

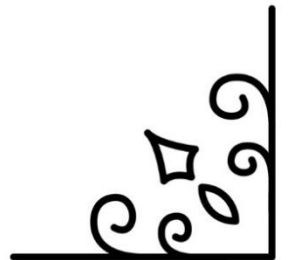
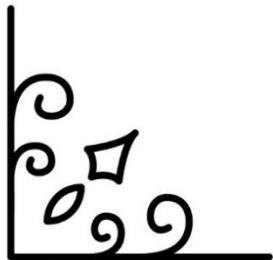


# Colossians

"Complete In Christ"

 *Beachside Women's Series* 

For more info visit [ccbeachside.com/womens](http://ccbeachside.com/womens)



*"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."*

*- Colossians 2:9-10*



## *An Introduction to Colossians*

### *Author and Date*

The epistle to the Colossians was written by the Apostle Paul in about 60-61 AD. He wrote it from Rome while he was under house arrest awaiting a decision regarding his trial for being a faithful, bold witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

### *The Church at Colosse*

The city of Colosse was located about 100 miles east of Ephesus in the western part of the country that today is known as Turkey. Although Paul had never personally visited this church, he possessed a great love for them. They were mainly Gentile believers who gathered in homes for fellowship, worship, and study. Two of these homes were those of Philemon (Philemon 1:2) and Nymphas (Colossians 4:15).

### *Background and Purpose of the Letter*

Epaphras most likely planted the church as a result of Paul's ministry in Ephesus (54-58 AD). During these early years of the church certain false teachers came into the city spreading false doctrine. They sought to draw the church away from the truth of the Gospel. Epaphras made a trip to Rome to visit Paul in jail and brought the news of the heresies that were plaguing the church at Colosse.

These false teachers were misleading young believers with wrong ideas about Who Jesus Christ is. They over-emphasized church rituals, demanding the strict observance of Jewish ceremonies such as circumcision (2:11; 3:11) and the feasts (2:16; 21). They established rules about what kinds of foods should and shouldn't be eaten and they promoted the worship of angels (2:18). In relying on human wisdom (2:4; 8) pagan influences, and Greek thought, they claimed to have special knowledge (2:18). Like humanists today, they denied Christ's deity and His sacrificial death on the cross for sin. These heresies which penetrated many churches in the second and third centuries became known as Gnosticism.

Paul wrote to extend his love to the church and to remind them of the preeminence of Christ and the simplicity of the Gospel. In doing this, he diligently warned them (and us) to beware of false teachers who would seek to cause them to turn from the truth of the Scriptures. Finally, he exhorted them to holy living—to live out to the fullest extent all that Christ Jesus had done in them.

Taken From "Complete in Him", An Inductive Study in the Book of Colossians  
Published by Morningstar Christian Chapel, Whittier, CA 90603



## Welcome to our study of Colossians!

The LORD has wonderful things in store for us as we dig into this important letter to the church at Colosse. Jesus is pre-eminent! He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation! And He loves you passionately and sacrificially. You are His treasure.

Our prayer is that you will comprehend with your mind and your heart that you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST. Rest in Him. Trust Him. Seek Him. He longs to reveal Himself to you.

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The SOAP bible study Method:

This method begins by reading through the section of scripture and taking time to further dig into a verse that ministers to you. After choosing a verse, you write the verse down and take time to ponder and answer the following questions:

### **S – SCRIPTURE**

***Physically write out the Bible verse***

You'll be amazed at what God will reveal to you when you slow down to write or meditate on what you are reading!

### **O – OBSERVATION**

***What do you see in the verses you're reading?***

Who is the audience? Is there a repetition of words? What words stand out to you?  
What is the main lesson or theme?

### **A – APPLICATION**

***When God's Word becomes personal***

What is God saying to me today? How can I apply what I just read to my life? Are there any changes I need to make?

### **P – PRAYER**

***Pray God's Word back to Him***

If He has revealed something to you during this time in His Word, pray about it. Confess if He has revealed some sin that is in your life. Take time to thank Him for His goodness in your life.

## Week One - An Overview of Colossians

Read through the book of Colossians. Using the background provided, your bible, a commentary, or online, become familiar with the background to the book of Colossians.

After reading through the book of Colossians, choose a verse that excites you or wets your appetite for further study. Use the SOAP method to dig into the verse and see what the LORD would say to you.

*Scripture:*

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*Observation:*

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*Application:*

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*Prayer:*

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Write below any interesting facts you found in your research on the background to the book of Colossians. \_\_\_\_\_

Jon Courson, in his commentary on Colossians, states, "The book of Colossians is a polemic epistle." The word "polemic" comes from the Greek word *polemas* meaning "war". Look up the word "polemic" in a dictionary and write the definition. \_\_\_\_\_

Considering the information on Colossians you researched, and this statement about the type of letter Colossians is, think about any expectations you have regarding your study of Colossians. Take a moment to pray and surrender this study to the LORD.

*" For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God..." Colossians 1:9-10*

## Week 2 - Colossians 1:1-14

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read Colossians 1:1-14 and answer the following questions:

1. In verse 1 Paul writes, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God...". Take a moment and consider what roles you fill "by the will of God" and write them here. How does this minister to you or challenge you? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Read through verses 1 to 8.

a) What do you learn about the church at Colosse from these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

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b) Paul mentions the Colossians' faith, hope and love. According to these verses, how do these three things work together? \_\_\_\_\_

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c) What is the result of the hope the Colossians have? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Read through verses 9-14. What aspects of Paul's prayer do you find:

a) Encourage you \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Challenge you \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Of the four things Paul prays for, choose one and look carefully at each word Paul uses. Define the main terms and then rewrite the verse in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What has the Father done for us according to vs. 12-14? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Choose a verse from Colossians 1:1-14 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method.

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Application:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_

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Week 3 - Colossians 1:15-23

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 1:15-23 and answer the following questions:

1. Write down all of the statements about Jesus that you see in these verses \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Define the following terms (use a dictionary or bible dictionary):

- a) Image: \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Firstborn: \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Preeminence: \_\_\_\_\_
- d) Any other terms you wish to define:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How do these definitions help with your understanding of the person of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How is it that "in Him all things consist"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read through verses 21 to 23.

- a) How did Christ bring us to God? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b) Why was this necessary? \_\_\_\_\_  
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- c) What is the role of faith in reconciliation with God? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Choose a verse from Colossians 1:15-23 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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Week 4 - Colossians 1:24-29

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 1:24-29 and answer the following questions:

1. If you were to give this section a title, what would be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read slowly over verses 24 and 25.

a) Paul was willing to suffer for the sake of the church. What is the role of suffering in the life of a believer? (Use scripture references if possible)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How does understanding the preeminence of Christ impact your approach to suffering?

\_\_\_\_\_  
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3. In verses 26 and 27, what is the mystery that Paul refers to and to whom did God choose to reveal it?

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4. Verse 27 says, "To them God willed to make known..." Define the word "willed". How does this truth minister to you? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

5. How did Paul help believers to become spiritually mature? (vs. 28-29) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. How can you put into practice what the LORD has shown you this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Choose a verse from Colossians 1:24-29 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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Week 5 - Colossians 2:1-15

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 2:1-15 and answer the following questions:

1. If you were to give this section a title, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read through verses 1 - 3.

a) What was the conflict (struggle) Paul was feeling? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) What was Paul's heart for the Colossian church? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) What attribute of the Father and of Christ does Paul mention in verse 3? Selah! \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read through verses 4-10.

a) What warnings and exhortations did Paul give to the church at Colosse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) What does it mean to you to be "rooted" in the faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Write out verses 9 and 10. Commit these verses to memory. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) What does it mean to be "complete"? (consider using a dictionary to define the word) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Read through verses 11-15.

a) What stands out to you in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this truth minister to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Read over vs. 14-15 and meditate on this truth. Write a praise for what Jesus has done! \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Choose a verse from Colossians 2:1-15 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Application:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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Week Six - Colossians 2:16-23

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 2:16-23 and answer the following questions:

1. Define asceticism. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read through verses 16 to 19.

a) List the practices Paul mentions that can be put in the place of Christ in a believer's life. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How is this truth a caution or warning to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read through verses 20 to 23.

a) What does Paul say in these verses regarding human commands and teachings? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this truth minister to you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do these verses highlight the preeminence of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Choose a verse from Colossians 2:16-23 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method.

