiven you all trespasses
 - a. Forgiven ALL our trespasses: did you catch that statement ALL.....
 - b. Trespasses: lapse or deviation from truth and uprightness

V14: Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

- blotting out (G1813): Literally means to: wipe out
- handwriting (G5498): Law of Moses in the Ten Commandments
- ordinances (G1378): Doctrine; Decree; public decree
- which was contrary (G5227): set over against: opposite to
 - i. HOW : by the demands it placed on the Jewish people.
 - ii. Heb. 10:4: Blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin.
- took it out of the way. How Paul: nailing it to the cross.

V15: And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- Having spoiled (G554): Spoiled: put off from one's self... what Paul> Any powers that would control him.
 - i. He made a shew of them openly,
 - ii. By his death, burial and resurrection.
 - iii. Eph. 2:16 having slain the enmity thereby.

V16: RED FLAG: #3: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

- Judge (G2919): Pronoun an opinion concerning right & wrong.
 - i. Meat (G1035): the act of eating
 - ii. In Drink (G4213):
 - iii. In respect of an holyday (G1859): a feast day, festival
 - iv. New moon (G3561): Jewish festival of the new moon
 - v. Sabbath day (4521): sacred festival required for the Israelites to observe

V17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

- shadow (G4639): an image cast by an object and representing the form of that object
- things to come (G3195): to be about

V18: RED FLAG: #4: Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

- Beguile (G2603) : defraud you of your prize : cheat us of our reward
 - a. of your reward in a voluntary humility (G2309): to will; have in mind; intend
 - b. and worshipping of angels: intruding into those things which he hath not seen,
 - Deu. 29:29: The secret *things belong* unto the LORD our God: but those *things which are revealed belong* unto us and to our children for ever, that *we* may do all the words of this law.
 - c. Vainly (G1500): inconsiderably; without purpose; without just cause
 - d. puffed (G5448): inflate; cause to swell; bear one's self loftily.
 - e. up by his fleshly mind

V19: And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

- head (G2776): Christ
- having nourishment ministered (G2023): supply; furnish; present
- knit together (G4822): to cause to coalesce, to join together, put together

- increaseth (G838): to grow, to become greater
- God (G2316): Godhead, Father, Son & Holy Spirit

V20: Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

- if ye be dead (G599): to die
- rudiments (G4747): basic elements
 - a. Dead with Christ: are separated from the world.
 - b. See: I John 2:15

V21: (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

- touch not (G680): fasten one's self to.
- taste not (G1089): to take food eat, to take nourishment
- handle not (2345): to touch handle

v22: Which all are to perish with using;) after the commandments and doctrines of me?

- Perish (G5356): corruption, destruction
- Commandments (G1778): a precept
- Doctrines (G1319): teachings

V23: Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

- wisdom (G4678) : use of knowledge; broad full of intelligence
- in will worship (G1479): voluntary worship which one prescribes for himself
- in humility (G5012): having a humble opinion of one's self
- neglecting (G857): "unparingly severity" of the body
- honour (G5092): value-price is fixed
- satisfying (G4140): repletion; over full
- flesh (G4561): body

Wendy Rutledge

Wendy has been married to her best friend Richard Rutledge for 26 years. He is an elder and pulpit minister for the Mt Vernon, TX congregation. She has 2 children. Jacob is 23 years old, married to Jessica and has 2 children, Natalie Ann (2 ½) and Easton (7 months). He is a SWSBS graduate and the pulpit minister for the Atlanta, TX congregation. Shelby is 22 years old, married to Jerrod Doss, and they are both graduates of SWSBS. Jerrod is the pulpit minister for the Winfield, W. Virginia congregation, and Shelby is a Ladies' Day speaker as well as a writer for Christian Woman magazine periodically. Jerrod and Shelby are in the process of adopting Wendy and Richard's third grandchild – Layla, who is 9 months old.

Wendy has been privileged to speak on several Ladies' Days in W. Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, and enjoys teaching Bible classes and being an elder's wife. The Rutledge's have been in Mt. Vernon for over 8 years and hope to "retire" there if it be in God's will. This is Wendy's first Ladies Retreat to attend and to speak on and she feels so humbled to be asked... and is looking forward to it!

