

# Colossians

## Take Root...Bear Fruit

### Week One

Hi Friends!

This week and for the next two weeks we'll focus on the **Observe** stage of Bible Study. We'll start by reading and asking "What do I see?" First, read the whole Book of Colossians in one sitting (in my Bible, it's less than 4 pages long) and answer a few questions about what you saw. Then, read the focus passage for the week. Finally, you'll practice two skills that will help you really see what the passage says.

**Mark up the passage.** We've printed out the passage for you to make it easy. Marking the passage can help you focus and really see what's written. The following are suggestions on what/how to mark, but feel free to use any method that works for you.

1. **Highlight** anything that's repeated often. You can usually skip words like "a, an, the, he, she, it..."
2. **Underline** any commands, warnings, or promises.
3. **Box** words that link one thought to another. For example:
  - "and & likewise" show a comparison
  - "or & but" show a contrast
  - "therefore & so that" show a result of something
  - "because & since" show a reason for something
4. Add arrows, lines, etc. to show words and phrases that are linked together. Make a note to indicate what the link is.
5. Note lists by numbering the items in them. 1...2...3...4...
6. **Circle** key terms. These are words that seem important or "key" to the meaning of the passage. They point to the main idea being stated.
7. Create your own symbols. A heart might indicate emotion. A triangle, a name of God.
8. If you have a question about what something means, note it with a question mark--?

**Write one or two observations for each verse.** Work your way through the passage a verse at a time, listing whatever you observe. When you see something, add it to your list. We left a wide margin to the right of the passage for this list. Relax and remember; no detail is too small or too obvious. Questions (like, "What does this word mean?") count as observations.

*The Bible says, "...don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22, NLT) The final step in any Bible Study is to apply it in our lives. In other words, we must answer the question, "How does this work for me?" Many people have found it helpful to use the acronym, **SPECK**, as a guide. Is there...*

- S**- a SIN to avoid?
- P**- a PROMISE to claim?
- E**- an EXAMPLE to follow?
- C**- a COMMAND to obey?
- K**- KNOWLEDGE to apply?

*If this seems like a lot to take in, remember we'll be practicing these things for the rest of our study. And everything gets easier with practice. We're all in this together. Do what you can, and come back next week ready to share with your small group.*

*Taking Root to Bear Fruit with you,*

*Cindy and friends*

## *Week One Homework*

### ***Observe (What Do I SEE?)***

Read the Book of Colossians, straight through, in one sitting.

You will notice that this is a letter. As you read, look for answers to the following questions:

Who is the author(s)?

Who are the recipients?

What seems to be the reason for the letter?



Pray...Read...Mark up the passage...List 1-2 observations per verse.

**Colossians 1:1-14 (NIV)**

*Observations*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, <sup>2</sup>To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup>We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup>because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— <sup>5</sup>the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup>that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. <sup>7</sup>You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful

minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup>and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup>And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully <sup>12</sup>giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## ***Apply (How Does it WORK?)***

Make it practical. Now that you have spent some time looking in detail at God's Word, don't stop! Ask yourself, "How does this work...in general...and for ME?" You may find it helpful to look for...

**S**—a SIN to avoid

**P**—a PROMISE to claim

**E**—an EXAMPLE to follow

**C**—a COMMAND to obey

**K**—KNOWLEDGE of God to believe

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the lower half of the page. It is intended for the user to write their answers to the questions posed above.