

Message Guide

This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of this Guide is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on the messages given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions, we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord than may not have been immediately obvious.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 1 “The Marks of Real Christianity” Colossians 1:1 - 8

1. What is it that Charles says prompted Paul to write to the Church at Colosse?

2. Charles listed some of the recurring issue. Can you remember them?
 - a. Moving from the S _____ and the C _____ of Christ
 - b. Moving from the S _____ of Christ
 - c. L _____
 - d. R _____ O _____
 - e. F _____ H _____
 - f. P _____

3. What are the 3 things that Charles points out to us from these opening 8 verses?
 - a. Things that Paul says about H _____
 - b. Things that Paul says about his R _____
 - c. Things that Paul says about his M _____

4.
 - a. What did Paul call himself? _____
 - b. What did the title mean? _____
 - c. What were the implications of that? _____

5. What are the 3 chief characteristics of an Apostle of Jesus Christ in the New Testament?
 - a. They were E _____ of Christ (See Acts 1:21 & 22;
1 Corinthians 9:1 – 3 & 1 Corinthians 15:7, 8 & 9)
 - b. They were engaged in S _____ and W _____ (See 2 Corinthians 12:12;
Acts 2:43 and Acts 5:12)
 - c. They were F _____ to the church (See Ephesians 2:20)

6. a. Consider - How did Paul know he was called to be an Apostle?
 b. Consider - How did the church know Paul was called to be an Apostle?

7. In the NIV version Colossians 1:2 says "To the holy and faithful"; whereas many other versions replace the word 'holy' with the word 'saints'.
 Consider - What is a Saint?

8. The use of the word 'grace' in the greeting in verse 1b is not that of a casual greeting. What 3 things do we need to consider in order to understand the word 'grace' in a proper context. And what is meant by these 3 things?
 a. J _ _ _ _ _
 b. M - - - -
 c. GRACE
9. Verse 2b speaks of peace from God. Read Colossians 1: 19 & 20 and then Colossians 3:15. Can you identify 2 different kinds of 'peace'?

Final Thoughts

When you have that sense of assurance as to what God has called you to do,
 whether it be serving him in Christian circles
 or as a missionary in whatever secular situation He has placed you in,
 then that 'peace of God' will reign and rule in you.

As you become excited about what God is doing **in you**
 so you will be excited about what God is doing **through you**.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 2 – ‘The Supremacy of Christ’ Colossians 1:15 - 23

1. List some of the types of subject matter you will find in a Christian Bookstore. What danger might someone fall into by digesting too much of what is available? What does this tell us about the over-riding mentality of Christians today?
-
-

2. What were the issues that the Apostle Paul was dealing with in this letter to the Colossians?
- The S _____ of Christ
 - The C _____ of Christ
 - The S _____ of Christ
 - The L _____ of Christ

3. Christianity must **begin** with Christ. Consider what Jesus said about Himself :

If you are Lost	I AM the W _ _
If you are Confused	I AM the T _ _ _ _
If you are Hungry	I AM the B _ _ _ _ of L _ _ _
If you are Wandering	I AM the G _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _ _
If you are in Darkness	I AM the L _ _ _ _ of the w _ _ _ _
If you are on the Outside	I AM the D _ _ _ _
If you are Dead	I AM the L _ _ _ _

4. Read Colossians 1 verses 15 – 20. Why are these verses considered to be one of the great Christological passages in scripture?
-
-

5. Charles draws out three central things about this passage that are vitally important that we grasp.

The first is the D _ _ _ _ of Christ.

Creation came into being _ _ Him, and _ _ _ Him

6. John 1:3 proclaims that Creation came into being :

BY Him - meaning: He is the S _ _ _ _ _ of all creation.

THROUGH Him - meaning: He is the D _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ of creation.

FOR Him - meaning: He is the G_ _ _ of creation

7. The second thing Charles points out from these verses is the H_ _ _ _ _ of Christ
Read again verse 15, and then read Genesis 1 v.26 – 27. How do these verses relate?
-
-

8. The goal and end-product of the Gospel is C_ _ _ _ _ - L_ _ _ _ _

9. The third thing Charles points out from these verses is the L_ _ _ _ _ of Christ.
Verse 18

Final Thoughts

The human body works best when every part relates to the head. It is the nerve centre; the place where decisions are made; the place of direction. If the body is disconnected from the head, all you have is a disabled body. It is the same with the church.

F.F. Bruce says:

*“Christ and His Body are viewed together as a living unit; Christ is the Head, **exercising control and direction**; believers are His body, individually His limbs and organs under **His control**, obeying **His direction**; performing **His work**. And **the life** which animates the whole is **Christ’s risen life**, which He shares with His people.”*

It is a mistake to regard this idea of the church as Christ’s body, as only a metaphor.
The church is not ‘like’ a body – it IS His Body!!!

Read Ephesians 1 v.22 – 23 and 1 Corinthians 12 v.27

Seek first and only HIS will, and not His approval of **your** plans.
Operate in total dependence on Christ, and in inter-dependence on one another.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 3 – ‘The Mystery: Christ In You’ Colossians 1: 24 - 2:5

1. How does Paul describe himself in Col. 1:23 which should be a good description for anyone in the service of God, as well as for every Christian – who ought to be in, and see themselves as being in, the service of God?

2. In reading verses 24 and 25, what is the pattern that emerges?

1. To be a servant of J_____ C_____
2. To be a servant of the C_____
3. To be a servant of the G_____

3. The Apostle Paul says he was called to present the people with “the word of God in all its fullness.” What did he mean by this?

4. So what does Paul call this ‘place to which it all leads’?

5. This may be a difficult question, but do you know what that mystery revelation is? Here is a clue it is in a statement of 7 words.

6. There are 4 elements in this. Do you remember them from the sermon?

- a. It is about a P_____
- b. It is about a P_____
- c. It is about a P_____
- d. It is about an A_____

7. So – simple question. Who is that person?

8 Who is John speaking of when he wrote in John 1 verse 1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” ?

9. Now that we know who the person is, does that help us to know where is ‘the place’?

10. Why is this such a big deal? What is the mystery about it?

Previously, in the Old Testament they had known
God to be w_ _ _ them - but this mystery is more!
God to me f_ _ them - but this mystery is more!

Now it is revealed that God, through His Holy Spirit is going to be I_ them!