Colossians Chapter 3

THE REWARD VS 1-4

- Vs 1
 - **Col 2:12**
 - **Rom 6:3-4**
- Vs 2
 - **Mat 6:19-21**
 - **1Jn 2:15**
 - **Jas 4:4**
 - **Joh 15:19**
- Vs 3
 - **Gal 2:20**
 - **Rom 6:1-5**
- Vs 4
 - **Php 3:20**
 - **1Th 4:13-18**

THE REMOVAL VS 5-9

- VS 5-6
 - **Rom 6:12-13**
 - **Rom 6:11**
 - **Gal 5:16-17**
 - Fornication (Greek - PORNEIA).
 - Illicit sexual intercourse.-- Often associated with Pagan idolatry.
 - **Gal 5:19**
 - Uncleaness (Greek - AKATHARSIA).— Moral uncleanness.
 - **Eph 4:19.**
 - Inordinate affection (Greek - PATHOS).— An affection of the mind, a passionate desire.
 - **Rom 1:26**
 - Evil concupiscence (Greek - EPITHUMIA) — A longing, desire, lust.
 - Covetousness (Greek - PLEONEXIA). — A desire to have more.
 - **Eph 5:3**

- **Luk 12:15**
- Vs 7
 - **Eph 2:1-3**
 - **Eph 5:8**
- Vs 8
 - Anger (Greek - ORGE).
 - A more settled or abiding condition of mind, frequently with the view to taking revenge.
 - Wrath (Greek - THUMOS).
 - Now notice the difference between “ORGE” and “THUMOS.”
 - “THUMOS” - more the inward feeling.
 - “ORGE” - the more active emotion.
 - Malice (Greek - KAKIA).
 - Badness in quality - opposite of excellent.
 - Evil mindedness of malignity.
 - Blasphemy (Greek - BLASPHEMIA).
 - In **Eph 4:31** “evil speaking.”
 - It is a railing accusation against.
 - Filthy communication (Greek - AISCHROLOGIA).
- Vs 9
 - Lie not one to another.
 - **Jn 8:44 Rev 21:8**
 - **Eph 4:25**
 - Put off the old...
 - **Heb 12:1**

THE REPLACEMENT VS 10-16

- Vs 10
 - **Rom 12:1-2 I**
- Vs 11
 - **Gal 3:28 Act 10:34-35**
- Vs 12
 - Mercy
 - **Mat 5:7**
 - **Jas 2:13**
 - **Jonah 4:2**

- Humbleness
 - **Jas 4:10**
 - **Php 2:3** Meekness
 - **Mat 5:5**
 - **Mat 11:28-29**
- Longsuffering
- **1Co 13:4**
- **2 Pe 3:9**
- Vs 13
 - “Forbearing” (ANECHO) - to hold up, to bear with, to endure.
 - Forgiving
 - **Mat 6:12**
 - **Luk 17:3**
 - **1 Jn 1:9**
- Vs 14
 - “Above all of these... put on charity.”
 - The glue that holds it all together
 - **Jn 13:34-35**
 - **1Co 13:1-3**
- Vs 15
 - “let the peace of God rule in your hearts”,
 - **Phi 4:7-9**
 - “and be ye thankful.”
 - **Phi 4:6**
 - **Rom 1:21**
- Vs 16
 - Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom;
 - **Psa 119:11**
 - **2Ti 2:15**

THE RULE OF LIFE VS 17

- Vs 17
 - The context clearly reveals the scope of authority.
 - Whatsoever
 - **Whatsoever - Mt. 28: 20**

- **In word**
 - **Psalms 19:14**
- **In deed**
 - **2 Cor. 5:10**
- **All**
 - **All - Mt. 28:18-20**

THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS VS 18-4:1

- Vs 18 – A Christian wife’s relationship with her husband
 - **Genesis 2:23-24**
 - **Eph 5:22-24**
 - **1 Pe 3:1-4 Titus 2:4**
- Vs 19 – A Christian husband’s relationship with his wife
 - **Ephesians 5:28**
 - **Eph 5:25**
 - **Ephesians 5:31**
 - **Ephesians 5:33**
- Vs 20 – A Christian child’s relationship with their parents
 - He has always required children to obey their parents.
 - **Deut 21:18-21**
 - **Exod 20:12**
 - **Ephesians 6:1-3**
- Vs 21 – A Christian parent’s relationship with their children
 - Fathers who lead the family
 - Mothers who love the children
 - Families that serve God
 - **Eph 6:4**
 - **Deu 6:4-7**
 - **1Sa_3:13**
- Vs 22 – A Christian servant’s relationship with their master
 - **Col. 3:22.**
 - Philemon- Onesimus
 - **Eph 6:5-8**
 - **1Ti 6:1**

- **Tit 2:9**
- **1Pe 2:18**
- Vs 23-The attitude we should have in all things
 - **Ecc.9:10**
 - **Mt.22:37**
- Vs 24-
 - **Eph 1:18**
 - **Col.1:12**
- Vs.25
 - **2 Cor 5:10**
 - **Ecc.12:13-14**
 - **Acts 10:34-35**

Mona Popejoy

Mona comes to us from the 9th and Main congregation in San Angelo, where she resides with her husband Rick. She is originally from Oklahoma, but her and Rick have spent the last 32 years working full-time with the Lord's church in Oklahoma, Wyoming & Texas.

