

The Gospel in Adventism

Week Nine



inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Colossians 1:24-29



See videos at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH09-a

THE WAY OF LIFE

When visiting a new town, Adventist ministers often debated with the Sunday-keeping pastors over the Sabbath. In their zeal to defend God's law, Jesus and the gospel were sometimes eclipsed. Adventist evangelists at the time often used a painting called *The Way of Life* in their sermons. In the earliest versions, God's law, not the cross, is centered, accurately depicting what Adventists used to believe about the law's centrality in the plan of salvation. In 1880, James White commissioned a new edition of the painting in which Jesus on the cross replaced the law at the center, illustrating a shift in thinking. (To see these two illustrations, visit adventist-review.org/magazine-article/the-way-of-life/.) At the GC session in 1888, A.T. Jones and E.J. Waggoner appealed to church leaders to embrace a more Christ-centered gospel message, which some preachers and administrators felt would undermine the pillars of the Adventist message.

Ellen White was deeply concerned by the backlash that arose against Jones and Waggoner. She wrote very strong letters to pioneers such as Uriah Smith urging them not to resist the message. Jones and Waggoner presented little that was new, but they did call for a fresh perspective that emphasized Jesus and the gospel. In the following years, Ellen White authored several books that clearly articulated the gospel of Christ: *Steps to Christ* (1892), *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings* (1896), *The Desire of Ages* (1898), and *Christ's Object Lessons* (1900). This week's lesson will explore the meaning of the gospel's promise of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).



inScribe

Write out Colossians 1:24–29 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in the primary passage. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Are there any issues that you have given undue attention to that you feel you need to reprioritize?

How could the law in Galatians be seen as both the ceremonial and the moral law?



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inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What things prevent us from experiencing Christ continually dwelling in us?



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What relationship do the following verses have with Colossians 1:24–29?

Ezekiel 36:25–27

Romans 5:8–10

Romans 8:1–4

Galatians 2:20

Galatians 3:24, 25

Colossians 3:1–3

Hebrews 8:10–12

Revelation 3:14–22

What other verses come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Colossians 1:24–29.



Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



In what ways is Christ abiding in us the same as Christ allowing His Father to abide in Him? Is it different in any way? (John 17:20–23.)

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:



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inQuire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



How can we respectfully disagree with others without causing unnecessary offense and division? Similarly, how can we remain Christians when being attacked for what we believe?

What is the intended purpose of the law?

What can we do to ensure we stay focused on the key issues and not trip over minor details?

How is Paul's message to the Colossians especially relevant to the end-time Laodicean church?

In what ways do we allow the law to eclipse Jesus and the gospel? How can we avoid this?

What does it mean to really live and experience "Christ in us" on a day-to-day basis?

What distractions threaten to prevent us from keeping "Christ in us" constantly?