

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Colossians

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1:1-12

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul greeted all the Christians in Colossae and said he thanked God for them. [1:1-3]
- ☐ Paul heard about their faith and love, which they had because Epaphras taught them the gospel. [1:4-8]
- ☐ Paul prayed God would fill the Colossians with knowledge of his will so that they live in a way that pleases God. [1:9-10]
- ☐ Paul prayed God would strengthen them so they would be able to endure and have patience. [1:11]
- ☐ Paul prayed that they would be thankful to God because he made them able to share in his inheritance. [1:12]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What do verses 1 and 2 tell us about who wrote this letter and who he wrote this to? [1:1-2]
The letter was from Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus, and Timothy, a brother in Christ. It was sent to the believers in Colossae.
2. Who do you think was the main author of the letter? How do you know? [1:1-3]
Paul was the author. Paul's name was listed first which probably shows that he was the main author.
3. Why do you think Paul mentioned Timothy? [1:1]
Perhaps Paul wrote Timothy's name here because the Colossians knew him, and he was with Paul at that time. Or perhaps Timothy also wrote down the words of the letter as Paul spoke them to him.
4. What did Paul and Timothy hear about the Colossian Christians? [1:4]
They heard of their faith in Jesus Christ and their love for his people.
5. Why did the Colossian Christians have faith and love? [1:5]
They had faith and love because they had hope in the reward they would receive in heaven.
6. What was the gospel doing? [1:6]
The gospel was bearing fruit and growing throughout the world.
7. What do you think it meant for the gospel to bear fruit? [1:6]
It meant more and more people heard and believed the gospel so that they changed their lives and did things that pleased God.
8. How did the Colossians learn the gospel? [1:7]
Epaphras preached the gospel to them.

Colossians 1:1-12 continued

9. What was Paul's prayer for the church? [1:9-12]

Paul prayed that they would:

- be filled with knowledge of his will.
- have all wisdom and spiritual understanding.
- live in a way that pleased God.
- bear fruit in every good work.
- grow in the knowledge of God.
- be strengthened with God's might.
- have great endurance and patience.
- joyfully give thanks to God.

10. For what reason did Paul want the Colossians to give thanks to God? [1:12]

Paul wanted them to give thanks to God because he had given them the inheritance of God's holy people.

Comment Section:

1:13-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul said that God rescued the Colossians from evil and brought them to his Son's kingdom. [1:13-14]
- ☐ The Son is the image of the invisible God, all things were created in him and for him, and he existed before all things. [1:15-17]
- ☐ The Son is the leader of the church, the first to be resurrected, and God's fullness lives in him. [1:18-19]
- ☐ God made peace with all things through the death of his Son. [1:20]
- ☐ Because of the Son's death, believers who continue in the faith are presented as holy and blameless. [1:21-23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did God rescue Paul, Timothy, and the Colossians believers from? [1:13]
He rescued them from the power of sin and evil.
2. What did believers have because of the Son? [1:14]
They had redemption and the forgiveness of sins.
3. The Son is whose image? [1:15]
The Son is the image of the invisible God.
4. What is the Son's relationship with his creation? [1:16-17]
The son is the firstborn of all creation. He is before all things. All things were created in him, through him, and for him.
5. What is the Son's relationship with the church? [1:18]
He is the head of the body, which is the church. This means that he is the leader of the church.
6. What pleased God? [1:19-20]
God was pleased to have his fullness live in the Son and to make peace with all things through the Son's death.
7. What relationship did the Colossians have with God before they believed the gospel? [1:21]
Before believing the gospel, the Colossians were strangers from God and were his enemies.
8. What must the Colossians continue to do? [1:23]
The Colossians must continue in the faith, established and firm in it, and remaining confident in the gospel

Comment Section:

1:24-2:5

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul rejoiced in suffering for the Colossians as he served the church. [1:24-25]
- ☐ The mystery that was hidden for ages and for generations had now been revealed to God's holy people. [1:26-27]
- ☐ Paul worked hard with the energy God provided to proclaim Christ so that people would be spiritually mature. [1:28-29]
- ☐ Paul struggled for the believers in Colossae, Laodicea and for all those who had not seen him in person, so that they would be encouraged and have understanding and knowledge of Christ. [2:1-3]
- ☐ Paul wanted to protect them from teachers who would try to trick them. [2:4]
- ☐ Paul said he was with them in spirit and rejoiced because their faith was strong. [2:5]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was Paul's attitude about his suffering? [1:24]
Paul rejoiced in his suffering and considered it to be like how Christ suffered for the church.
2. What did Paul see as his role in the church? [1:25]
Paul said he was a servant of the church.
3. Who gave Paul the task of serving the church in Colossae? [1:25]
God gave Paul stewardship of the church.
4. What was the mystery that God revealed to his church? [1:26-27]
God revealed the mystery of Christ in his people which is the hope of glory.
5. To whom did God reveal the mystery? [1:27]
God revealed it to his church, specifically the Gentiles.
6. Why did Paul proclaim the gospel to all? [1:28]
Paul proclaimed the gospel to all so that they would be mature in Christ.
7. How was Paul able to do the work that God had chosen him to do? [1:29]
God gave Paul the power and energy to work for him.
8. Who did Paul struggle for? [2:1]
Paul struggled for those in Colossae, Laodicea, and all who have not seen him in person.
9. Why did Paul work so hard for these churches? [2:2]
Paul wanted them to be encouraged by being brought:
 - together in love
 - into the assurance of understanding
 - into the knowledge of Christ