She is the mother of 4 children, Caleb Popejoy, Sarah Williams and husband Brad of Ardmore, Josh, Danielle & Braelynn Popejoy, AFB Grand Forks, ND, and Rachel Popejoy of Edmond, Oklahoma. Mona also has 6 grand children.

Mona has spoken at several ladies days and is a regular teacher at the Heart of Texas Christian Camp in Brady, Texas for 8-12 grades girls. She has taught Bible classes for all ages from toddlers to teenagers.

Colossians Chapter 4

God's Second String

Introduction: As we study Colossians 4, Paul does not let up on the encouragement he is giving the brethren. Of course, we can see that the first verse of our text belongs at the end of chapter three finalizing the Christian and the workplace. Then Paul immediately takes up our first subject, that of prayer.

I. Prayers Are Vital (Col. 4:2-4)

- a. Faithful Prayers: **Continue**: means that they must have been already praying for Paul and the situation they found themselves in.
 - i. James 5:16: Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. **The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**
 - ii. 2 Thess. 5:17: Pray without ceasing.
 - iii. Col. 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- b. Watchful Prayers:
 - i. Watch: give strict attention (v2)
 - ii. Eph 6:19: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints
 - iii. Song: Watch and Pray
- c. Thankful Prayers: (6 examples)
 - i. Col. 1:3: We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you
 - ii. Col 1:12: Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
 - iii. Col. 2:7: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
 - iv. Col. 3:15: And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

- v. Col. 3:17: And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.
 - vi. Col. 4:2: Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
 - d. Prayers are Purposeful.
 - i. Paul was not ashamed to ask for the prayers of his brethren. Are we? Sometimes!
 - ii. Be Specific. (Rom 15:30ff; Col. 4:3-4; Eph. 6:20)
- II. Our Speech Makes a Difference (Col. 4:5-6)
- a. Walk in Wisdom:
 - i. To the Lost: (Mark 4:11; 1 Cor. 5:12-13; Col. 1:19-23)
 - ii. 1 Pet. 3:1-2: toward an unbelieving husband
 - b. Don't Waste Time.
 - i. Who controls our time? We do...
 - ii. A + O = R
 - iii. 168 hours a week. How do we use these hours?
 - c. Our Tongues are powerful tools.
 - i. With grace: joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm
 - ii. With Seasoned Salt: Prepared with Wisdom... Count to 10
 - iii. James 3: Bridle (3), Rudder (4), Fire (5), Poisonous Animal (8)
 - iv. James 3:9-12: can a fountain bring forth sweet and bitter waters? NO
 - v. Eph 4:29: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."
 - 1. Corrupt: rotten; putrefied
- III. Godly Partnerships (Col. 4:7-18)
- a. Men who were messengers:
 - i. Tychicus: Beloved, Brother, Faithful, Minister, fellowservant, fellowworkers (Acts 20:4; Eph. 6:21-22; Tit. 3:12; 2 Tim. 4:12)
 - ii. Onesimus: Faithful, Beloved, Brother Begotten in Paul's bond, fellowworkers, slave of Philemon
 - b. Men Who Were Comforters:
 - i. Aristarchus: fellowprisoner, fellowworkers; fellowlabourer (Acts 19:28-41; Acts 20:4; Acts 27:2; Philemon 24)

- ii. Marcus (John Mark): Cousin of Barnabas, fellowworkers; fellowlabourer (Acts 12:12; Acts 13:5-13; Acts 15:36-41; 2 Tim. 4:11; Philemon 24)
 - iii. Jesus or Justus: fellowworker
- c. Men Who Prayed
 - i. Epaphras: Member of the Colosse congregation; Servant of Christ; Labourer; fellow prisoner (Col. 1:7-8; Col. 4:12; Philemon 23-24)
 - ii. Zealous for the church at Laodicea and Hierapolis
- d. Two Men of Contrast:
 - i. Luke: Beloved Physician: (Acts 16:10; Philemon 24; Gal. 4:1; 2 Tim.4:11)
 - ii. Demas:
 1. Companion of Paul; (Philemon 24
 2. 2 Tim. 4:10: For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.
- e. Others mentioned in our text:
 - i. Nymphas: church services held in his house.
 - ii. Archippus: local preacher, possible.