11. Christ in you, the hope of glory. What is ‘glory’?

12 Read and consider Colossians 3 v 4

13. How is this appropriated in our lives. Read and consider Philippians 4 v.13

Final Thoughts

With the ‘mystery’ solved does this mean we no longer struggle?
No, we still struggle; but the energy for that struggle is in Christ, who is in us.

How does this work?

We must live in dependence on His indwelling presence,
and in obedience to His direction.

Remember from last time;

it is not a question of His rubber-stamping our ideas.

We need to seek HIS will and direction;
and then function in complete and total dependence on Him
and in obedience to Him.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 4 – ‘Continuing the Christian Life’ Colossians 2:6 - 23

1. Read Colossians 2:2-3; 6-10 and 16-23
Paul says that in Christ we have all the
T_____ of W_____ and K_____
He also says we have all the F_____ of the D_____.
2. Do you remember from our last study that the word ‘fullness’ meant as in a ‘climax and completion’, not in a quantity, involving a ‘mystery’ that is put in 7 words -
“Christ In You The Hope Of Glory”

Do you remember the 3 aspects of this, each beginning with the letter ‘P’?

- a. A P_____
 - b. A P_____
 - c. A P_____
3. What is the key to being able to live in the good of this “fullness”?
Read Colossians 2:6 – 7

4. How did you receive Christ?
By R_____ and F_____
5. Repentance turns from y_____ / y_____ o_____ a_____
Faith trusts H___ and H___ a_____
6. Look at the second issue carefully. New Testament Christianity is about what?

7. So now you need to submit your m_____ to the w_____ of C_____.
8. The fourth thing that helps us to live this out day to day is so simple we often miss it!
Read again Colossians 2 v.6 & 7 and see if you can spot it!

Final Thoughts

If you want a 'key' to the Christian life, in every situation, just say "thank you."

The language of trust is not 'please' – that is the language of uncertainty.

The language of trust is "thank you."

This is the means of true spiritual growth.

So how are you doing?

Are you rooted in Christ as Lord?

Are you letting the Word of God dwell in you richly?

Are you overflowing with thanksgiving for His sufficiency?

We do not have time here to deal with the Pseudo Spiritual Life other than to say it involves all forms of legalism, rules and judgmentalism. It believes that "If I do the right things I will become the right person." Legalism makes rules about things and then judges others according to those man made rules.

It tries to work from the outside in;
whereas Jesus works from the inside out [changing first the heart]

Again we stress - Stay rooted in Christ; let the word of God dwell in you richly; always be overflowing with thankfulness;
and allow Christ who is in you to manifest Himself,
through you, to the world in which He has placed you.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 5 – ‘Putting On New Self’ Colossians 31 - 14

1. Consider! Does the old saying, “ You can’t teach an old dog new tricks” apply in the Christian context?

2. The key to today’s study is found in Colossians 3:9 & 10. What does Paul say is the goal of the Christian life?

3. Can you recall what is the “mystery” that was hidden for ages and generations but now made known to us.”?

4. What is it that Paul says we have to be absolutely sure of in Colossians 2 v.8.

5. Paul is very adamant that we stay away from these man-made traditions and philosophies to the extent that he says what?

6. If we don’t understand this we are in danger of living what Charles calls - ‘Outside In’. What is wrong with that?
If we live ‘Inside Out’ what is good about that?

7. What Paul is doing here is dealing with the Practical & Behavioral Responsibilities. We have to understand the Practical sections in light of the Doctrines. What can happen if we don’t keep these in balance?

8. So – Since we have been raised with Christ [the old person has gone and we are now a new person with Christ], what should we do
- Set your _____ on things above, not on earthly things.
 - Set your _____ on things above, not on earthly things.
- Consider the practical applications of this.
-
-

9. The New Testament speaks in various ways of 2 motivating forces in Life; Here in Colossians we are to set our hearts and minds on –

Things above	rather than things of _____
In Galatians	Things of the Spirit rather than things of the _____
In Corinthians	Things Spiritual rather than things _____
In Romans	New Nature rather than _____

10. Be very clear in your understanding that although you have received a new life – the Life of Christ in you – you have still retained the old, carnal, self life of the flesh and these will always be at enmity with each other.
Read Galatians 5 v.17
What will always be your biggest spiritual battle?
-
-

11. In this daily battle can you identify the main problems?
Earthly things are v_____ Spiritual things are i_____

Earthly things are n_____ Spiritual things are s_____ - _____

12. So how is this new life going to work out.
It will involve Discipline in 3 areas –
The M_____
The W_____
The E_____

13. What often hinders us from doing what we're told to do in Colossians 3:2 and Romans 12:2?
-
-

14. What would you say is the main reason for gathering together on a Sunday?
-
-

15. When speaking of the Discipline of the Will what are the things that, listed as belonging to our earthly nature, have to be put to death?

16. What are the characteristics of the 'new life' with which we are to be clothed according to Colossians 12 v.14?

17. What is it that 'love' does to all these new characteristics?

Final Thoughts

For some people the idea of us having two natures co-existing is difficult to understand; but when we can grasp that concept we can then understand why it is we are still capable of sin even though we have a new nature with 'Christ in us'.

To put it simply; whichever nature you 'feed'
is the nature that will be pre-dominant in your life.
So set your heart and mind on things above.
Feed your nature with daily reading His Word
that you might always know His mind, His heart and His will for your life.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 6 – ‘A Key to Christian Maturity’ Colossians 3:15 - 17

1. We are now in the Practical section of Colossians which flows from the Doctrinal section. The Doctrinal section has centered on
The I_____ P_____ of Christ,
The W_____ of Christ in the lives of believers
2. These 3 verses bring 3 very practical instructions – what are they?
Read and consider verse 15.
Do you notice what Paul does NOT say?

3. What are some causes for our lack of peace?

4. Question 2 asked “what Paul does NOT say”. So what specifically does he say?

5. Consider; what is the Peace of Christ?
Ask yourself - What scares Jesus Christ?
- What frightens Him?
- What alarms Him?
- What disturbs Him?
6. Read John 14 v.27
What kind of peace does the world give?

