

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLLOSSIANS

# Understanding Jesus



## WEEK 7 STUDY GUIDE

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*FEBRUARY 20-24, 2023*





# Monday, February 20, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience," Colossians 3:12*

## **Today's Thought:**

Previously, we have seen that a Christian must be able to tell the difference between the old and the new identity in Jesus Christ. The pagan life no longer belongs to him. The Christian cannot live according to the lusts of the body, doing the wills of the flesh and his thoughts, because God raised him up with Christ and made him sit with him in heaven. Christ has caught him up in deep darkness, in spiritual blindness to give him a new identity, to place him in another position, "From darkness to wonderful light."

In this study we will see the new identity of the Christian is the result of his resurrection with Christ. Our new identity is acquired at the price of the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. All is made possible by Jesus Christ our Savior. Through the shedding of his blood on the cross we have a new identity in him.

Having a new identity, a new nature, does not depend on us. We did not work to acquire it. Since it comes from God, we must have in us the feelings of the one who regenerated us, namely Jesus Christ. We must have in us the feelings that were in Christ Jesus. We no longer must conform to this world, but we must transform ourselves through renewal of intelligence, so that we discern what is the will of God, what is good, pleasant and perfect. We become a new man. What was not in us before, by accepting Jesus Christ, we have it. We have within us the intelligence of God, the wisdom of God, the love of God, the compassion of God, the forgiveness of God. Christ transmitted his sentiments to us. In other words, we possess all divine things because we are born of God.

Therefore, we should not estimate ourselves too high but put on the modest feelings of a man made in the image of God. We are clothed in the moral image of God, including holiness, righteousness, truth. We have everything in Jesus Christ, because he is the perfect model, the perfect type. Our old man had the devil as his model, had hatred, hypocrisy, discrimination, violence, arbitrariness, etc. With Jesus Christ, everything is gone in the heart of the one who is born again. Christ is our perfect model; we are resurrected with Christ with new hope and

new baggage. Our resurrection with Christ brought us into the light and taught us to care for others. So, Christ taught us to love others without hypocrisy, to hate evil, not to return evil for evil. Our resurrection with Christ has also taught us to cling to good, to love one another, to be zealous and not lazy, to be fervent in spirit, to serve the Lord with joy, to rejoice in hope, to learn to bless those who persecute us and not to curse, to be patient in affliction, to persevere in prayer, to meet the needs of others, to exercise hospitality. If we judge well, what are we missing? Absolutely nothing. Christ is everything in all regenerated Christians, for those who hold a new identity in Jesus Christ.

Jesus, thank you for taking me into the world to be your servant. Thank you for this new identity that you give me at the cost of your blood poured on the cross. Help me to no longer conform to this world, but to be transformed through the renewal of intelligence, so that I discern what is the will of God, what is good, pleasant and perfect. Please, put in me your wisdom, your love, your compassion and your forgiveness.

- How was our new identity acquired?
- What feelings should we have?
- How should our intelligence and thought be?
- What is a transformed intelligence?
- What are we clothed with?
- Who is our perfect role model?
- What has our resurrection with Christ taught us?

**Further Reading:** Romans 12:9-14

## Tuesday, February 21, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 3: 12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *"Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive." Colossians 3:13*

### Today's Thought:

The Christian must have a spirit of forgiveness and must learn to forgive. We are called to forgive because we are of God. Forgiving others is not easy, especially when we are not primarily responsible. In the parable of the ruthless servant in Matthew 18:21-35, Peter had posed this pertinent question to Jesus: "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus' answer was thus: "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." So, Jesus urges us to be loving and forgiving people.

It's hard to let go of the things someone has said or done against us or our family. However, we must understand that an unforgiving spirit hurts us more than we might think. Someone said, "Not forgiving someone is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die." True forgiveness comes from God. We love because Christ first loved us, so we must forgive because he first forgave us. You may have been offended, hurt by a friend, spouse, colleague, someone in the church, a relative or someone else, but harboring bitterness will only make the hurt worse. We need to practice Jesus' response to Peter. Always forgive, even when it's hard. Whenever it comes to offense and forgiveness, think about those we have made against our God and how he has had mercy on us. God has forgiven us in his Son Jesus Christ, and he has placed in us the ministry of reconciliation. When we are at war with each other, we lose our joy and our harmony with God.

Therefore, we must ask God for a spirit of support and forgiveness while asking him to renew in us a spirit ready to forgive. When we quarrel with one another, we distance ourselves from the presence of God; but when we forgive each other, God's mercy gets us on our feet again. Unforgiveness brings us down, but forgiveness lifts us up. Unwillingness to forgive gives access to the devil to attack us at all levels. Forgiveness heals relationships, heals the hurts of others, and heals our own hearts. We become fit to praise and worship God when we forgive.