Conclusion:

Paul through this whole epistle/letter to the churches in this area is challenging them to stand fast in what they have been taught. Share this letter. We have not ceased to pray for you. Walk worthy, be fruitful, increase in knowledge, give thanks to the Father. DO NOT BE MOVED. Don't be "Cheated" by these false teachers. You have been rooted, built up and stablished in Christ Jesus. Don't be "Taken In Battle" by false teachers. You are complete in Christ and in need of nothing further. Don't "Listen to their Opinion" with reference to the Old Testament Law. Don't be "Cheated/Defrauded" of your prize. Song: *"Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All"*. Set your affection on things above. Get rid of Sin in the Body/Church there at Colosse. Put on a "new man." Let this "new man" rule you. Let the Word of God dwell in you richly. Our family relations need to be pleasing to the Lord. Servants obey your master. Remember the master of us both is in heaven. Prayers are vital in our Christian walk and need to be faithful, watchful, thankful and purposeful. We need to walk with wisdom (Christian prudence) to those that are lost, not wasting our time here on earth. Paul had many Godly partners, some stayed to the very end of his life. Would you make a good "second string"?

Colossians 4 - Word Study Sheet

V1: Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

- master (G2962): he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding
- give: (G3930): to reach forth, offer
- servant (G1401): a slave, bondman, man of servile condition
- that which is just: (G1342): righteous, observing divine laws.
- Equal (G2471): equality; fairness

V2: Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

- Continue (G4342): To be devoted or constant to one
- Prayer (G4335): addressed to God
- Watch (G1127): give strict attention to, be cautious, active
- Thanksgiving: (G2169): thankfulness

V3: Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

- Withal (G260): at the same time, at once, together
- Praying (G4336): to offer prayers, to pray
- Utterance (G3056): speech; the sayings of God; moral precepts given by God; doors for the word
- Speak (G2980): utter a voice; to use words in order to declare one's mind
- Mystery (G3466): hidden thing; secret (Col. 1:27)
- Bonds: (G1210): to bind tie, fasten with chains, to throw into chains.

V4: That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

- Manifest (G5319): to make manifest or visible or known what had been hidden or unknown
- Ought (G1163): necessary, there is need of, it behooves, is right and proper
- Speak (G2980): utter a voice; to use words in order to declare one's mind

V5: Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

- Walk (G4043): to make one's way, progress' to make due use of opportunities.
- Wisdom (G4678): broad and full of intelligence
- Them that are without (G1854): without; out of doors; unbelievers
- Redeeming (G1805): to redeem, buy payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off
- Time (G2540): due measure; opportune or seasonable, the right time,

V6: Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

- Speech: (G3056): a word, uttered by a living voice
- Be always (G3842): at all times, always, ever
- Grace (G5485): that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm; loveliness
- Seasoned (G741): to prepare, arrange
- With salt (G217): wisdom and grace exhibited
- That ye may know (G1492): to perceive with the eyes, notice, discern, discover

V7: All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

- Tychicus: pronounced (*tü-khē-ko's*) (G5190): an Asiatic Christian, friend and companion of the apostle Paul
- Beloved (G27): beloved, esteems, dear, worthy of love
- Brother (G80): a fellow believer, united to another by the bond of affection, brethren in Christ
- Faithful (G4103): trusty, worthy of trust, relied on
- Minister (G1249): one who executes the commands of another
- Fellowservant (G4889): a fellow servant, one who serves the same master with another

V8: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

- Estate (G4012): about, concerning, on account of
- Comfort (G3870): to call to one's side, call for, summon
- Hearts (G2588): the centre and seat of spiritual life, the soul and mind

V9: With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here.