7. Read Philippians 4:6 – 7. What kind of peace does Christ give?

8. Now read and consider verse 16. What does Paul say you must do for the Peace of God to fill your life?

9. Read and compare Ephesians 5:18 – 20, and Colossians 3:16. What is the difference?

10. What does 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20 tell us about the Word of God?

11. Charles contends that if the Word of God does not dwell in us richly then our attitudes towards contemporary circumstances will come from the world – not from His Word.

Name some of the attitudes that can be adversely affected.

Our attitudes towards -

D_____.
S_____ each other.

S_____ P_____

Our response to -

Our E_____.
Those who O_____ us.

Our understanding of –

Who is our N_____

Our attitude to the -

M_____ and P_____

Our attitude to -

G_____ and M_____

12. An important part of letting the word of God dwell in us richly is the ministry of singing. Name the 3 categories and consider the emphasis of each one.

P_____

H_____

S_____ S_____

13. The next aspect is really the secret to going on in the Christian Life. Read verses 15, 16 & 17 again. Do you notice anything that is common to each of these verses?

Final Thoughts

How do you know you are operating in His name?

You let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

When you do, and get to know Him better – nothing frightens you!

You will then allow the peace of God to rule in your hearts,
and you will be completely confident, and say 'Thank You'.

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians Series – Staying On Track Part 7 – ‘Living It Out In Marriage’ Colossians 3:18 - 21

Family Life is changing in Canada and probably most of the world. This is, in itself, merely a symptom of underlying changes of thinking about life, purpose, pleasure, values and responsibility.

Every society / culture has expectations and rules for good family life; and the New Testament is no exception. Paul the Apostle, having given the doctrinal part of his letter to the Colossians is now explaining the practical outworking; how will the indwelling Christ express Himself in the way we live?

1. In Colossians the answer is two-fold.

Christ will show Himself in our C _____

Christ will show Himself in our R _____

2. Paul writes about the 3 most important relationships

a. M _____ - W _____ & H _____

b. F _____ - C _____ & P _____

c. W _____ P _____ - S _____ & M _____

3. What do we notice about the structure of each relationship that is common to all?

4. Who is brought into this relationship, and what piece of furniture does Charles liken this to. Read and consider verses 18, 20 & 22

5. In this study we will only be looking at the first of these 3 relationships, that is Marriage – Husbands and Wives.
Reading again verses 18 & 18, what 3 ways should we look at this?

C _____

L _____

B _____

6. **Culturally** Under **Jewish Law**, a woman was the possession of her husband or father, just as much as his flocks or his material goods were. She had no legal rights whatsoever. A man could divorce his wife for any cause, whilst a wife had no rights whatsoever to initiate a divorce.

In **Greek society**, a respectable woman lived a life of seclusion. She never appeared on the street alone, even to go to the marketplace. From her was demanded complete servitude and chastity; whereas her husband could go out as much as he chose, and could enter into relationships outside of marriage and incur no stigma.

So does verse 18 mean that Paul is endorsing that? Consider!

7. Can you identify the 2 reasons why this new instruction is undermining what was the accepted custom of the time?

8. To consider the Biblical aspect of this please read and consider the following verses. Ephesians 5:22 -6:9; Titus 2:1 – 10; 1 Peter 3:1 – 7

9. Back to Colossians 3; in what context does a wife choose to submit to her husband, and what is the reciprocal role of the husband? See vs. 18 & 19.

10. Read and consider the parallel page in Ephesians 5:25 - 26

Final Thoughts

If husbands will do as the scripture says, then the part addressed to wives will not be difficult. Wives will submit to their husbands willingly and gladly, out of being secure, protected, loved, respected and looked after.

This is the very nature of a wholesome marriage relationship.

Remember that marriage is not a one way street. You are God's gift to each other, and both of you need tender nurturing, caring, developing and growing.

Laugh together – don't be afraid to cry together too!

Care for one another.

Express love to each other.

Build each other up.

Release each other.

Protect each other.

Don't take each other for granted!

Remember that it is a three legged stool, and Jesus Christ needs to be at the centre of your marriage and family.

Read Ecclesiastes 4 v.9 – 12 Who is the third strand? God Himself!

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 8 – ‘Living It Out In The Family’ Colossians 3:20 & 21

Family Life is changing in Canada and probably most of the world. This is, in itself, merely a symptom of underlying changes of thinking about life, purpose, pleasure, values and responsibility.

Every society / culture has expectations and rules for good family life; and the New Testament is no exception.

As we said with the last Study on this section of Colossians, this is the practical section of Paul’s letter to the Colossians; and whereas last time we looked at the outworking in marriage, this time we will look at Living in out in The Family.

1. What is the difference between Colossians 3 v.20 – 21 and Exodus 20 v.12?

2. Is it possible to cover all the important issues that these verses bring up?

3. In 1 Timothy 3:4 Paul gives instructions regarding family life for those who would be “elders” in the church. What is he saying?

4. What is it that Fathers are commanded specifically NOT to do; and what would be the consequence of neglecting this command?

5. So – it is said that ‘The goal of good parenting is to rear children who are not discouraged, who are full of hope and whose hearts are free’, but there is nothing distinctly Christian about that; most wise parents would aim for similar goals. So what is the difference?

Read Colossians 1 v.5; 1 v. 23; 1 v.27 and 1 Thessalonians 1 v.3

6. If HOPE is the opposite of 'discouragement and disappointment', where do we encourage our children to place their hope?

7. Parents without Christ will give their children hope, but in the wrong things. List and consider some of those wrong things.

8. What does Paul say in 1 Timothy 6:17 that should also be passed on to our children?

9. The context for children obeying their parents [v.20] is that the home is a place where there is love, encouragement, communication, understanding, conversation.

It is important for children to learn to obey for 3 reasons;

It develops our S _____ L _____

It develops our S _____ L _____

It develops our S _____ L _____

10. What are the implications of Proverbs 29:15 and what action should parents take?

11. Consider the 'social skills' that children need to learn that will help them through, and to be accepted in, the various parts of today's society –

1. At Home
2. At work
3. At play

12. WHY are children admonished to obey their parents.?

Final Thoughts

We need to teach our children to align their will with God's will;
to live by values that align with His;
and to adopt purposes that are consistent with His will.

Conversely, we need to be **fathers** to our children as God is Father to us.
His goal is not to teach His children **self-confidence**, but to take us outside of that
and give us **God-Confidence**.