As Christians, we are agents of peace, we must forgive others and teach

others how to forgive. Our way of living, acting and forgiving go against the ways of the world. The world's way is to show their pride, to show these are cowards who forgive, they want to show people what they are capable of. For Christians, it is quite the opposite; we must copy Jesus who is our model of love and forgiveness. The way of Jesus is to love and forgive. He not only said and taught it, but He proved it on the cross (Luke 23:34). Sometimes people who offend us act out of ignorance; we must support them in their weakness (1 Corinthians 9:22). So, we forgive to be in harmony with God, so that all together, with one voice, we glorify God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Brothers and sisters, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32. Let's resolve to forgive and make a tremendous difference in the world around us.

Heavenly Father, thank you for this teaching on forgiveness. Sometimes, I refuse to forgive those who have offended me. In your love, give me a spirit of forgiveness. Help me to forgive others as you forgave me in your Son Jesus Christ.

- What was Jesus' response to Peter on forgiveness?
- What does someone who refuses to forgive look like?
- Where does true forgiveness come from?
- Who is our model of forgiveness?
- Why do we have to forgive others?
- What does forgiveness bring?

**Further Reading:** Romans 15:1-6

## **Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Colossians 3:14*

### **Today’s Thought:**

In the previous study we have seen that the Christian must have a spirit of forgiveness and must learn to forgive. We are called to forgive because we are of God. Forgiveness has no measure as love has no limit. Thus, forgiveness flows from love. If we really love, we must learn to forgive those who have hurt us, either in their words or in their wrong actions.

In verse 14, the Apostle Paul asks us to put on love which is the bond of perfection. He asks us to put on God because God is love. He who is in Christ must put on Christ, he must be bound by the love of Christ. Then everyone will know that we are of Christ if we love one another. We are called to remain in the love of Christ, just as he remained in the love of his Father. The Christian who wants to lead a life of perfection has the duty to live and abide in the love of Christ. God himself has poured out his love in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. God has shown us his love in his Son Jesus; indeed, we must show this love for God and for others. We read: “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8. God did everything for us out of love. When we practice love, we become like our Savior Jesus Christ. Without the perfect love of Christ in us, we are nothing. Our proof of love improves our relationships with family members, friends and all fellow human beings.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, Paul dedicated all of chapter 13 to talk about love. Paul taught the importance of love. He advised Corinthian Christians to seek and obtain love because love is above all. We note in verse 2 “If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.” He also presented the characteristics of love, and we must pursue them. “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. The riches, the knowledge, the powers of this world will disappear but love

never fails. So, we must avoid any behavior that could harm our happiness and the happiness of others. So, let's pursue love!

In the end, what I ask in my prayers is that your love increases more and more in knowledge and in full understanding for the discernment of the best things, so that you will be pure and blameless for the day of the Lord. Rejoice, perfect yourself, console yourself, have the same feeling, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.

Lord, let your fire of love shine in me. Let it burn away all hate in me. Help me to be like you; forgive those who have offended me and live in harmony and peace with all. May I not be a stumbling block for others and may they see your love shining in me.

- What should we put on according to Colossians 3:14?
- How has God poured his love into our hearts?
- How has God proven his love for us?
- What must we do to be like Jesus?
- Can you name some characteristics of love?

**Further Reading:** 1 John 4:7-12



## Thursday, February 23, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15*

### Today's Thought:

In previous studies we have seen that Paul spoke of rising with Christ, of Christ's forgiveness, of Christ's love. Now he speaks of the peace of Christ. In this epistle we see that everything is related to Christ. It is plain and clear that Jesus is our supreme guide and that our life is hidden in him.

Do not forget that we live in a troubled, upset, restless world. Fear, worries, anxiety, anguish, stress, and fear of tomorrow reign everywhere in the world. Those who do not have a living hope have troubled hearts and allow themselves to be overwhelmed by everything that is happening around them. They get carried away by the different circumstances of life.

In verse 15, which we are now studying, the apostle Paul expressed his heart's desire for the Christians in Colossae, that the peace of Christ would rule in their hearts. To have the peace of Christ is all the Christian needs to live in this troubled world. To have the peace of Christ is to have perfect fellowship with God. This peace between the Holy God and you the sinner is made possible by the sacrifice of Christ, by making peace through him, by his blood shed on the cross (Colossians 1:20). By accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord, our high priest, by giving him the first place in our life, we have peace with God and with ourselves. This peace is the peace of mind that God gives us. We can have true peace only when we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1).