- Onesimus: pronounced (o-nā'-sē-mos) (G3682): a slave of Philemon who obeyed the gospel.
- Faithful (G4103): trusty, worthy of trust, relied on
- Beloved (G27): beloved, esteems, dear, worthy of love
- Brother (G80): a fellow believer, united to another by the bond of affection, brethren in Christ

V10: Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;)

- Aristarchus: pronounced (ä-rē'-stär-khos) (G708): the best ruler: a certain Christian of Thessalonica, and accompanied Paul on his third missionary journey.
- Marcus (G3138): a defense: an evangelist, the author of the Gospel of Mark, Marcus was his Latin surname, his Jewish name was John. He was a cousin of Barnabas and a companion of Paul in some of his missionary journeys.
- Barnabas (G921): son of rest: the surname of Joses or Joseph, a Levite, a native of Cyprus He was a distinguished Christian teacher and companion and colleague of Paul.

V11: And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

- Jesus (G2424): surnamed Justus, a Jewish Christian, an associate with Paul in preaching the gospel.
- Circumcision (G4061): term used for Jews

- Fellowworkers (G4904): a companion in work, fellow worker
- Comfort (G3931): comfort, solace, relief

V12: Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

- Ephaphras: pronounced (*e-pä-frä's*) (G1889): lovely: a Christian man
- Who is one of (G1537): Out of, from, by, away from
- Servant (G1401): a slave, bondman, man of servile condition
- Saluteth (G782): to salute one, greet, bid welcome, wish well to
- Laboring fervently (G75): to content with adversaries, struggle with difficulties and dangers
- Prayer (G4335): addressed to God
- Ye may stand (G2476): to cause or make to stand, to place, put set, to make firm, fix establish
- Perfect (G5046): brought to its end, finished, full grown, adult
- Complete (G4137): to make full, to fill to full

V13: For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

- Zeal (G2205) excitement of mind, fervor in spirit
- Laodicea: (G2993): a city of Phrygia, situated on the River of Lycus not far from Colosse. (Mentioned in Rev. 1:11)
- Hierapolis: (G2404): pronounced (*hē-e-rä'-po-lēs*), a city of Phrygia, situated above the junction of the rivers Lycus & Maeander, near Colosse and Laodicea.

V14: Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

- Luke (G3065): light-giving: a gentile Christian, the companion of Paul in preaching the gospel and on his many journeys; he was a physician and author of the book of Luke and Acts.
- Demas (G1214): governor of the people: a companion of Paul, who deserted the apostle when he was a prisoner at Rome and returned to Thessalonica.

V15: Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.

- Laodicea: (G2993): Justice of the people: a city of Phrygia, situated on the River of Lycus not far from Colosse. (Mentioned in Rev. 1:11)
- Nymphas: pronounced (nü'm-fä): a wealthy and zealous Christian in Laodicea
- Church (G1577): an assembly of Christian gathered for worship in a religious meeting

V16: And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

- Epistle (G1992) a letter
- Laodicea (G2993): Justice of the people: a city of Phrygia, situated on the River of Lycus not far from Colosse. (Mentioned in Rev. 1:11)

V17: And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

- Archippus: pronounced (ä'r-khēp-pos) (G751): master of the horse: a certain Christian teacher in Colosse
- Take heed (G991): to see, discern, of the bodily eye
- Ministry (G1248): service, of those who execute the commands of others
- Thou fulfil (G4137): to make full, to fill up, to fill to the full

V18: The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen

- Salutation (G783): a salutation, either oral or written
- Amen (G281): at the end, so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled; in agreement.

Sandi Smith

Raised the daughter of a faithful Gospel preacher, Sandi Smith is a member of the Smithfield congregation in the Fort Worth area where she teaches Bible classes regularly. She has been married for 20 years to her husband, Joe, a computer genius. (At least he seems like a genius to her!) They have four children that they school at home, ages 18 to 14, all of whom are now Christians, themselves. Sandi loves teaching ladies' Bible classes and ladies' day events and is an instructor for the wives' program at the Brown Trail School of Preaching. She enjoys crocheting, embroidery, baking and reading, though she now needs her reading glasses to do all those things!

Philemon

Paul was sent to Rome to appeal to Caesar (Nero), as recorded in Acts 25, in 61 A.D. It was while in prison that Paul somehow met and then taught the Gospel to a runaway slave named Onesimus. Onesimus happened to have run away from Paul's beloved friend and Christian brother in Colossae, a town in the region of Phrygia. Paul had passed through the region of Phrygia during his second and third missionary journeys, and during one of those times, he had taught and baptized Philemon who in turn began to have the church in Colossae meet in his home (Philemon 2). To have run away from his master under Roman rule, Onesimus incurred for himself a death sentence at the discretion of his master. Paul's letter to Philemon was quite personal, sent from Rome at the same time as his letter to the whole church in Colossae. This short but significant letter is dated about 62/63 A.D.