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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Week Seven - Colossians 3:1-17*

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 3:1-17 and answer the following questions:

1. If you were to give this section a title, what would it be? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read through verses 1 to 4, and define the following terms:

a) Raised (v.1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Seek (v.1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c) Set your mind (v.2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d) Died (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e) Hidden (v. 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Rewrite verses 1 to 4 in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Read through verses 5 to 11.

a) What stands out to you in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this truth minister to you or challenge you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read through verses 12 to 17.

a) How were the Colossian believers called to clothe themselves? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) What are two things we are to allow (let) into our lives? (v. 15 and 16) \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Write out verse 17. Highlight or underline the words that jump out at you in the verse. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Choose a verse from Colossians 3:1-17 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Application:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_

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Week Eight - Colossians 3:18 to 4:1

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 3:18 to 4:1 and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main topic covered in this section? Give it a title if you wish. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read through verses 18 to 21.

a) What stands out to you in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How is the preeminence of Christ reflected in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read through verses 3:22 to 4:1.

a) Define bondservant: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) With that definition in mind, what stands out to you in these verses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Read verses 23 and 24 again. How were bond servants called on to serve Christ?

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\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does verse 24 encourage or challenge you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How does this section of scripture relate to our being complete in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Choose a verse from Colossians 3:18 to 4:1 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Application:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_

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Week Nine - Colossians 4:2-9

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 4:2-9 and answer the following questions:

1. Read through verses 2 to 6.

a) What is the first instruction Paul gives? With what attitude are we to do this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) What did Paul say about the Christians' public life? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of these verses ministers to you and why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Read through verses 7 to 9.

a) Who was Tychicus and why was he sent to Colosse? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Who was Onesimus? (see also Philemon 10-16) \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In what way do you see the theme of "Complete in Christ" displayed in these verses? (Read 2 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5)

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5. Choose a verse from Colossians 4:2-9 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_

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*Prayer:* \_\_\_\_\_

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## *Week Ten - Colossians 4:10-18*

Always begin Bible Study in Prayer. It is the Holy Spirit who teaches us and without Him we are only doing a memory exercise with no spiritual results.

This week, read through Colossians 4:10-18 and answer the following questions:

1. Write the names listed by Paul and the role they played in his ministry (use other biblical references if necessary) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Read through verses 16 to 18.

a) What was Paul's instruction to Archippus? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) How does this instruction encourage or challenge you? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. As Paul concludes his letter, he mentions that he wrote the greeting with his own hand. Why do you think he mentions this? How does it relate to the purpose of the letter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## *Questions For Further Thought*

4. We began our study of Colossians with the understanding that Paul was writing this letter as a polemic epistle. Polemics is the practice of rhetorical persuasion or the rhetorical presentation of an argument in a dispute. Write down the arguments regarding the preeminence of Christ that most impacted you. How will this knowledge effect your daily life? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Considering what the Lord has revealed to you through this study, what does it mean to you that you are COMPLETE IN CHRIST? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Choose a verse from Colossians 4:10-18 and dig in deeper using the SOAP method:

*Scripture:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Observation:* \_\_\_\_\_  
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## *More Tools for Personal Devotional Time*

- ❖ Begin with Grace and Prayer!
- ❖ Read through your portion of scripture for the day until a verse or phrase catches your attention. Remember, God's Holy Spirit will use your natural curiosity to point you in the right direction. Write down the verse in your journal and think about it (meditate upon it) throughout your day/week.
- ❖ Use tools to dig into the verse you have written down. The following tools can be helpful:
  - Cross References - Either from your bible or verses the LORD brings to mind. Consider writing one or two of these in your journal if they bring more understanding to the verse, or if the LORD uses another verse to minister to you.
  - Definitions - Use a dictionary to define what various words mean, even if you think you know the definition.
  - If your bible does not have cross references, you can use the concordance in the back of your bible as well.
- ❖ Re-write the verse into your own words. Find scripture references to support the way you have interpreted the verse. If you are unable to support your interpretation with scripture, revisit your interpretation and see what the LORD is trying to show you.
- ❖ No matter what tool you use, consider writing in your journal a paragraph about what the LORD has shown you through the verse and/or cross references and how He has used it to minister to you. Then write a prayer sharing your heart with the LORD.

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- Tools for Bible Study – For when you desire to dig in further. Remember, Bible study can be used to dig in further to what the LORD has spoken to you during devotional time, but is not a replacement for devotional time.

Please use these tools carefully with discretion. Picking up your phone during devotional time to use an app can hinder your time with the Lord and distract you to other things. Commentaries can help to illuminate what the Lord has shown you. Use them once you have allowed the LORD to speak to you personally about what you are reading.

- Blue Letter Bible - for Definitions, meanings in original Hebrew or Greek, translation comparisons, cross-references, etc.
- My Sword Bible - For Android; you can download it from the website <http://www.mysword-bible.info/77-download>
- Commentaries recommended by Pastor Bert:
  - David Guzick
  - Matthew Henry
  - J. Vernon McGee
  - Warren Wiersbe