God wants to undermine our self-confidence and replace it with God-confidence.
Read 1 Corinthians 8 & 9 where Paul shares his experience
God our Father stripped him of his self-confidence so that his confidence was in God.

This is the place where we need to live personally.
This is the message we need to give our children.

We equip our children for life when we give them HOPE;
with that hope being built on their confidence in God!

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 9 – ‘Living It Out At Work’ Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

1. Charles starts his sermon by asking;
“What is the difference between a Beaver and a Human Being?”
2. Read Colossians 3:22 – 4:1. What is the recurring theme that runs throughout?

3. How do you view your work? Is it –
 - a. A N _____ ?
 - b. An O _____ ?
 - c. A M _____ to an E _____ ?Or do you see it as a D _____ A _____ ?
4. Read Genesis 3 v.17 - 19
Is ‘work’ just a consequence of the ‘fall’? Explain.

5. In his statements about ‘slaves’ is Paul endorsing slavery? Why are his statements about slavery as significant to us today as they were in his day?

6. What do you understand by the expression, ‘serving the Lord?’

7. What about the ‘other side of the fence’? What should be the attitude of the ‘master’
And why?

8. Having established the correct attitude of both master and slave [employer and employee] what important question should we be asking ourselves? And what should be our attitude toward our work?

-
-
9. We have to be careful here that we do not abuse our employer's time.
Consider when it is and when it is not acceptable to 'talk about the Lord' – if at all!
Consider what other ways there may be to be 'used by the Lord' in your workplace.
-
-

10. So, what is the difference between the Beaver and the Human Being?
-
-

Final Thoughts

Wherever God has placed you does not mean that you are going to be there for ever;
but for now your work is YOUR Mission and your workplace in YOUR Mission Field.

The Lord wants you there to be –

Seeing with His eyes!
Working with His motives!
Functioning according to His values!
Under the ultimate authority of the Lord Himself!

Read again Colossians 3 v.23 & 24

Do you accept this commission?

Message Guide & Questions

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 10 – ‘It Takes A Team’ Colossians 4:2 – 18

This study will be a little different.

1. Read Colossians 4:2-18

In this final part of the Colossians Series Charles focuses on the fact that if we want to win the world for Jesus it takes two things. What are they?

2. In the first part, what does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him about?

3. As well as praying that the Lord would be the one who opened doors of opportunity for him, what was the next thing that he asked prayer for?

4. And the third thing Paul wanted prayer for?

5. What were the 4 areas about which Paul prayed for the people?

6. In Colossians 4 v.7 – 18 Paul then talks about ‘the team’ that he has to work with him.

My suggestion, to do something a little different and add some variety, is that you (or your group) do a brief study on each of these team members. Using a concordance, or from the internet, it would be an interesting exercise to ‘search the scripture’ and find out about these people. What we can say here is that in this team of ten there were -

Men and women

Jew and Gentile

Rich and poor

Masters and slaves [employers and employees]

Stable and unstable [one of them later went away from the Lord]

Strong and weak

Here are the names of the team –

Tychicus	Onesimus	Aristarchus	Mark
Barnabus	Jesus	Epaphras	Luke
Demas	Nympha	Archippus	

Final Thoughts

There is an incredible diversity of character on this team,
and that is how it is in every church.
If asked, “Where is The Peoples Church?”, how would you answer?
Would you say, “It’s at 374 Sheppard Avenue E. in Toronto” ?
That would be wrong.

That is the location of the building in which we meet;
but The Peoples Church is all over the Greater Toronto Area
in offices, factories, hospitals, schools, universities, homes etc.
What are they doing? Being the Church!

They are on a Mission – as are you!
Make sure you are operating in the will of God.
Look for the open doors – and take Christ through them!

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' while also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 1 – 'The Marks of Real Christianity' Colossians 1:1 – 8

1. There was 'mischief' going on in the church. Certain issues kept returning in different disguises so Paul takes the opportunity to correct a lot of errors that had crept in. Without getting personal, can you identify any 'mischief' that can happen in churches today?
2.
 - a. Moving from the Supremacy & Centrality of Christ
 - b. Moving from the Sufficiency of Christ
 - c. Legalism
 - d. Religious Observations
 - e. False Humility
 - f. Philosophy
3.
 - a. Things that Paul says about **Himself**
 - b. Things that Paul says about his **Readers**
 - c. Things that Paul says about his **Message**
4.
 - a. Colossians 1:1
- An Apostle of Jesus Christ
 - b. "A sent one" – under orders from Jesus Christ.
He himself was authoritative, but also UNDER authority.
 - c. He represented Jesus Christ.
He had no personal agenda or ideas of his own.
5.
 - a. They were **Eyewitnesses** of Christ.
 - b. They were engaged in **Signs** and **Wonders**.
 - c. They were **Foundational** to the church.
6.
 - a. God told him [through Ananias] when he was first converted.
Acts 9 v.14
 - b. God confirmed this 12– 14 years later, through the church in Acts 13:1 – 3

Note Paul's patience in waiting for the church to recognize his call.

Note also that it was the Lord who called Paul; but after recognizing that calling it was the Church's responsibility to send him.

Not all are called to be Apostles. It is important that you find out what God has called you to be. When you have that assurance, from that you will derive your authority, your sense of purpose, your mission, and your security.

7. The word 'saint' has been hijacked by some historic churches as a designation for it's hero's of the past; but not so in the bible.

The word 'saint' literally means 'set apart', and in that sense every believer is a 'saint'. Do you have the assurance that you have been 'set apart' for a specific purpose? Are you living in a manner that is faithful to that calling?

8. a. JUSTICE - Giving people what they deserve.
b. MERCY - Not giving people what they deserve.
c. GRACE - Giving people what they don't deserve.

Consider this to ensure that you have a correct understanding.

9. One is peace WITH God.
The other is peace OF God.

We have peace 'with' God, because we have accepted His work accomplished for us on the cross. We then need to display the peace 'of' God as we allow that peace to 'rule', 'reign in', and 'dominate' our hearts.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossian – Staying On Track Part 2 – 'The Supremacy of Christ' Colossians 1:15 - 23

1. Stress, Free Living, How to have a Happy Marriage, How to have Great Kids, A Good Life, Permanent Good Health, Abundant Prosperity etc. etc.