[From the notes of Maxie B. Boren, with permission]: Why is this personal letter included in the Biblical canon? It doesn't teach us the doctrine or history of the church, but it is "a masterpiece of Christian principles." It operates on our own hearts with "sweet words: love, forgiveness, reconciliation, kindness, compassion, and brotherhood."

A study of this amazing letter will see Paul persuading Philemon to rethink his Christian relationships and the principles of master/slave. Paul calls us all to put love into action through these 25 brief verses. It is in this letter that Paul went straight to his point with Philemon – a point that needed to be made quickly as Onesimus, himself, was to put it in Philemon's hands.

What we learn about Paul:

1. He was in prison.
2. He wrote this letter with Timothy
3. He knew personally and loved the recipients
4. He prayed for Philemon regularly
5. He received reports of Philemon's love and faith for the church universally
6. He converted and loved Onesimus and Philemon.
7. He was receiving some sort of monetary support at the time.
8. He was in prison with Epaphras.
9. Several Christian brothers were still with him in Rome.

What we learn about Philemon:

1. He was beloved by Paul and Timothy
2. He was married with at least one son.
3. He opened his home as the meeting place for the church.
4. He was known for love and faith and good works.
5. He must have been on the wealthy side as he was an owner of slaves.
6. He was taught the gospel by Paul.
7. He was known as willingly obedient to Christ/the demands of Christianity.
8. He prayed for Paul regularly.
9. He was well-known and loved among Christians.

What we learn about Onesimus: (see also Col 4:9)

1. He was a runaway slave.
2. He ran away from Philemon in Colossae to Rome where Paul was in prison.
3. He met Paul while in Rome and obeyed the gospel.
4. He was very close to Paul and became a great help and comfort to him.
5. He was not a good slave, being known as useless/unprofitable.
6. He likely stole from Philemon on his departure.
7. He was apparently desirous to do the right thing and return to Philemon.

Key words:

Christ 8x

Love/loved 5x and **Heart** 3x

Brother/sister 6x

Prisoner/imprisonment 4x in comparison to **slave** 2x

Jesus 6x

Useful (including **good/Onesimus**) 4x in contrast: **useless** 1x

Lord 5x

Based on key words, reading between the lines we can surmise that Paul's true message to Philemon was that he should accept Onesimus back through these principles: **Christ** is our anointed King. Because of Him we **love** and have **tender affection [heart]** for our **brothers and sisters** in Christ. We're all **slaves/bondservants** of **Jesus** who must prove ourselves **useful** to our **Lord** and master.

So, it's clear that Paul was asking Philemon to rethink the master/slave relationship. Who is Master? Christ Jesus our Lord. Who is slave? We are to Him. Those who are baptized believers/bondservants of the King, are brothers and sisters, and our relationship is that which belongs to the Christian family, guided by Christian love.

See also:

Matthew 10:24-25, 18:33, 24:45-51 & 25:21ff

Galatians 3:25-29

Ephesians 6:5-9

Colossians 4:1

II Peter 2:1

Jude 1:4

So, based on Paul's letter to Philemon, how ought we to view all other Christians?

[Directly from Maxie B. Boren's sermon on Philemon]

What love does:

1. Makes a request instead of a demand. (8-10)
2. Reaches out to the helpless; Onesimus was a runaway slave, in deep trouble (10-11) and socially without status.
3. Has a sense of right that it will not violate. (12-14)
4. Has an influence that changes relationships (15-16)
5. Has a willingness to spend and be spent for others (18-19)
6. Has an expectation that looks for the best in others (21)

References

31 List of Paul's Travels and Missionary Journeys

Paul's Early Travels Acts 9-12

- ◆ To Damascus to persecute Christians
(Conversion) Acts 9
- ◆ Stays in Damascus Acts 9
- ◆ Arabia Gal. 1:17
- ◆ Leaves Damascus Acts 9:25
- ◆ Jerusalem Acts 9:26
- ◆ Caesarea and Tarsus Acts 9:30, Gal. 1:21
- ◆ In Antioch for a year Acts 11:26
- ◆ To Judea/Jerusalem for famine relief Acts 11:30
- ◆ Antioch (Syria) Acts 12:25