When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord, he gives us his peace. "Peace, I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." John 14:27. Peace is a fruit of the Spirit, which he produces in us through our Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 5:22-23). Our peace depends on the depth of our trust placed in Jesus, not on trusting ourselves or someone else to solve our problems.

In fact, if we are at peace with God, we are at peace within ourselves; if we are at peace within ourselves, we can be at peace with others. It is to this peace that Christ has called us to live in communion with others. Amid this troubled, upset and restless world Christ brings us peace. In the darkest night, in our pilgrimage on this earth, whatever the peril, even when Satan assails us, in the turbulent waves, in the difficulties, Jesus is our supreme peace. If you are troubled, upset, worried, traumatized, the perfect Savior invites you to snuggle in his arms. In just one step, Jesus Christ will receive you and you will be completely free from all fear. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Isn't that a nice promise? I am on board!

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word today. I live in a troubled and upset world. A world filled with anguish, disease, deception, fear and anxiety. You who are the source of peace and healing. I come to you. I lay at your feet all fear, worry, anger, shame. I release all anxieties, anguish and trauma. I let go of all negative thoughts. Let your peace and healing reign in my body, mind and soul. Nothing can disturb the supreme peace that I have found in you. In Jesus' name!

- How is the heart of those who do not have a living hope?
- What was the apostle Paul's heartfelt desire for the Christians in Colossae?
- What does the Christian of today need to live in this troubled world?
- How can anyone have the peace of God?
- Who can give you the cure for your broken spirit?

**Further Reading:** Romans 5:1-5

## Friday, February 24, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 3:12-17

**Scripture Verse:** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16*

### Today’s Thought:

In previous studies we have seen Paul talking about rising with Christ, Christ’s forgiveness, Christ’s love and Christ’s peace. Now in verse 16 he is talking about the word of Christ. Indeed, everything is centered on Christ. Since everything is linked to Jesus, we have the obligation to submit ourselves completely to him and to his word. The desire of the apostle’s heart is to see the word of Christ dwell abundantly among the Christians of Colossae. Why did Paul want the word of Christ to dwell abundantly in them?

The reason is simple; for the word of Christ is the light that enlightens and guides us every day. The word is effective, incisive, active and that’s life. We read: “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any two-edged sword, it penetrates to divide soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12. It is the word that reveals to us that Jesus is the Son of God and that he is the supreme God incarnate. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” John 1:1-2. It is the word that helps us to understand that Jesus is the master of creation, that he is the supreme head of his church and that he will come to take us home (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). If we do not have the fullness of the word, the devil can use us to accomplish his evil and criminal plan. The word of Christ is there to teach us, to convince us, to correct us and to instruct us in righteousness. We read: “All scripture is inspired of God, and is useful to teach, to rebuke, to correct, and to instruct in righteousness, that the servant of God might be perfectly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17.

We must keep the word of Christ alive and abiding in our hearts, for faith comes from the word of Christ, and through Christ we have been regenerated. The word of Christ must not be away from our mouth; we must meditate on it day and night to be spiritually strong and able to withstand all the attacks of the devil. The word of Christ should not be like someone traveling in transit, like someone visiting his friend for a

week or two, but our life should be the home of the word of Christ. When we make the word of Christ our home, it suddenly makes our life the home of Christ. When the word of Christ dwells in us, it brings joy, peace, forgiveness, happiness, love. It changes our sadness into joy, transforms our life, changes our lamentations into songs of joy. The word of Christ engenders brotherly love. In addition to the word of Christ, everything that can help us draw closer to Christ must be in our mouths and must be in our thoughts so as not to walk according to the vanity of this world. "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things." Philippians 4:8. So when Christ and his word dwell in us, his love floods us, his joy overflows us, his wisdom fills us and we are filled with his peace. May the word of him who called us from darkness into his wonderful light fill us with joy and may he put a new song in our mouths every day.

Lord, thank you for your mighty word. Let my heart be the focus of your word. May I hide your word in my heart so that I do not sin against you. May your word change my sadness into joy, my illness in healing, transform my life and change my lamentations into songs of joy.

- Since Christ is the center of all things, what is our obligation?
- What is the role of the word of God in our life?
- What can Satan do with us if we don't have the fullness of God's word?
- What must we do with the word of God to be more than conquerors?

**Further Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 2:12-13

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1*

*Hey! It's Friday! Saturday and Sunday are on the way; do not forget your appointment with your Lord! He loves that!*



## NOTES





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