Sadly, what has crept into the Christian thinking is a 'consumer mentality' that we apply to Jesus; 'He gives / I get'

Whilst it is wonderful that Jesus Christ does meet the deepest needs of the human heart, the pre-eminent question should not be "What will Jesus do for me?" but rather, "What does it mean to live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ?" – an altogether different question that leads to an altogether different attitude.

2. A. The Supremacy of Christ
b. The Centrality of Christ
c. The Sufficiency of Christ
d. The Leadership of Christ

3. If you are **Lost** **I AM** the Way
If you are **Confused** **I AM** the Truth
If you are **Hungry** **I AM** the Bread of Life
If you are **wandering** **I AM** the Good Shepherd
If you are in **Darkness** **I AM** the Light of the world
If you are on the **Outside** **I AM** the Door
If you are **dead** **I AM** the Life

Christianity must begin with Christ. He is not just the Founder – He is its **content** and **substance**. If you take

Christ out of Christianity all you have left is 'religious ceremony'.

4. Theologians would call this one of the Great Christological passages of the New Testament, because it teaches us who Jesus is.
5. The Deity of Christ
Creation came into being BY Him, and FOR Him.
Read John 1 verse 3
6. BY Him meaning: He is the **Source** of all creation.
THROUGH Him meaning: He is the **Divine Agent** of creation.
FOR Him meaning: He is the **Goal** of creation.

The Deity of Christ, and His equality with the Father and the Holy Spirit, is fundamental and unchallengeable.

For example: Mormonism contends that God created Christ who then created the universe; but the Christian faith contends that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal as one.

7. The second thing Charles points out from these verses is the **Humanity** of Christ. The 'image of God' spoken of here is not a physical image – we should never try to represent God in any physical or material form – but this refers to the attributes that we should display.
8. **Christ-Likeness.** This is not a physical likeness, but in our actions and reactions we are to be a reflection of Christ. Read and consider Colossians 1:19.

Remember that **Deity and Humanity meet in Jesus Christ**, and in this troubled, confused world we are to be the reflections of that.

9. The third thing Charles points out from these verses is the **Lordship** of Christ. Read again verse 18

This image of Christ as being the 'head of the 'body' has a far more accurate application than many people realize. He is not the 'head' as in the case of a 'founder' of something that then carries on down the centuries after he is gone; nor is He like a monarch who reigns, but does not rule.

Christ is the actual head of a living Body characterized thus;

The **Head** of the Body is **Christ**

The **Members** of His Body are **his people** [you and me]

The **Life** of the Body is His risen life imparted to us by the Holy Spirit.

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 3 – ‘The Mystery : Christ In You’ Colossians 1:24 - 2:5

1. Paul refers to himself as a “servant”. In the last study we looked briefly at the fact that, sadly, too many people claiming to be Christians are more concerned with what Christianity will do for them, rather than asking “what can I do for Christ?” The whole concept of being a ‘servant’ is not just alien to some people, it is also abhorrent to them; and yet Christ’s life on earth – the example He showed us – was all about being a servant. If we miss that, we miss everything!
2.
 1. To be a servant of Jesus Christ
 2. To be a servant of the Church
 3. To be a servant of the Gospel
3. He did not mean fullness in the sense of its ‘volume of content’ – although it does mean the inclusion of all the parts we don’t like - but rather it is its climax; the goal to which it all leads
4. Paul calls it a ‘mystery’.
To preach the word of God in fullness is to preach a mystery!
In other words, there is a mystery that has to be solved which will then cause the Bible to make sense.
Read and rejoice in the words from Colossians 1 verse 25 - *“I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness – the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.”*

Just think of it! Through Abraham, Moses, the Kings and Prophets, it was all a mystery. God’s revelation was progressive through many hundreds of years of mystery, but now that mystery comes to its climax it is about to be revealed to the saints.
5. The revealed mystery is : **Christ in you, the hope of Glory!**
Are you any the wiser?
Well, with Charles’ help let’s break this down for you to understand.
6.
 - a. It is about a Person
 - b. It is about a Place
 - c. It is about a Purpose
 - d. It is about an Appropriation

7. The person is Jesus Christ
8. He was speaking of Jesus. Christ Himself is the word; the message; the truth. The difference is this. Scripture is True, but it is not THE TRUTH!
Jesus is THE TRUTH!
Read and consider Hebrews 1 verses 1 - 3
Read again Colossians 2 verses 2 - 3
Christ is the mystery in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
9. The 'place is 'in you'. Christ **in you!**
10. Previously, in the Old Testament they had known
God to be **with** them. but this mystery is more!
God to me **for** them, but this mystery is more!
But now it is revealed that God, through His Holy Spirit is going to be **In** them!

This is now what makes a person a Christian. Read and consider :
2 Corinthians 13: 5; Colossians 2: 2b; Ephesians 1 : 3; 2 Peter 1 : 3

This is the actual substance of the Gospel.
Why Paul calls it "the word of God in its fullness."
Read also Galatians 2 verse 20. Now in union with Him.

But for what purpose?

11. Glory is not a place, as in 'gone to glory'.
Essentially 'glory' is the **moral character** of God.

Read and consider Romans 3 v.23 and Hebrews 1 v.3

So now, the mystery hidden for generations is that with Christ in you He is the means by which you can hit the target – to exhibit the character of God.

12. Remember that 'glory' is not a place, but rather a position.
Being 'restored to glory' means spiritual growth that enables us to exhibit the fruit of His presence within us.

- 13 The Amplified Bibles probably puts it best -

"I have strength for all things in Christ who empowers me – I am ready for anything, and equal to everything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me. [that is, I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency]"

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 4 – 'Continuing the Christian Life' Colossians 2:6 - 23

1. Paul says that in Christ we have all the **Treasures** of **Wisdom** and **Knowledge**. He also says we have all the **Fullness** of the **Deity**.

Then why do we often seem to live in poverty? Why do we experience such emptiness?

These are the questions that we will tackle in this study; and we will look at it from two perspectives -

- a. True Spiritual Life and Growth
 - b. Pseudo Spiritual Life and Growth
2. a. A Person
 - b. A Place
 - c. A Purpose

This is the climax of the Gospel
But how do we live in the good of His indwelling presence?

That is what this section will explain.

