

**SESSION 4 HOMEWORK**

**DAY 1**

This is it! Our last week of study! I have had so much fun digging into this letter and finding treasures
I didn’t even know were there. I hope you have a few nuggets that have resonated in your heart too. God’s Word is something that is constantly alive and working in us. Look at Hebrews 4:12-13.

What does this verse say God’s Word is and does?

What do these verses suggest is not hidden from God?

Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. List the things that God’s Word is good for.

How does that sound like Colossians 3:16?

God’s Word is not just a book we read – it is the very words of God that are creating, growing and changing our hearts and minds continuously. God’s voice can be heard the best from His own words in the Bible. These words are sufficient to help us know God, His character, the gospel of grace and help us live out Christ in our lives.

In last week’s homework and also in the video this week, we looked at how we can guard our hearts from the list of activities Paul states in Colossians 3:15-17. Did you catch the one I forgot in the video? If so, write down which one.

I wish I could tell you that I strategically forgot this one, but unfortunately that isn’t true. It took me 3 times to sing that song without bawling and by the time I was done my brain was a little foggy. But perhaps it works out just perfectly to look at all of these a little more. That would be just like God to use my mistake for good!

In the columns below, look up the verse or verses and write the correct action next to it from Colossians 3:14-17 and 4:2. I started you off so you understand what I am talking about – although I did mess up the order so you couldn’t just zip right through it. ☺

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| Romans 8:6 The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. | Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts (Col 3:15) |
| Ephesians 6:18, Matthew 26:41 |  |
| Ephesians 5:19; Psalm 90:14  |  |
| 1 Thessalonians 5:18-19; Hebrews 12:28  |  |
| Matthew 5:16; Matthew 25:34-40  |  |
| 1 Peter 5:8; Mark 13:33 |  |
| Deuteronomy 11:18-20; Proverbs 7:1-3  |  |

I hope you see I added “keeping alert or watchful” to the list. Keeping alert and prayer kind of go hand in hand but I love having a list of 7 things! ☺ It also struck me how important it is to keep watch over your heart, which includes your thinking.

Last week I had you write some practical ways you could do these things. This is when I wish we were in study face to face so we can chat about them. I would love to see what you wrote so please post them on our website comments or just put the one you want to work on the most. I will put mine on there too. You can always leave it anonymously if you want.

What stood out to you today? What do you want to remember most?

**DAY 2**

Today we start to learn a bit more about the instructions for a Christian home and family.

Read Colossians 3:18–4:1.

When I read these I have loads of questions like, why does God want wives to submit to their husbands. And why does God want children to be obedient, although as a parent, I really like that one! But still, why? Why should slaves obey their masters and work like they are working for the Lord. What is the reason for all this? Why does there have to be a list of instructions like this?

I had to do a little digging and now I am going to lead you on the same dig. What we will do is look at each role and see if we can come up with some reasons why God had Paul pen these instructions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ROLE | SCRIPTURE | WHY |
| WIVES  | 1 Peter 3:1-2  |  |
| HUSBANDS | Ephesians 5:25-33  |  |
| CHILDREN | Ephesians 6:1-3  |  |
| FATHERS  | Ephesians 6:4  |  |
| SLAVES  | Titus 2:9-10 1 Timothy 6:1 |  |
| MASTERS  | Ephesians 6:9  |  |

As you look this over, what would you say is the number one reason why God has these instructions?

Read Matthew 5:14-16

Does this shine a little more light at why God has these rules? (I couldn’t resist the pun!)

All of this teaching would have been very counter-cultural to a first century family. How might these counter our own culture if we followed them today?

God doesn’t give rules to people to push them down, make them have less, or show favoritism. That is a lie from the enemy since the beginning. God gives rules for living so we can live well, be at peace with one another, and ultimately so we will have an abundant life and bring Him glory. He gives us instructions so we will be sharing the gospel in our actions and not just our words. In all reality, actions always speak louder than words.

Look at James 2:14-18.

Fill in the blank: Faith without action is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

How we walk out our faith matters! I hope that you have seen that throughout this study. God saves you, and changes you, not just for you, but for others! Have you ever thought about that? Your faith isn’t just about you and making sure you get to Heaven. God is good and He wants everyone to be saved. If our actions show the love of God, it will be counter cultural! And because that is different than what people usually see, they may become curious about why we are different and this gives us a great opportunity to share the gospel. This is exactly where Paul goes next in this letter.

Read Colossians 4:3-6

I find it interesting that while Paul is locked away in prison he asks for prayers for a door to be opened – not so he can get out but so the gospel can! Paul knows true freedom is found in Christ. He knows his current situation is pretty minor in comparison to others who are imprisoned by sin and death. Jesus is the key to unlock that door and set them free – all while Paul remains imprisoned.

Paul can’t go share the gospel, only his words can and he asks for prayers for his words. Our words are powerful and praying for the right words when those opportunities to share the gospel arise is important. I love verse 6. Have you ever thought about your words tasting good?

Let’s learn a bit more about this before we end today.

Read these verses and jot down what it says about our words.

Job 34:3

Ephesians 4:29

1 Peter 3:15

Have you shared the gospel with someone before? How did that go?

