

# Colossians

## Take Root...Bear Fruit

Week Four

*How were those conversations last week?*

*Communication can be tricky. We all communicate, all the time. And yet misunderstandings are common. Have you ever been talking to someone, asked them a question and got the answer, "I just TOLD you!" or, less harsh, "I was just about to tell you!" Maybe you've had a misunderstanding with someone because you were quoted out of context. "That IS what I said, but you had to hear the whole conversation. What I meant was..."*

*We see the same thing in Bible Study. If we look at a phrase or a sentence out of context we are likely to be confused by what we see. Or worse, we may jump to a conclusion about what it means without pausing to ask questions. That's why last week we focused on simply recognizing words or phrases that are unclear when we see them. We want to build the habit of asking questions instead of assuming WE KNOW the answers.*

*This week we begin adding tools for answering the question, "What Does It MEAN?" In Inductive Bible Study we call this **the Interpret Stage**. The first tool we'll focus on is **Context**. Often, the questions we have about some detail of a passage we're studying are answered elsewhere in the book (in this case, Colossians). For that reason, we had you start this study by reading the whole book straight through—to give you a frame of reference for all the focus passages. This week, we'll have you re-read it, looking for answers to your questions. It won't take long and I think you'll be surprised at how many answers you find with this tool alone!*

*Hoping I'm making sense,*

*Cindy and Friends*

## Week Four Homework

### Observe (What Do I SEE?)

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

#### **Colossians 2:6-15 (NIV)**

#### *Observations*

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup>and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature,<sup>(a)</sup> not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the  
uncircumcision of your sinful nature,<sup>(b)</sup> God made you<sup>(c)</sup>  
alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having  
canceled the written code, with its regulations, that  
was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it  
away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the  
powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of  
them, triumphing over them by the cross.<sup>(d)</sup>

“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.

***Interpret (What Does it MEAN?)***

Use Context to gain insight...Re-read the whole book of Colossians (it's less than four pages and it will go quick the second time). As you read look for things that explain the focus passage or answer any of your questions. Record what you find.

## ***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 student to write their application of the text.