Paul's First Journey Acts 13:1-14:28

- Traveled With:** Barnabas, John Mark
Main Route: Cyprus and Turkey
Cities/Places: 1400 miles
- ◆ Antioch (Syria today)
 - ◆ Seleucia
 - ◆ Salamis and Paphos (on Cyprus)
 - ◆ Perga
 - ◆ **ANTIOCH** of Pisidia (Turkey today)
 - ◆ Iconium
 - ◆ Lystra and Derbe
 - ◆ Lystra
 - ◆ Iconium and Antioch (Turkey)
 - ◆ Pisidia, Pamphylia, and Perga
 - ◆ Attalia
 - ◆ Antioch (Syria)
 - ◆ Jerusalem (via Phoenicia and Samaria) Acts 15

Paul's Second Journey Acts 15:36-18:22

- Traveled with:** Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke
Main Route: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Jerusalem
Cities/Places: 2800 miles
- ◆ Syria and Cilicia
 - ◆ Derbe and Lystra
(past Mysia) Troas
 - ◆ Samothracia (Samothrace) and Neapolis
 - ◆ Philippi in Macedonia
 - ◆ Amphipolis and Apollonia
 - ◆ Thessalonica
 - ◆ Berea (Beroea)
 - ◆ Athens (Mars Hill—"Areopagus")
 - ◆ **CORINTH**
 - ◆ Cenchræa (Cenchreæ)
 - ◆ Ephesus
 - ◆ Caesarea (in Syria)
 - ◆ "Went up" to Jerusalem
 - ◆ Antioch (Syria)

Paul's Third Journey Acts 18:23-21:16

- Traveled With:** Timothy, Luke, and Others
Main Route: Turkey, Greece, Lebanon, Israel
Cities/Places: 2700 miles
- ◆ Galatia and Phrygia
 - ◆ **EPHESUS**
 - ◆ Macedonia
 - ◆ Greece (Achaia)
 - ◆ Macedonia, Philippi, and Troas
 - ◆ Assos, Mitylene; near Chios, Samos,
(Troglyium), Miletus
 - ◆ Cos, Rhodes, Patara
 - ◆ Tyre and Ptolemais
 - ◆ Caesarea
 - ◆ Jerusalem

Paul's Journey to Rome Acts 21:17-28:31

- Traveled With:** Roman Guards, Luke, Others
Main Route: Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, Crete,
Malta, Sicily, Italy
Cities/Places: 2250 miles
- ◆ Jerusalem
 - ◆ Antipatris and Caesarea
 - ◆ Sidon, Myra, Cnidus
 - ◆ Fair Havens (Crete)
 - ◆ Claudia (Cauda)
 - ◆ Malta (Melita)
 - ◆ Syracuse, Rhegium, Puteoli
 - ◆ Appii Forum and Three Taverns
 - ◆ **ROME**

Other Travels Before Paul's Death

- Cities/Places (order unknown):**
- ◆ Macedonia 1 Tim. 1:3
 - ◆ Troas and Miletus 2 Tim. 4:13, 20
 - ◆ Crete Titus 1:5
 - ◆ Planned to go to Spain Rom. 15:28
 - ◆ Nicopolis Titus 3:12
 - ◆ Back to Rome 2 Tim. 1