3. These verses show us 4 things :
 1. The way to receive Him.
 2. The way to continue in Him.
 3. The way to submit your life to the Lordship of Christ
 4. The reason to be thankful to Him; and the reasons why.
4. You received Christ by **Repentance** and **Faith**
5. Repentance turns from **yourself / your own ability**. Faith trusts **Him** and His ability.

Repentance says "I can't". Faith says, "God can".
Read Chapter 2 verse 12 and read also verse 13 & 14

Who did it? God / Christ did!

6. Becoming a Christian is about placing your life under the Lordship of Christ

The act of becoming a Christian is to submit your will to His.
To jettison your sin.
To jettison your own agenda.

You cannot live the Christian Life under any other terms!

Some interesting facts –
In this letter Paul talk of Christ as being Lord 13 times.
His is talked about in the New Testament over 600 times

7. So now you need to submit your **mind** to the **word** of **Christ**.
Read again Colossians 2 v.6 – 7; and then read Colossians 3 v.16

You cannot live the Christian life detached from the Living Christ; nor detached from the word of God. This is where God has spoken – and this is how God speaks.

As Christ lives in us – so we submit to Him
As the Word of God is to dwell in us, so we submit to it.

8. Did you see it there right at the end? **With thankfulness!**
Thankfulness is the repeated key to the Christian Life.
Please read and consider the following scriptures –
Colossians 3 v.17; Colossians 1 v.12; Colossians 3 v.16; I Timothy 5 v.18;
Ephesians 5 v.20; Philippians 4 v.6

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 5 – 'Putting On New Self' Colossians 3:1 - 14

1. As an answer, consider what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5 v.17 “ If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come.”
As Charles puts it: It may not be possible to teach an old dog new tricks, but what if you change the dog! A new dog might learn new tricks.
2. The goal of the Christian Life is being renewed in the image of the Creator. This is the whole message of Colossians.

Note again from our previous studies that this “image of the creator” is not a physical image, but rather a character image.

The New Testament is full of expectancy of change, transformation and growth.

3. The mystery was “Christ in you the hope of glory.”
In the Old Testament they were very well aware that God was for ‘with’ them and ‘for’ them; but now in the New Testament the mystery is revealed that God – through Christ – is actually IN them.
4. We have to be sure that we are not ‘held captive’ by deceptive philosophies that depend on human tradition, or by laws that are based on the principles of this world rather than Christ. Consider this? Can you identify some of these philosophies and principles that we need to avoid.
5. Paul says in Colossians 2 verse 21
Do not taste
Do not handle
Do not touch
6. By living ‘Outside In’ we think that by religiously obeying all the right rules we will become the right person but it doesn’t work that way.
If we live ‘Inside Out’ then the presence of Jesus in us becomes the source of our behavior and godliness.

Discipline IS vital in the Christian Life, but not to make us godly.

If discipline works from the Inside-Out we will become right and therefore behave right.

7. Some people would say, “Just tell me what to do” which is all about the Doing.
Others would say, “Just tell me what to believe.” Which is all about Doctrine.

These not only have to be in balance, but also in the right order.
 So having established the Doctrine in chapter 2, Paul now in chapter 3 starts to deal with the Doing – the practical application.

- 8. a. Set your heart on things above, not on earthly things.
- b. Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things.

Now, our interests are to be His interests.
 Our agendas are to be His agendas.
 What we are concerned about should be what He is concerned about.

- 9. Here in Colossians we are to set our hearts and minds on –

	Things above	rather than things of Earth
In Galatians	Things of the Spirit	rather than things of the Flesh
In Corinthians	Things Spiritual	rather than things Natural
In Romans	New Nature	rather than the Old Nature

- 10. Our biggest spiritual battle will ALWAYS be **Internal**; the battle between the old life and the new life..... you will have to deal with it every day.

- 11. Earthly things are **visible** Spiritual things are **invisible** _
 Earthly things are **natural** Spiritual things are **super-natural**

Because our ‘default position’ is the natural and visible there will always be a very strong pull in that direction – hence the battle!

Now you can see why Paul stresses ‘set your hearts and minds on things above, not on things of the earth.’

- 12. The Mind
 The Will
 The Emotions

- 13. We live in an age whereby people want to bypass discipline in favour of quick exotic experiences; where things are reduced to ‘sound bytes’ and ‘bullet points’
 We can only set our hearts and minds on things above when we know what those ‘things above’ are; and we can only know what they are by the revelation from the Lord that comes through His Word.

To know the word of God is to know the mind of God, and to know the mind of God is to know the heart of God..... So it is essential for our hearts and minds to be IN the word of God.

- 14. The main reason for our gathering together on a Sunday is not worship, but rather ‘teaching’. Worship flows out of our understanding – not vice-versa.

But we will not grow and thrive on 40 minutes of teaching per week that is why our personal study, and group study, are so important.

15. Not only the obvious – sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, but also, anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language.
16. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
As the Lord forgave us, so we should forgive each other; and over all these things we should put on ‘love’.
17. All of these expressions of the new nature, of Christ in us, are bound together with love; a love that is moved to compassion; recognizing that it comes from ‘Christ in you’.

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Colossians – Staying On Track Part 6 – 'A Key to Christian Maturity' Colossians 3:15 - 17

1. The Doctrinal section has been about
The **Indwelling Presence** of Christ,
The working of Christ in the lives of believers
2. Be Peaceful [v.15] Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.
Be Biblical [v.16] Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.
Be Thankful [17] And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him.
Paul does NOT say, "Let peace rule in your hearts."
It would be completely unreasonable and unrealistic for Paul to have made such a statement.
3. Lack of International Peace -
The Society of International Law in London, England state that during the last 4,000 years there have been only 268 years of peace. During this period there have been 14,351 wars, large and small, in which 3.64 billion have been killed.
Since 650 BC there have also been 1,656 'arms races', only 16 of which have not ended in war. The remainder ended in the economic collapse of the countries involved. **International Peace seems to be an elusive thing.**

On a personal level, stress and anxiety seem to be a normal part of life.

Worry about health.

Worry about the kids.

Worry about our finances / jobs / future

4. "Let the **peace of Christ** rule in your hearts."

And where is Jesus? In us!

Remember from our previous studies ... The mystery hidden for ages and generations, now made known: Christ in you the hope of Glory!

5. Ask yourself: is Jesus ever in a panic?
All that Jesus Christ is – you have!

Letting Christ's Peace rule in your heart is not a subjective feeling good about a situation. It is not a peace as the world knows it!

