

# Knowing *Christ*

Lessons from Paul's  
Life and Ministry

Complete in Christ  
Colossians 3:1- 4:1  
Lesson 20



The first step in mining for gold is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking for clues to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure laying just under the surface. First, read the whole passage in context. Pay attention to the paragraph breaks to gain the whole thought, as it relates to the whole text. Are there words that lead you to look before or after the passage to gain the full context? There is a saying, "Whenever you see the word 'therefore' look to see what it is there... for." The word "and" tells us that something else goes with it, maybe to show contrast, or similarities, or even a series. Repeated words or phrases, help us discover the main thought of the author. The text will speak for itself, be careful not to read in your own assumptions. The bible interprets itself, so if you ask a question of it, the answer will be found within the pages of scripture.

**Pray** and ask the Holy Spirit to highlight words or thoughts to you as you begin to carefully read the text over several times. Reading it in different translations helps you gain more insight. Use the text provided in the lesson as a worksheet. **Mark the text** in whatever way that helps you the most. Colored pencils are helpful, looking up words in dictionaries, or cross-references help you gain further insight and fill in the details. Read thoughtfully and prayerfully and see what the Lord wants to show you. Each week will be an exciting journey as you place your feet in the imprints that Paul left us on his journey to *knowing Christ* more intimately.

## *Lesson Text*

### **Col 3:1-11**

1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

5 Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. 8 But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

### **Col 3:12-21**

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your

wives and do not be bitter toward them. 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

### **Col 3:22 - 4:1**

22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.



## Looking for Gold - *What does it say?*

Like a miner looking for a gold vein, read the section and record what you see. Keep track of what you specifically find in the Bible passage by **marking your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts, similarities. Look for answers to questions that answer, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How? Briefly describe, in your own words the clues you find. Do your best to follow the authors train of thought as to what he is trying to say?

### **Read Colossians 3:1-4:1**

Record what stands out to you as you read

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## Digging Deeper

Use this section to record information you gather from other sources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps, etc. You can also use this section to jot down your thoughts, impressions or questions that come to mind as you look for correlating evidence in other parts of scripture through cross-references. Dig deeper into the meaning of words that stick out to you or are repeated. Background information in encyclopedias or dictionaries or handbooks bring the passage alive. Keep your eyes open to find any commands to obey, or questions to be answered etc.

**Challenge:** Use your cross-references, word-studies or encyclopedias to fill in the details and dig deeper into the meaning of the passage. Record what you find.

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***Boiling it Down - What does it mean?***

Now is the time to boil down what you have found. What lessons can you draw from what you have seen. There may be multiple lessons, **state each in a simple sentence.**

What LESSONS can I draw from my observations?

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***Refined as Gold - How can I apply it?***

What steps do I need to take to APPLY each lesson? Your applications should suggest a course of action. **Record an application for each lesson.**

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**Challenge:** Use your cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up your lessons.

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## Storing up Your Treasure . . .

**Checking for Clarity:** See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** in one or two words. This helps you fully understand what author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch his vision?

Col 3:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

Col 3:12-21 \_\_\_\_\_

Col 3:22-4:1 \_\_\_\_\_

**Bars of Gold:** Try to state the main content of the passage in the form of a title.

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**Flex Your Muscles:** Can you discover an O.T. example of this N.T. truth?

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**Hide Your Treasure in your Heart:**

Col 3:2-3 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. NKJV



## **Radiating His Truth . . .**

To be filled with the Spirit of God is to be controlled by the Word of God.

Wiersbe