It can be hard to speak about Jesus in a world where people get offended very easily. Sometimes we feel like we can’t talk about our faith, yet it is so important to look for those opportunities, those open doors, and use them wisely. Don’t stop and hesitate too long or the moment might be gone. I guess I would also say, don’t overthink it or feel like you have to have all the answers. Share your story. Share what God has done to change you. I think stories are much better received than a big long sermon. No one likes to have someone preach at them – those words don’t taste good. But a story of how love found you and gave you a new heart and mind – now that tastes good! And that my friend, is seasoned with grace.

In order to share a story, you need to know it. Write down your story – or at least part of it here. I left you lots of room so just have some fun writing! What would you say to someone about what Jesus has done in your life?

**DAY 3**

Our last day! My heart is so full that I feel like I have a million things to say and no time to do it. I know in my heart there is still more we could have pulled from this letter but this is what we have and I hope it was enough to fill you for now. My prayer is that this study was seasoned with just enough salt to make it taste good – not too salty or bland that you wanted to spit it out – but just right. Something that you wanted to digest so it could strengthen you and help you walk out your faith.

The biggest part of your homework today is to read the entire letter in one sitting. But because there is still neat stuff that I wanted to share with you, it’s up to you if you do that today or wait until tomorrow.

If you are waiting until tomorrow then please read Colossians 4:4-18 before continuing.

The last part of this letter gives us the names of a bunch of people and I thought it would be fun to look at those so we know who Paul is talking about. I did most of the work on this so you won’t have to look up a bunch of stuff but I still hope you enjoy it.

**Tychicus** – Is described as a dear brother and faithful minister and fellow servant of the Lord. He was from the province of Asia (Acts 20:4). He was a Jewish believer (Col 4:11). Tychicus delivered letters to Colossae and Ephesus and at a later date Paul sent him to Ephesus so Timothy could visit Paul in prison.

**Onesimus** – The letter to Philemon tells us Onesimus’ story. Onesimus was Philemon’s slave who ran away but came to be with the Apostle Paul in prison. He became a believer and therefore a fellow brother in Christ. Paul writes to Philemon to take Onesimus in as a brother who is helpful and useful to the Kingdom of God through the spreading of the gospel. He delivered the letter to Colossae and Philemon with Tychicus.

**Aristarchus** – Acts 19:23-29 and Acts 27:2 tell us that Aristarchus is a Macedonian from Thessalonica. He traveled with Paul to various places. He was with Paul in Ephesus when a riot started by a silversmith named Demetrius, who made silver shrines of Artemis, and was losing money because of what Paul was teaching. He is Paul’s fellow prisoner during the time Paul wrote the prison letters.

**Mark** – Is Barnabas cousin. Mark was also called John and was the son of Mary (Acts12:12). Mark is also the author of the gospel of Mark. Mark is a close companion of Peter (1Peter 5:13).

**Justus** – There are some other men named Justus in the New Testament and apparently it was a common Jewish name but as far as I can see they aren’t all the same guy. So from what I can gather this Justus is a fellow minister with Paul.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Epaphras** – Is from Colossae and likely the one who started the church there (Col 1:7).

**Luke** – Is a physician and a close companion of Paul. He wrote the gospel of Luke and Acts. Many scholars believe he likely was writing those while he was with Paul in prison.[[2]](#footnote-2) I think it is amazing how much was done during that time!

**Demas** – A companion of Paul who eventually deserted Paul because he loved the present world and went to Thessalonica (2 Timothy 4:10).

**Nympha** – A woman who opened her house to the church in Laodicea. This is the only scripture that mentions her.

**Archippus** – According to scripture (Col 4:17; Phil 1-2) he is a man who attends the church in Colossae and Paul is encouraging him to fulfill the ministry God is calling him to. We don’t know anything more but I sure would like to know if he listened to Paul!

I would have loved to be a fly on the wall of that prison! Can you imagine, Paul, Luke, and Mark all in one room! The conversation must have been rich and seasoned with grace. My friends, these are the faithful brothers and sisters who went before us, but the story doesn’t end here – it is you and me that carry this gospel message to the world now.

How will you do that? Write down a couple things you’ve learned.

In the end, I pray you know how important it is for us to stay connected to Christ, to the gospel message, and to each other. We cannot live a God-honoring life without these. We need Jesus and we need each other to help us along the way. It is hard to be separated during this time but I hope you know that we are only apart physically, not spiritually. We are always connected by one Spirit. And thanks to God for technology – we are also only and email or call away. Never stop reaching out to each other when your thoughts go awry. If you start to doubt God or His work in you, reach for a friend who will set you on the right path again. We all are taking this earthly journey together and sometimes we will lose our way, but if we keep traveling together, looking out for each other and lifting each other in prayer, the journey itself will be fun and we won’t start whining “Are we there yet?” Jesus makes this life abundant with hope, overflowing with love and seasoned with grace. Let’s keep following Him because He knows the way.

God bless all of you and thank you for coming alongside me through this letter to the Colossians!

In His grip,
Sue

1. Brand, Chad; *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, (B&H Publishing Group; 2015) pg 950. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Brand, Chad; *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, (B&H Publishing Group; 2015) pg 1034. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)