


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

Paul Describes Jesus

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

Q1. To Whom is Paul referring? (Who is “He” or “Him”?)

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Q2. How do you explain the phrase “the firstborn over all creation”?

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Q3. What is the first book in the Bible?

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Q4. Using a general word, what is described in Chapters 1 and 2 of this first book?

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Q5. Does the word “us” (or “we” or “our”) refer to one (singular)? Or more than one (plural)?

Singular? Or plural? Thoughts?

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**Genesis 1: 26** [NIV-1984]

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Q6. This may be a difficult question to answer: how would you define “spirit”?

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## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

Q7. How would you explain the phrase “the invisible God”?

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### John 4:23-26 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus reveals that He is the Messiah, the Christ, to a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.]

<sup>23</sup> “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. <sup>24</sup> ***God is spirit***, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

<sup>25</sup> The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”

<sup>26</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he."

Q8. Who created this world, this universe?

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### John 1:1-3, 14, 17 [NIV-1984]

[The Apostle John — the one whom Jesus loved — wrote this introduction to his Gospel and through these words declared the divine nature of Christ Jesus as one of the Trinity, His work in the Creation, His equality to God (“the Word was God”), and the Word (the words of the Bible): the Word (vs 1) → “grace and truth” (vs 14) → Jesus Christ (vs 17).]

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. . . .

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . .

<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Q9. Do you think that with our five basic human senses (sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch) we are able to discern everything around us, everything that comprises our world?

Yes? } Thoughts?  
No? }

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### Philippians 2:5-11 [NIV-1984]

[In the Apostle Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, he included this marvelous summary that describes the divinity of Christ Jesus.]


<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11a</sup> and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, <sup>11b</sup> to the glory of God the Father.

## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

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### Day 2


 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

Q10. [Apologetics] Is God truly behind “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” [verse 16]? If God is good, how do we, who believe in the saving grace of Christ Jesus, explain Hitler, Stalin, Mussolini, and all the raging dictators throughout history who have ruled with a psychopathic iron-fist, while demanding absolute fealty from their subjects?

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 “*Submit to the authorities*”: For additional insight, please review the Romans StudySheet (Lesson #21), which provides study-questions/comments for [Romans 13:1-14](#). In part Paul writes “*The authorities that exist have been established by God* [Romans 13:1<sup>b</sup>]” and “*Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities* [Romans 13:5]”.

Q11. [Apologetics] To whom should we pledge fealty? God? Or to human “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities”?

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Q12. [Apologetics] If a human “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” [verse 16] demands that we do something that we know is contrary to God’s written Word, are we to obey God’s Word? Or are we to obey the demand from the human “thrones or powers or rulers or authorities”?

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### **Romans 8:38-39** [NIV-1984]

<sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

 The following is an excerpt from the [StudySheet \(Lesson #15\) studying Romans 9:14-33](#), pages 1-2.

“We should approach God in reverential awe. He, who is the great “I AM!”, required Moses to remove his sandals before approaching the burning bush and the surrounding “holy” ground (Exodus 3:2-6). [Continued (↓)]

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“Philippians 2:9-11 provides this insight to an event that will occur, without doubt, at a time future to this writing: ‘<sup>9</sup> Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.’

“Imagine the millions/billions of people this includes: every person from Adam and Eve to those born in the future; including Believers, Americans, Chinese, Russians, Brazilians, Indians (India), Arabs, indigenous natives, Jewish priests, Muhammad (founder of Islam), Islamic Imams, Buddhists, serfs in the Middle Ages, movie stars, avowed atheists, Adolph Hitler, kings, queens, pharaohs, Satan’s demons, and Satan himself. Then, quickly looking around, we see all of these people, including Satan, falling to their knees, and bowing. We hear a chorus of voices — all voices, all tongues, in unison, speaking aloud, and clearly confessing, clearly proclaiming . . . “**Jesus Christ is LORD**”! [My imagination, my words are so inadequate to describe this event.]

“Why do we provide such obeisance, loyalty, fealty, and honor to human kings, queens, presidents, and celebrities, when God, when Jesus, is the Creator of the universe. (See John 1:1-3 ↑; Genesis 1:26: “us” ↓.) While the self-righteous pride of the self-important person may demand a subordinate to genuflect before him or her and to pledge absolute fealty, that prideful person was also created by God, just as you and I were created. (See Psalm 139:16<sup>b</sup> ↓)

“How should we approach the God of the universe, Jesus? Trembling. Yes, trembling because we know our sins and how we should be judged. [Frankly, many years ago I think God should have judged me for my many sins, found me so guilty, and ‘smoked’ me . . . Thank You God, thank You Jesus for Your forgiveness and Your gift of eternal life through Christ Jesus!] And confident, because we know that Jesus so loved you and me that He willingly died a horrible death to redeem (atone) us from our sins. With our head bowed, because God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are deserving of our worship, honor, love, devotion, reverence, and fidelity. Lastly, in awe, because we believe in the Redeemer – Christ Jesus of Nazareth – and as such you and I are included in the *Lamb’s Book of Life* [see Revelation 21:27]; we are worshippers in the body of Believers, His Church, His bride. ‘*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.*’ [Revelation 4:8b (NIV-1984)] Amen.

“<sup>13b</sup> For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it [Matthew 7:13-14].” [StudySheets: Lesson 15 / Romans 9:14-33, pages 1-2. <https://trinitybereans.org/2024Romans/Romans-09-14-33.pdf>]

### Genesis 1:26 [NIV-1984]

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

### Psalms 139:16<sup>b</sup> [NIV-1984]

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

### Matthew 4:1-11 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

[Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and then led into the desert. After fasting for forty-days and nights, Jesus was then tempted by Satan.]

<sup>1</sup> Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> Jesus ate nothing for 40 days and nights. After this, he was very hungry. <sup>3</sup> The devil came to Jesus to tempt him. The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread.”

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, “It is written in the Scriptures, ‘A person does not live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says.’” [Deuteronomy 8:3]

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the holy city of Jerusalem. He put Jesus on a very high place of the Temple. <sup>6</sup> The devil said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off. It is written in the Scriptures, ‘He has put his angels in charge of you. They will catch you with their hands. And you will not hit your foot on a rock.’” [Psalm 91:11-12]

<sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, “It also says in the Scriptures, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’” [Deuteronomy 6:16]

<sup>8</sup> Then the devil led Jesus to the top of a very high mountain. He showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and all the great things that are in those kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> The devil said, “If you will bow down

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and worship me, I will give you all these things.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to the devil, “Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, ‘You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only him!’” [Deuteronomy 6:13]

<sup>11</sup> So the devil left Jesus. And then some angels came to Jesus and helped him.

 There are several profound takeaways from this Matthew passage in which Jesus is tempted in the desert.

(1) In Jesus’ third temptation (verses 8 & 9), Jesus never refutes Satan’s ownership of the world, and from that we can infer that, while God has retained ultimate authority over Satan and this world, God allows Satan to ‘manage’ this world, to ‘own’ this world. By relinquishing direct ownership/management of this world, God has thereby given us human beings free-choice, the freedom to choose God and to love Him through our embrace of the Lord Christ Jesus, who died for your sins and my sins through a death that may have been the most barbaric, pain-inducing, prolonged execution ever devised — at least to this date in history.

(2) Jesus uses Scripture to refute Satan’s temptations, specifically, Jesus quotes verses from the Book of Deuteronomy, which is the 5<sup>th</sup> book of the Jewish Pentateuch (also called the Torah; the five books of the Pentateuch begin the Old Testament of our Holy Bible). Yes, there is power in Scripture; and there is a lesson for you and for me as we follow Christ Jesus’ example and use our knowledge of Scripture to reject and renounce worldly temptations.

(3) Within Matthew’s chronicle, Jesus successfully rejected Satan’s three basic temptations: selfishness, pride, and lust. Jesus rejected each temptation! (See more in Lesson 1 of the Mark Study: *Mark 1:1-13 and Matthew 4:1-11*; <https://trinitybereans.org/2022Mark/Mark-01-01-13.pdf>.)

### Luke 10:18 [NIV-1984]

[Jesus provided this observation. While we do not know when this occurred relative to the Creation or Jesus’ ministry on this earth, Jesus testified that it did occur — God tossed the evil, prideful, selfish Satan from Heaven.]

He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

### Job 1:6-10 [International Children’s Bible (ICB)]

[The following exchange occurs in the Book of Job and provides insight to the relationship between God and Satan.]

<sup>6</sup> One day the angels came to show themselves before the Lord. Satan also came with them. <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?”

Satan answered the Lord, “I have been wandering around the earth. I have been going back and forth in it.”

<sup>8</sup> Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you noticed my servant, Job? No one else on earth is like him. He is an honest man and innocent of any wrong. He honors God and stays away from evil.”

<sup>9</sup> But Satan answered God, “Job honors God for a good reason. <sup>10</sup> You have put a wall around him, his family, and everything he owns. You have blessed the things he has done. So, his flocks of sheep and herds of cattle are large. They almost cover the land.

### 1 Peter 5:8-11 [NIV-1984]


[The Apostle Peter included this statement about Satan in his 1<sup>st</sup> letter.]

<sup>8</sup> Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

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### Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Q13. Why did Paul declare that “[Jesus] is before all things”? (Hint: see John 1:1-3 ↑)


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Q14. What does it mean: “in him all things hold together”?

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 ***In him all things hold together*** [or *subsist or are sustained*]: “The meaning is, that they are kept in the present state; their existence, order, and arrangement are continued by his power. If unsupported by him, they would fall into disorder, or sink back to nothing. If this be the proper interpretation, then it is the ascription to Christ of infinite power - for nothing less could be sufficient to uphold the universe; and of infinite wisdom - for this is needed to preserve the harmonious action of the suns and systems of which it is composed. None could do this but one who is divine; and hence we see the reason why he is represented as the image of the invisible God. He is the great and glorious and ever-active agent by whom the perfections of God are made known.” [©1834, *Notes on the Bible* by Albert Barnes. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/colossians/1-17.htm>]

**John 1:3-4, 9-10** [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]

[The Apostle John testified through his Gospel that Christ Jesus was the Creator of the world, of the universe. As the Creator, Jesus breathed “life” into the world, and through this life (or spark) He is the “light of mankind”. He sustains humankind!]


<sup>3</sup> All creation took place through him, and none took place without him. <sup>4</sup> In him appeared life and this life was the light of mankind. . .

<sup>9</sup> That was the true light which shines upon every man as he comes into the world. <sup>10</sup> He came into the world — the world he had created — and the world failed to recognise him.

Q15. How is Christ Jesus “ the head of . . . the church”?

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 ***He is the head of the body, the church***: “By ‘the church’ is meant, not any particular congregated church, as the church at Colosse, or Corinth, or any other; but the whole election of grace, the general assembly and church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven in the Lamb's book of life; the church which Christ has given himself for, and has purchased with his blood, and builds on himself the rock, and will, at last, present to himself a glorious church without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; this is compared to an human body, and therefore called “the

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body"; which is but one, consisting of many members in union with each other, set in their proper places in just symmetry and proportion to each other, and subservient to one another, and are neither more nor fewer; see 1 Corinthians 12:12 (↓)" [©about 1760, *Exposition of the Entire Bible* by John Gill. Text Courtesy of Internet Sacred Texts Archive. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/colossians/1-18.htm>]

### 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-20, 27 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. . .

<sup>18</sup> But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. <sup>19</sup> If they were all one part, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many parts, but one body. . .

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### Ephesians 1:22-23 [International Children's Bible (ICB)]

<sup>22</sup> God put everything under his power. And God made him the head over everything for the church. <sup>23</sup> The church is Christ's body. The church is filled with Christ, and Christ fills everything in every way.

Q16. How is Christ Jesus “the firstborn from among the dead”?

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Q17. Why is it important to God, to Jesus, that “in everything he might have the supremacy”?  
(Hint: see Philippians 2:11<sup>b</sup> ↑ on page 2, bottom of page)

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### 1 Corinthians 1:17-25 [(NIV-1984)]

<sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me [the Apostle Paul] to baptize, but to preach the gospel — not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

<sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

### Matthew 23:12 [NIV-1984]

For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

### Luke 1:52 [NIV-1984]

He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.



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**James 4:6-7, 10** [NIV-1984]

<sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. . .

<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

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### Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Q18. What is meant by the phrase "to have all his fullness dwell in him"?

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 "By this statement, [the Apostle] Paul was refuting the Greek idea that Jesus could not be human and divine at the same time, Christ is fully human; He is also fully divine. Christ has always been God and always will be God. When we have Christ, we have all of God in human form. Don't diminish any aspect of Christ — either His humanity or His divinity." [©1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, *The Life Application® Bible*, published by Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, IL 60189. All rights reserved. Page 2161]

**Philippians 2:5-7** [NIV-1984]

<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

**John 10:30** [NIV-1984]

"I and the Father are one."

**John 14:6-7, 10-11, 20** [NIV-1984]

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." . . .

<sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. . . .

<sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.



## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

Q19. Based on your knowledge, from either direct experience or observation, do most parents torment or nurture their child? Do most parents inflict physical hurt or strive to protect their child from harm?

Torment? Or nurture? Why?

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Hurt? Or protect? Why?

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**Ephesians 1:5-6** [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS); a paraphrase]

Praise be to God for giving us through Christ every possible spiritual benefit as citizens of Heaven! For consider what he has done — before the foundation of the world he chose us to become, in Christ, his holy and blameless children living within his constant care. He planned, in his purpose of love, that we should be adopted as his own children through Jesus Christ — that we might learn to praise that glorious generosity of his which has made us welcome in the everlasting love he bears towards the Son.

Q20. Since we, who believe, are adopted sons and daughters, does God love us? Does God desire the absolute best for us? Does God want us to learn from our mistakes? Does God want us to revere Him, to love Him?

Love us? Yes? No? Why?

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Desire the Best? Yes? No? Why?

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To learn? Yes? No? Why?

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To love? Yes? No? Why?

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Q21. Can a person be forced to love another? Is forced obedience the same as love and respect?

Forced to love? Yes? No? Why?

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Obedience = Love? Yes? No? Why?

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Q22. Could God force humans to 'love' Him?

Yes? } Why?  
No? }

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## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

Q23. What kind of love does God want from us? (see TrinityBereans' [Six Greek definitions for "love"](#))

Agapé love: Yes? No?

Pragma love: Yes? No?

Philia love: Yes? No?

Eros love: Yes? No?


Storge love: Yes? No?

Philautia love: Yes? No?

Why did you select that one?

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### Day 5

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

Q24. Does Paul's declaration "you were alienated from God and were enemies" apply to the Colossians, only? Or does it also apply to any Believer, including you and me?

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Q25. How might a person be "alienated from God and [an enemy]"?

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Q26. [Apologetics] "If there is a Heaven, I'll get in because I'm a pretty good person." Does the phrase "because of your evil behavior" apply to the unbeliever? To the Believer?

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## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

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### Day 6

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

<sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation —  
<sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Q27. How have we been “reconciled . . . by Christ's physical body through death”?

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**Isaiah 53:5** [International Children's Bible (ICB)]


[The prophet Isaiah foretold of the corporal punishment to which the Messiah would be subjected on behalf of all Believers. Christ Jesus was falsely accused, stripped, flogged, crowned with a chaplet of thorns which was pushed-down on His head lacerating His scalp, mocked, spat upon, beaten with a staff, forced to carry His cross as He trudged to the crucifixion site, and then crucified.]

But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds.

**Isaiah 53:5** [King James Version (KJV)]

[Many people have heard or read this verse in the older language of the King James Version.]

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes [tearing cuts to the skin from flogging] we are healed.

 An analogy.

I died, and I'm standing before the Judge – the Lord God Almighty. The prosecuting attorney is Satan and, while he paces back-and-forth before the Judge's bench, he lists every one of my sins in excruciating detail emphasizing the people I had hurt. I am standing, downcast, and feeling deep, sorrowful shame as I listen to all of the sins I committed, the people I had hurt, the people to whom I had failed to minister or to share the Gospel of Salvation, and the impact and consequences of my words, actions, and inactions upon those people. I am in anguish over the pain I caused. Eventually, Satan completes his recitation of the list of my sins, and rests his case.

The Judge turns to my attorney Christ Jesus and asks Him for my defense.

Christ Jesus simply states, “My Father, the list of charges, the sins, is accurate. The defendant is guilty. The defense rests.”

The Judge then states, “My judgment is just. The defendant sinned. The consequence for sin is death. Are there any last words?”

Christ Jesus quietly addresses the Judge, “I know this person by name. I paid the penalty for this person's sins. Please free this person.”

The Judge turns to me and lovingly says, “My child, your sins are forgiven. You are free to go.”

[As retold by Galen Watje, 07/20/2023]

## Lesson 2: Colossians 1:15-23

### **Romans 10:8-17** [NIV-1984]

[In Paul's Letter to the Romans, he makes the following declaration that summarizes how an unbeliever comes to faith in Christ Jesus. The new Believer's faith depends upon a mature Believer who has willingly become the feet, hands, and mouth of our Savior by demonstrating a Christ-like behavior, gaining the unbeliever's trust, and proclaiming the Gospel at the prompting of the Holy Spirit.]

<sup>8</sup> But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart [Deuteronomy 30:14], " that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: <sup>9</sup> That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

<sup>11</sup> As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, <sup>13</sup> for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" <sup>16</sup> But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"

<sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

### **Ephesians 1:13-14** [(NIV-1984)]

[A new Believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. This indwelling marks the person as a Believer and "guarantee[s] our inheritance"!]

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession — to the praise of his glory.

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