Colossians 1:24-2:5 continued

10. How do you think understanding gives a person assurance? [2:2]
Perhaps the more a person understood about the power and faithfulness of God and Christ, the more a person was assured that God would do what he promised, and they would live with him forever.
11. Where were all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden? [2:2-3]
These things were hidden in Christ.
12. What do you think it meant for these things to be “hidden in Christ”? [2:3]
Paul probably meant that a person only learned true godly wisdom and knowledge by believing in Christ and obeying his teachings.
13. Why did Paul write these things to the Colossians? [2:4]
Paul wrote these things so that they would not be tricked by those who were good at persuading people to believe things that were not true.
14. What was Paul's attitude toward being away from the Colossians? [2:5]
Paul assured the church at Colossae that he was with them in spirit, and he rejoiced to see them strong in their faith.

Comment Section:

2:6-15

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Colossians to continue to live in Christ. [2:6]
- ☐ Paul told the Colossians not to let anyone deceive them. [2:8]
- ☐ All the fullness of God lives in Christ, and they have been filled in Christ. [2:9-10]
- ☐ In Christ they were also spiritually circumcised and were buried with Christ in baptism. [2:11-12]
- ☐ They were raised up by believing in God's power, which made them alive with Christ. [2:12-13]
- ☐ God forgave all their sins. [2:13-14]
- ☐ Christ triumphed over the rulers and authorities by the cross. [2:15]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul tell the Colossians to do? [2:6]
Paul told them to walk in Christ Jesus the Lord.
2. What did it look like to “walk” in Christ? [2:7]
When they walked in Christ, they would:
 - be rooted in him
 - be built on him
 - be established in faith
 - be very thankful
3. What did Paul warn the Colossians about? [2:8]
Paul warned them not to be captured through philosophy or empty deceit.
4. Where did the philosophy and deceit Paul warned against come from? [2:8]
They came from men's traditions and from the elemental spirits of the world.
5. Who does the fullness of God live in? [2:9]
The fullness of God lives in Christ.
6. How were the Colossians changed by being “in him”? [2:10-12]
They were:
 - filled in Christ
 - circumcised (spiritually) in Christ
 - buried (spiritually) with Christ
 - raised up (spiritually)
7. How was Christ described in verse 10? [2:10]
He was called the head over every ruler and authority.
8. Who do you think the rulers and authorities were? [2:15]
The rulers and authorities were the evil and malicious spirits who opposed everything and everyone that was of God.

Colossians 2:6-15 continued

9. What do you think it meant to be filled in Christ? [2:10]
Perhaps it meant to have everything one needed for salvation because of Christ.
10. What do you think a circumcision not done by hands was? [2:11]
It was a spiritual circumcision.
11. How were the Colossians buried with Christ? [2:12]
They were buried with Christ through baptism.
12. How were the Colossians raised up? [2:12]
They were raised up in Christ through faith in the power of God, who also raised Jesus from the dead.
13. How did God help them when they were dead in their sin? [2:13]
He made them alive with Christ and forgave all of their sins.
14. What did God do to the written record of debt that was hostile to people? [2:14]
He blotted it out. He took it away by nailing it to the cross.
15. What did Christ do to the rulers and authorities? [2:15]
He disarmed them and made a public spectacle of them by triumphing over them by the cross.

