
A sample study from the Colossians volume begins on the following page.



LEARN: Overview

Biblical Business Training (“BBT”) equips people to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and empowers leaders in a small-group Bible study setting to apply Biblical principles at work. Our mission is [Faith for Work](#) – and our vision is [Leadership for Life!](#)

To find out more, visit www.B-B-T.org.



Curriculum: The BBT 1-2-3™ Format

BBT curriculum is rooted in Scripture and applicable the day you study it. The *BBT 1-2-3™* format enables the group to have a consistent Biblical basis for discussion.



1 Agenda – Introduces applicable Biblical principles



2 Group Leader Guide – Facilitates discussion and allows for shared leadership



3 Recap – Encourages community and application



LIVE: Sample Colossians

This 9-study volume of BBT curriculum is designed to help Christians better understand the supremacy of Christ and what that means for their everyday lives...especially as they live it out, in the workplace.

Volume includes:

1. **How To Please God**
2. **An Easy Life Or A Great Life**
3. **A Stable Walk With God**
4. **Think Like A Christian**
5. **Spiritual Self-Defense**
6. **Living With A Focus**
7. **When People Rub You The Wrong Way**
8. **What You Do Comes Back To You**
9. **Become A Prayer Warrior**

No book is needed.



LEAD: Start a small-group Bible study

Start leading today! [Learn more.](#)



PRAYERS



LEARN

Working for God

Our goal should be to please God in all that we do. However, you cannot work your way into heaven or a right relationship with God. If you want to come alive spiritually, you must be born again. You must surrender your life to Christ and ask Him to forgive your sins, fill you with the Holy Spirit, and make you into a brand-new person. When you do that, He makes you spiritually alive, and then you're ready and able to do good works. Paul says, "God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago." (Ephesians 2:8-10).

Doing good works doesn't save you or make you more of a child of God than you were before. You must give your life to Jesus before you can begin to work for Him.

Against the Tide

Paul wrote to believers in Colossae while under house arrest in Rome because they were under constant pressure from the numerous religious philosophies abounding in the first century. Specifically, he was concerned about a group called Gnostics who claimed to possess privileged supernatural knowledge necessary for salvation.

The book of Colossians teaches principles for living a Christian life in the midst of a non-Christian culture. Sometimes this calls for us to stand against the tide of public opinion or popular trends. In chapter one, verses 9-10, Paul tells the Colossian Christians that he prays for them on a regular basis, asking God to "give [them] the knowledge of His will and spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord..." This study will examine four components of living a life pleasing to God: 1) By doing good works, 2) By getting to know Him, 3) By enduring with patience, and 4) By having a thankful heart.



LIVE

Discussion questions: Read the text and scriptures below and prepare to answer the questions.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 and Colossians 1:1-5. Why did Paul mention faith, hope and love in his letter to the church in Colossae?
2. Read Colossians 1:6-10. According to Paul, what is the first step in living a life pleasing to God? Why is the knowledge of God crucial to your entire life?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does this metaphor describe your life as a Christian? What does Paul mean in verse 27?
4. Read Colossians 1:11 and Ephesians 3:16. How can you faithfully endure like Paul?
5. Read Colossians 1:12-14. What has God done for you that demands your gratitude? What are some practical ways you can learn to respond with thankfulness?

Application Question: As you think about the week ahead and all you have to do for work, what is one thing you could do for God that would be pleasing to Him?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



PRAYERS

Opening Prayer & Prayer Requests



LEARN

Before you begin, read the AGENDA LEARN introduction together and review the APPLICATION QUESTION from the previous meeting's RECAP.



LIVE

Discussion Questions: Have someone read each Bible verse aloud and then ask the corresponding question. Be sure everyone has enough time to find the Scripture before the verse is read.

- 1) Read 1 Corinthians 13:13 and Colossians 1:1-5. Why did Paul mention faith, hope and love in his letter to the church in Colossae?**



Paul was especially concerned about some false teachers in Colossae who were detracting from Christ's superiority, so he was commending the Colossians for their "faith in Christ, love toward the saints, and hope of heaven".¹



Paul was exposing a heresy (a teaching contrary to biblical doctrine) in the Colossian church, specifically Gnosticism. Gnostics tried to weaken Christianity by insisting that it took secret knowledge to be accepted by God, that the body was evil, and that Christ really wasn't human at all. Paul said Christ gives us all the knowledge we need, that God himself was embodied in Jesus Christ, and that Jesus was fully human and fully God. Gnostics valued the accumulation of knowledge, but Paul pointed out that knowledge of God is not a secret nor is it just for gathering. For knowledge to be worth anything, it must lead to a changed life, living in Him.