6. The peace that the world gives relates to the circumstances and your ability to cope.

But the peace that Jesus gives relates to Him and to His ability to cope.

7. In situations that normally makes you anxious, present it to God .. and leave it there!
So now it becomes His problem – not yours.
This leads to a **peace that passes understanding**.

However, be SURE to leave your burden with Him; do not take it back upon yourself.

8. “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...”
The Peace of God Rules where the Word of Christ dwells!
That is something to write on the wall or your home

In Deuteronomy 8 v.3 Moses said to the people “man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.”

The word of God is ESSENTIAL to our spiritual growth!

9. This is VERY important!
One of these scriptures speaks of being “filled with the Spirit”, while the other says ‘let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.’
These are in the same context – **you cannot separate the Word from the Spirit!**

**Some people say that the Holy Spirit is free, independent, spontaneous, does whatever he wants, with no restrictions; it is exciting, and dramatic.....
Whereas the Bible is rigid, fixed, dry, hard, even a little bit boring.**

This is mischievous and completely erroneous.

The Spirit and the Word are totally consistent because the Spirit wrote it!

10. It was written by the inspiration of God through the Holy Spirit.

If you detach God from His Word, you end up with a false God.
If the Word of God does not dwell in us richly, we will create a Jesus, and a Holy Spirit, of our own imagination.

11. Name some of the attitudes that will be adversely affected.

Our attitudes towards - Divorce.
Suing each other.
Sexual Purity.
Our response to - Our Enemies
Those who Offend us.
Our understanding of - Who is our Neighbor.
Our attitude to the - Marginalized and Poor.
Our attitude to - Greed and Materialism

12. **Psalms** These are scripture itself, sometimes in paraphrased form.

Hymns These teach great doctrines of the faith; truths about God, about Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Cross, the Resurrection, second coming etc.

Spiritual Songs These are more 'heart expressions' of desire, the heart & soul. If Hymns focus on the truth, Spiritual Songs focus on ourselves. They express love, joy and praise. They tend to be repetitive and emotional.

All of these forms are right, and each has its rightful place.

Read also 1 Corinthians 14 v.15b

13. What is common to each of these 3 verses? **THANKSGIVING**

Verse 15 says "... and be thankful."

Verse 16 says "... with gratitude in your hearts to God."

Verse 17 says "... giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

Remember – the language of faith is not 'please', but '**thank you**'!

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 7 – 'Living It Out In Marriage' Colossians 3:18 - 21

1. Christ will show Himself in our **CHARACTER** [vs 1–17]

Christ will show Himself in our **RELATIONSHIPS** [ve 18]

2. a. MARRIAGE - WIVES & HUSBANDS
b. FAMILY - CHILDREN & PARENTS
c. WORK PLACE - SERVANTS & MASTERS
3. The first member of each relationship is **submissive** to the other -
Wives to Husbands
Children to Parents
Servants to Masters

The second member in each relationship is **protective** of the other –
Husbands of Wives
Parents of Children
Masters of Servants

The first cannot be separated from the second;
and the first is responsive to the second.

4. If you pay particular attention to the last few words of each of these verses you will notice that it is the Lord who is brought into these relationships creating something like a three-legged stool. We all know what will happen if one leg is broken
5. Culturally, Linguistically and Biblically
6. The answer is a resounding **NO!**
Paul – with this new Christian teaching – is actually undermining the cultural norm of the day. It was revolutionary.
7. One reason is that the new instruction brings **reciprocal responsibilities and obligations**. Read verses 19 & 21 and identify those responsibilities and obligations.

The second reason is in an understanding of complicated linguistics which we will not attempt to go into here, but it comes down to this, [quoting Charles] ;

“The kind of relationship you have with your husband should be one in which **you choose yourself to submit**.

It will not be a husbands 'right' [that she submit], but **a wife's choice.**”

The moment a husband considers it his right that a wife submit to him; that relationship is likely to become an abusive relationship.

8. On three separate occasions similar things are said to wives concerning submitting to their husbands; but remember it is to be a **voluntary response** by her, not an **imposed obligation**.
9. Verse 18 says “Wives submit yourselves to your husband **as is fitting in the lord.**” Plus verse 19 says, “Husbands love your wives and **do not be harsh with them.**”

So the basis for wives voluntarily submitting to the Lord is that the husbands do not do, act, or require anything of their wives that is not ‘fitting in the Lord’; and that husbands are not harsh with their wives.

10. Here is a test for husbands :-
 1. Do you ‘give yourself up’ for your wife?
 2. Do you do those things that ‘make her holy’?
[i.e. encourage her in growth and spiritual beauty]
 3. Do you give her reason to be radiant? [or do you undermine her?]
 4. Do you love her as you love yourself?

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 8 – 'Living It Out In The Family' Colossians 3:20 & 21

1. Presumably Colossians 3 applies to children who are still dependant on their parents, whereas the verse in Exodus speaks to a life long obligation, with respect and appreciation.
2. No, it is not possible to cover all the issue raised by this subject, for example: what happens when there is no father on the scene for any number of reasons?; so we will stick to the text.
3. From these verses we learn that we have to **teach** our children to obey. It is not something that comes naturally. Obedience is a 'learned experience' and it is the responsibility for parents to teach it.
4. Fathers are specifically commanded in verse 21 to 'not embitter' your children or they will become 'discouraged'.

Of course, this does mean that to avoid arousing bitter feelings in your children you must give in to their every desire; but you must always treat them respectfully, and if you have to say 'no' to something then provide a reasonable explanation why.

Never discourage you children as it deprives them of courage, confidence and energy, bringing disappointment, disillusionment and lack of hope.

The opposite of this is that you want to instill in your children Expectation, Encouragement and Hope.

The goal of good parenting is to rear children who are not discouraged, who are full of hope and whose hearts are free.

5. Paul is writing about the outworking of our union with Christ, and he talks about HOPE several times in Colossians. Elsewhere he talks about Faith, Love and Hope.

Hope simply means; **Forward looking to the future that gives confidence in the present.**

6. HOPE in GOD
7. Hope in **good education** as the key to **the future.**
Hope in **professional success** as the key to **satisfaction.**

Hope in earning good money as the key to **a great life**.
Hope in **good looks** as the key to **popularity**.
Hope in a **good marriage** as the **key to life**.