Comment Section:

2:16-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Colossians not to let anyone judge them concerning food, drink, special days, and angels. [2:16-18]
- ☐ People who judged others concerning food, drink, special days, and angels became proud even though they had no reason to become proud. [2:18]
- ☐ These worldly rules would perish, and they did not stop people from indulging the flesh. [2:22-23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about what people ate or drank and whether or not they celebrated festivals, new moons and Sabbath days? [2:16]
He said that they should not let anyone judge them for those things.
2. How did Paul describe the laws concerning food, drink, and special days? [2:17]
Paul called them shadows of things to come.
3. What else should believers not let others do to them? [2:18]
They should not let others judge them out of their prize.
4. According to Paul, why was it important for the Colossians to hold onto the head? [2:19]
The head supplies the whole body and holds it together.
5. Who do you think Paul was referring to as “the head” and “the body”? [2:19]
Paul was referring to Jesus Christ as the head and the church as the body.
6. How should a person live if he has died with Christ to the elemental spirits of the world? [2:20-21]
He should not live as though he was obligated to obey the world’s rules.
7. Why will the world’s rules perish? [2:22]
Because they were based on people’s commandments and teachings.
8. Why do the world’s rules appear wise? [2:23]
They appear wise because they seem to be religious, they make people appear humble, and they make people treat their bodies harshly.
9. What are the world’s rules unable to do? [2:23]
They are unable to help people stop indulging their flesh.

Comment Section:

3:1-4:1

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the believers to seek the things above rather than the things on earth. [3:1-2]
- ☐ Paul told them to put sinful practices to death because they had put on the new man. [3:5-10]
- ☐ Paul told them to love one another and to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus. [3:12-17]
- ☐ Paul gave instructions to wives, husbands, children, fathers, slaves, and masters. [3:18-4:1]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say that those raised with Christ were to seek? [3:1]
Paul said that they were to seek the things above.
2. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "Think about the things above"? [3:2]
Perhaps Paul meant that Christians should think about things that are important to God or heaven.
3. What will happen to Christians when Christ appears? [3:4]
Christians will appear with Christ in glory.
4. What things did Paul instruct Christians to "put to death"? [3:5]
Paul said Christians were to put to death sexual immorality, uncleanness, passion, evil desires, and greed.
5. What do you think it means to "put to death" certain behaviors and attitudes? [3:5]
It meant to stop doing those things and having those attitudes.
6. What did Paul say about the wrath of God? [3:6]
God's wrath was coming.
7. What did Paul tell Christians to get rid of? [3:8]
Paul told them to get rid of wrath, anger, evil intentions, slander, and obscene speech.
8. Why should Christians not lie to each other? [3:9-10]
Christians should not lie because they had taken off the old man and they had put on the new man.
9. What do you think the new man and the old man were? [3:3, 9-10]
The old man was the Christian's old life, which died. The new man was the Christian's new life with Christ.
10. What do you think Paul meant by, "you have taken off the old man" and "you have put on the new man"? [3:9-10]
Perhaps Paul meant that they had stopped living according to their old worldly ways and had started living how God intended Christian should live.
11. What was happening to the Christian's new man? [3:10]
It was being made new in knowledge according to the image of God.

Colossians 3:1-4:1 continued

12. What do you think Paul meant by saying there was no Greek or Jew, circumcision or uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, or freeman? [3:11]
Perhaps Paul meant that God treated all Christians the same way. He did not treat one group differently from another.
13. How did Paul describe the Colossian Christians in 3:12?
He described them as being God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.
14. What instruction did Paul give Christians in 3:12?
Paul told them to put on a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
15. What instructions did Paul give Christians in 3:13?
Paul instructed Christians to bear with one another, to be gracious, and to forgive each other in the same way that Christ forgave them.
16. What do you think Paul meant by saying, "bear with one another"? [3:13]
Perhaps he meant Christians should be patient with one another, gracious, and forgiving.
17. What do you think Paul meant when he said, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"? [3:15]
Perhaps he meant that because Christ had given them peace with God, that peace should govern their attitudes toward one another.
18. How did Paul want Christians to live? [3:17]
Paul wanted Christians to do everything, in word or deed, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Paul also wanted Christians to give thanks to God the Father through Jesus Christ.
19. What instruction did Paul give to wives in 3:18?
Paul instructed wives to submit to their husbands, as was appropriate in the Lord.
20. What do you think Paul meant by saying wives should submit to their husbands, "as it was appropriate in the Lord"? [3:18]
Perhaps Paul wanted wives to do all things, in word or deed, including honoring and respecting their husbands, in order to show honor to Christ, the Lord.
21. What instruction did Paul give husbands with regard to their wives? [3:19]
Paul instructed husbands to love their wives and not to be bitter against them.
22. What pleased the Lord? [3:20]
It pleased the Lord when children obeyed their parents.
23. What instruction did Paul give to fathers in 3:21?
Paul instructed fathers not to provoke their children, so that they would not become discouraged.
24. What do you think Paul meant when he told fathers not to provoke their children? [3:21]
Perhaps Paul meant that fathers should not anger their children by treating them unfairly or unjustly.
25. What instructions did Paul give to slaves in 3:22?
Paul instructed slaves to obey their masters in all things. He told them to obey with a sincere heart.