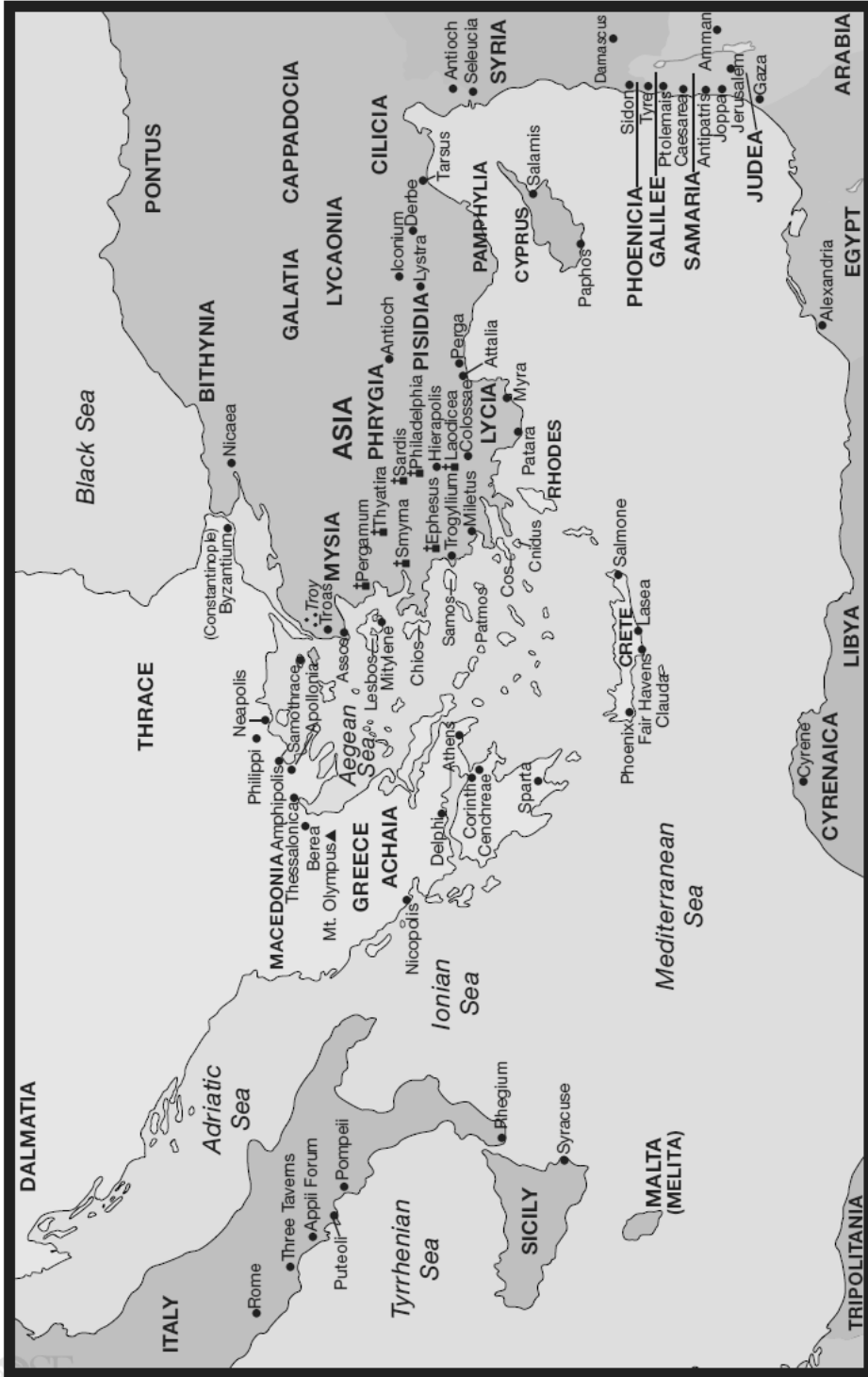
How to Remember Paul's Journeys

Paul was a **PACER** in a race!
(A pacer takes the lead or sets an example.)

- P - PAUL ("I have run the race; I have kept the faith.")
A - **ANTIOCH** of Pisidia First Journey
C - **CORINTH** area Second Journey
E - **EPHESUS** area Third Journey
R - **ROME** Fourth Journey



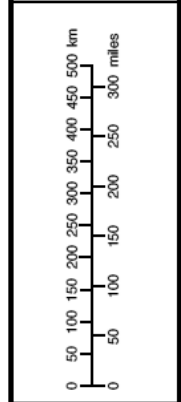
Paul's Journeys: Then and Now (AD 30-68) • 33



Ancient cities that exist today are underlined in red on the modern overlays.

One of the Seven Churches of Asia (Rev. 1-3)

- City or Town
- ⋯ Ancient Ruins/Sites
- ▲ Mountain
- ⊕ Modern Capital cities



TLC Retreat Survey

Help us make the Texas Ladies in Christ Retreat even better next year! Give us your thoughts...

Using a 0-10 scale (0 = worst, 10 = best):

1. Overall, how would you rate the TLC Retreat? _____
2. Was it a good value for the price paid? _____
3. Were your expectations for the weekend met? _____
4. Overall, how would you rate the location / accommodations? _____
5. Overall, how would you rate the speakers? _____
6. Did the speakers meet your expectations? _____
7. How well would you say the Bible was taught / expanded on? _____

Give a brief answer:

8. Who would you suggest as a future speaker? _____
9. Did you enjoy a "book" study? What other Bible book or topic would you suggest?

10. Would you come again next year? _____
11. Would you recommend TLC to a friend? _____
12. How would it affect you if TLC was in another part of the state (any other location/camp suggestions)? _____
13. What was your favorite part of the TLC Retreat?

14. What was your least favorite part of the TLC Retreat?

15. Use the back of this form to give us any other comments or suggestions you may have.