If these are the things for which we hope, we may be setting our children up for embitterment and discouragement.

8. We must **teach and show** our children that possessions, performance and position are not the goals of life – but GOD is!
9. It develops our **Self Life** – self esteem.
It develops our **Social Life**
It develops our **Spiritual Life**
10. Regarding the Self Life;
The goal of discipline and control is to learn self control.
Children need structure, routine, direction and discipline.
In other words – **Children need boundaries**.

* Within the boundaries children can do whatever they like, but if they go over the boundaries **there are consequences**.

* Boundaries have to be understood, secure, reasonable and enforced.

* Children WILL test the boundaries all the time.

- Your No must mean NO, and not the first stage in a negotiating game.
- Threats must be followed through.

If the parents are inconsistent the children will be miserable, insecure, whiny and throw tantrums.

As the child grows into maturity, so the boundaries are removed.

11. It is in a loving home that a child's will needs to be molded..
Children need to be taught that life is not all about them – that is why we are placed in families.

We are raising children to become healthy, wholesome adults who will themselves become good husbands, wives, parents, citizens, workers, colleagues.

If we fail to teach them obedience, and allow them to do their own thing, we are creating huge problems for them later in life.

12. Because it pleases God. Read :- Ephesians 5 v.10; Exodus 19 v.5; Joshua 1 v.7; John 15 v.10; John 14 v.15; and John 14 v.24

Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 9 – ‘Living It Out At Work’ Colossians 3:22 – 4:1

1. There could be many answers to this question – some more obvious than others - But let’s wait until the end of this study for the right answer!
2. It’s about servants and masters; but the recurring theme is ‘the Lord’. 5 times in 4 verses Paul talks about ‘the Lord’
 - a. Reverence for the Lord [v.22]
 - b. Working for the Lord [v.23]
 - c. ... from the Lord [v.24]
 - d. It is the Lord Christ you are serving [v.24]
 - e. You also have a Master in heaven [4 v.1]

3. A Necessity?
An Obligation?
A MEANS to an END ?

Or do you see it as a Divine Activity?

If we understand how God conceives of work, and why He wills it, then a huge portion of our lives that otherwise are in danger of being mundane and routine could be transformed into ‘divine purpose’.

4. No! Read Genesis 2 v.15
BEFORE the fall God set man into the garden to ‘work it’ and take care of it.

And before that in Genesis 2 v.2 God ‘dignified work’ by working Himself.

‘The curse’ merely added ‘painful toil’ to the already divine responsibility to ‘work’

5. Slavery was as abhorrent to Paul in the Bible’s days as it is to us today; but Paul is not making a social comment on slavery itself. The issue is not ‘slavery’, but rather ‘attitude’. Here Paul is addressing himself to Christians in whatever station of life they find themselves.

Some of you may be in work that you don’t like.

Some are perhaps not getting the promotion you feel you deserve.

Some may be victims of prejudice that holds you back.

Some may be unable to access the career you want.

Some may have reason to be resentful of your work-place.

But whatever the circumstances of work, by talking to slaves Paul is encompassing every condition of work, whether comfortable or not. This begs the question of all of you, "Who are YOU working for?"

6. 'Serving the Lord' has become a euphemism for Christian Ministry; but 'serving the Lord' should be the description of EVERY Christian at work – no matter where it is.

Paul says that your work is not just a physical and material necessity between you and your boss. It's a 'spiritual act' between you and the Lord.

7. Chapter 4 verse 1 clearly states that the 'master' should treat his employee 'right and fair', the master too is under a divine master who keeps His eye on us all.

So your business is not just between you and your employee, but between you and God.

8. The important question is; **What is God's Agenda for me in my workplace?**

Your Work is your **Divine Mission!** So **Your Workplace** is your **Mission Field!**

9. It goes without saying that our punctuality, hard work, diligence, good attitude are among the qualities that speak louder than words; but when we consider God's agenda for us at our workplace we just cannot imagine what that could be.

As an 'extra exercise' [if you wish] - study the stories of Daniel, Esther, and Obadiah as examples of people who were in workplaces that they would have preferred to not be in, and yet God brought about great things because of their obedience in their situations.

If you are in a group setting, perhaps you could ask everyone to bring back and compare their note on their homework.

10. Both work very hard; but the beaver has to; he is driven by instinct; whereas the Human Being has a choice; especially where his attitude is concerned.

The human being can view work as a necessary chore, often boring, uninteresting and mundane; or he / she can view work everyday as **the Lord's work, deliberately and consciously serving Jesus Christ. Your choice!**

Leader's Message Guide & Answers

Colossians – Staying On Track Part 10 – 'It Takes A Team' Colossians 4:2 – 18

1. It takes prayer (Paul talks about them praying for him – vs 2-6) and it takes a team (it is everyone's responsibility – vs. 7 - 18).

2. In verse 3 a; that GOD will open a door.
Paul's experience and practice was that it was God who opened the doors for him.

Paul was not adverse to making plans, but he was always willing to change or even abort those plans if the Lord clearly directed otherwise.

3. Verse 3 b. He asked for prayer that he would be able to preach the 'mystery of Christ'. Refer back to this by reading Colossians 1 v.25 – 27.

Paul wanted prayer so that he could preach the full gospel – not simply how to get out of hell and into heaven; but getting God out of heaven into people.

4. That his preaching would be clearly understood by all. Colossians 4 v.4

5. v.5a Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders.
v.5b Make the most of every opportunity.
v.6a Let your conversation be full of grace,
seasoned by salt.
v.6b So that you may know how to answer
everyone.

6. Tychicus - mentioned 5 times in the New Testament.
Onesimus - a former runaway slave.
Aristarchus - mentioned 6 times in the New Testament.
Mark - in Paul's opinion 'a quitter' – but thanks to Barnabus' faith in him we now have one of the Gospel written by him.
Barnabus - real name was Joseph, his nickname 'Barnabus' means son of encouragement'.
Jesus - but to avoid confusion was called Justus.
Epaphras - a great 'prayer warrior'.

- Luke - a gentile physician, writer of another of the Gospels and the Book of Acts.
- Demas - who sadly went off the rails later in life.
- Nympha - the only woman mentioned on the team. She led a house church.
- Archippus - described as a 'fellow soldier.'