Colossians 3:1-4:1 continued

26. How should Christian slaves work? [3:23]

They should work as if working for the Lord and not for people.

27. What will Christian slaves receive from the Lord? [3:24]

They will receive “the reward of the inheritance”.

28. What do you think Paul meant when he said that they would receive the “reward of the inheritance”? [3:24]

Perhaps Paul meant that they would inherit eternal life in heaven. Perhaps he meant that they would inherit the kingdom of God.

29. What did Paul say about people who lived in an unrighteous way? [3:25]

They would receive the penalty for the wrong things they do.

30. What do you think the penalty was for those who lived in an unrighteous way? [3:25]

Perhaps Paul was talking about eternal punishment in hell.

31. Why should masters give to their slaves what was right and fair? [4:1]

Because the masters have a Master in heaven, they should treat their slaves like they would want to be treated.

Comment Section:

4:2-6

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Christians to continue to pray. [4:2]
- ☐ Paul asked them to pray that God would open a way for him and his co-workers to tell others about the mystery of Christ. [4:3-4]
- ☐ Paul told them to be wise toward outsiders and to let their words be gracious. [4:6]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What instruction did Paul give Christians in 4:2?
Paul told Christians to continue in prayer and thanksgiving.
2. What did Paul ask the Colossians to pray for? [4:3-4]
Paul asked them to pray that he and those he worked with would have an open door to go and speak about Christ. He asked them to pray that he would speak in a way that makes the mystery of Christ clear.
3. How should Christians behave toward non-Christians? [4:5]
Christians should be wise and use the time well.
4. What did Paul say about how the Colossians should talk to people? [4:6]
Paul said that people should speak with grace. He said their speech should be “seasoned with salt.” This means that the words should be pleasant.
5. What do you think it meant for words to be seasoned with salt? [4:6]
Perhaps it meant that the words should be pleasant to hear just as food with salt tasted good. Perhaps it meant that the words should be wholesome (beneficial), just as food that was preserved with salt was wholesome.

Comment Section:

4:7-18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Colossians about the two men he was sending to them. [4:7-9]
- ☐ Paul passed on to the Colossians greetings from friends who were with him. [4:10-14]
- ☐ Paul asked them to greet the believers in Laodicea and at Nympha's house. [4:15]
- ☐ Paul instructed them concerning their letter and the letter he sent to the Laodiceans. [4:16]
- ☐ Paul sent instructions to Archippus. [4:17]
- ☐ Paul wrote his final greetings. [4:18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. How did Paul describe Tychicus? [4:7]
Paul said that Tychicus was a beloved brother, a faithful servant, and a fellow slave in the Lord.
2. Why did Paul send Tychicus to the Colossians? [4:7-8]
Paul sent Tychicus to the Colossians so that they might know all that had happened with Paul and those with him and so that they would be encouraged.
3. How did Paul describe Onesimus? [4:9]
He said that Onesimus was the faithful and beloved brother and one of the Colossians.
4. Who greeted the Colossians in 4:10-11?
Aristarchus, Mark (who was the cousin of Barnabas) and Jesus who was also called Justus all greeted them.
5. What instruction had Paul given the Colossians about Mark? [4:10]
Paul told them that if Mark came to them, they should receive him.
6. What did Paul say about those three men? [4:11]
They were his fellow workers, and they were a great comfort to him.
7. What do you think Paul meant with the words, "these alone of the circumcision are my fellow workers"?
He probably meant that of all the Jews where he was, those three men were the only Jews working with him there.
8. Why did Epaphras always pray for the Colossians? [4:12]
Epaphras prayed for them so that they would stand complete and fully assured in the will of God.
9. What do you think it means to stand completed and fully assured in the will of God? [4:12]
It probably means to be spiritually mature, to stay strong in faith, and to know and obey what God wants a person to do.
10. Who worked hard for the Colossians, the Laodiceans, and those in Hierapolis? [4:12-13]
Epaphras.

Colossians 4:7-18 continued

11. What did Luke and Demas do? [4:14]

They also greeted the Colossians.

12. What did Paul tell the Colossians to do after the letter had been read among them? [4:16]

Paul told them to share the letter with the Laodiceans and to read the letter from Laodicea.

13. Why do you think that Paul wrote that this greeting was with his own hand? [4:18]

He probably wanted to assure the Colossians that he was the author of the letter. (He may have spoken the rest of the letter with someone else writing it for him.)

14. What did Paul ask the Colossians to remember? [4:18]

Paul asked the Colossians to remember his chains.

15. Why do you think he asked them to remember his chains? [4:18]

He wanted them to remember that he was in prison because he preached the gospel. (He probably wanted them to remember that the gospel was so important that he preached it even though people who hated the gospel put him in prison.)

Comment Section: