

# Colossians

## Take Root...Bear Fruit

Week Three

How's it going?

Are these Bible Study skills starting to "Take Root"? I pray that they are also "Bearing Fruit"—that you are not only getting more comfortable and confident with this process, but that God is using it to show you something about Himself and His love for you. The goal of this series is that we would all develop habits that deepen our relationship with God. If we merely develop some skills or grow in knowledge, we've missed the mark. I urge you to think of your Bible Study time as a Conversation, not an Assignment. When we remind you to pray, it's not an item on your Bible Study List to be checked off. Prayer is our side of this conversation with God. We approach God, and He speaks to us. We respond to what He says. He speaks some more. Sometimes we don't understand what he's saying. So we ask. A conversation.

This week, the step we're adding to the Bible Study process is **Asking Questions**. Often, as we look at a passage, there will be things we don't understand. Maybe we see an unfamiliar word, or a word that's used in a way that doesn't make sense to us. Maybe there's an unfamiliar place or person or event mentioned. When you see something and think, "What does that mean?" make note of it. I like to put a question mark (?) right on top of the confusing part in the passage, to remind myself. We've also provided a place for you to write out your questions right after "Lump and Label" this time. In future weeks, we'll talk about strategies for finding answers to our questions. This week, we're just making note of them...and asking our Father about them. That's the best place to start with questions, anyway.

Thanking our Father for you,

Cindy and Friends

## Week Three Homework

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

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

#### ***Colossians 1:24-2:5 (NIV)***

#### *Observations*

<sup>24</sup>Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

<sup>25</sup>I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

<sup>28</sup>We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. <sup>29</sup>To this end I labor,

struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.

***Colossians 2***

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. <sup>2</sup>My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. <sup>5</sup>For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

“Lump and Label” ...Go back over the passage and look for 2-4 “lumps” of content that together express one idea. Give each “lump” a “label.” Try to make your labels as brief as possible.

<i>Lump (verses)</i>	<i>Label</i>

List any questions you have about this passage.

## ***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.