Notes:

- 2) Read Colossians 1:6-10. According to Paul, what is the first step in living a life pleasing to God? Why is the knowledge of God crucial to your entire life?**



Paul says we are to bear fruit in every good work. As Christians we live with the assurance that our good works are not wasted. When we do good works, God blesses it and uses it for His eternal purposes, even if we don't see immediate returns. God wants us to know Him and He will make Himself known if we make the effort. The more we spend time in God's presence and in His Word, the more we will know what He is really like.



The "bearing fruit" part that Paul talks about is God's responsibility; He will make it happen. The "good works" part, however, is our responsibility. What kind of good works? The Bible gives us a great deal of direction in this matter – we are to help the poor, reach out to the lost, honor our parents, encourage our children, forgive our enemies, show mercy and compassion to others, etc. These are all general "good works" that we should

¹ Halley's Bible Handbook. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007, p. 742



all be doing. But for you personally, ask yourself – What has God given me the ability to do, the desire to do and/or the opportunity to do? This is where you can serve Him with your greatest ability to His greatest glory.



Facilitate a brief discussion. Ask “Have you ever tried to fit God into an image that pleases you instead of getting to know the true God? Why would this be so offensive to God?”

Notes: God is pleased with our desire to know Him. Some people approach this in a backwards manner. They try to develop an image of God that pleases them. This is not the way to approach God. We cannot say, “This is the kind of God that pleases me, so this is how I want you to be.” Instead, our attitude must be, “God, reveal yourself to me. Show me the way you are.”

3) Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How does this metaphor describe your life as a Christian? What does Paul mean in verse 27?



Being a Christian is not easy, but Paul encourages us to remember the purpose, the eternal prize of salvation. As a Christian, things like prayer, humility, Bible study and worship equip us to stay close to Jesus. When Paul says he “might be disqualified” he is not saying he could lose his salvation, but the privilege of telling others the Good News of Jesus Christ. Paul understands he can’t just tell others how to live, he must practice what he preaches.



There is more encouragement for us in Hebrews 12:1-2. By “keeping our eyes on Jesus” who was God’s messenger and the perfect example of faithful endurance we too can endure this life. To run the race God has set before us we also need to “strip off every weight that slows us down”. To do this we must make wise choices in our circles of influence, stay in touch with others who are also committed to the race and choose carefully how we spend our time. When we face trials, remember those times only strengthen us spiritually, maturing us in faith as we stay focused on Him.

Notes:

4) Read Colossians 1:11 and Ephesians 3:16. How can you faithfully endure like Paul?



It is impossible to endure faithfully in pleasing God by our own power. Instead, there is only one way to endure – with God’s glorious power. We must yield ourselves to God and He will fill us with His strength and power and give us the ability to endure.



God places a great deal of value on endurance. It is not enough to start well; He wants us to finish well. Paul faithfully endured by relying on Christ’s strength (see Philippians 4:13). How do we receive His power? Just ask. We need to depend on His Holy Spirit to strengthen us by being honest with God, admitting when we are weary and losing perspective. We confess our sin, then ask God for His strength to overcome our weakness. It pleases God when we trust Him, depend on Him and turn to Him as our only source of strength.

Notes:

- 5) **Read Colossians 1:12-14. What has God done for you that demands your gratitude? What are some practical ways you can learn to respond with thankfulness?**



When you think of all that God has done for you, you cannot help but feel grateful and with that comes a sense of obligation – we owe Him our very lives. He has given us everything we have; in return, we must give everything we have to Him.



The New Living Translation Study Bible says, “Paul lists five benefits God gives all believers through Christ: He has enabled us to share in His inheritance (see also 2 Corinthians 5:21); He has rescued us from Satan’s kingdom of darkness and made us His children; He has brought us into His eternal Kingdom (see also Ephesians 1:5-6); He has purchased our freedom from sin and judgement with His blood (see also Hebrews 9:12); He has forgiven all our sins (see also Ephesians 1:7). Thank God for what you have received in Christ.”

Notes:

Application Question: As you think about the week ahead and all you have to do for work, what is one thing you could do for God that would be pleasing to Him?



PRAYERS

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer



LEAD

Ask yourself: How would it change your leadership if you remembered that God is the one you are really serving whether you are at work, at your church, or spending time with your family and friends?



PRAYERS

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LEARN

Paul says that when believers try to do good, God blesses their work to bear fruit for the kingdom. He strives to know God and God's will by staying focused on Jesus in everything he does. Paul is sure to remember the many specific things that he must thank God for, God's salvation in Christ foremost among them.

Scripture references for this study: Colossians 1:1-14; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, 13:13 & Ephesians 3:16



LIVE

- Pleasing God by serving Him
- Pleasing God by knowing Him
- Pleasing God by thanking Him

Application Question: As you think about the week ahead and all you have to do for work, what is one thing you could do for God that would be pleasing to Him?



LEAD

Ask yourself: How would it change your leadership if you remembered that God is the one you are really serving whether you are at work, at your church, or spending time with your family and friends?