

# Colossians

## Take Root...Bear Fruit

Week Six

Hello Friends! (Hola! Bonjour!)

Have you ever studied another language? It's hard! As Steve Martin observed, "It's like those French have a different word for EVERYTHING!" And, it doesn't take long to realize that translating from one language to another is more complicated than just learning an alternate vocabulary. (Hello=Bonjour, Dress=Robe) The grammar is different. If we learn the vocabulary but don't arrange the words in the right order, we get the meaning wrong. (I heard a story of someone's German Grandfather who was always saying things like, "Throw the cow over the fence some hay.") Then, there is the whole issue of figures of speech that make sense in one language, but don't necessarily translate well. ("It's raining cats and dogs," or, "I'm dead on my feet," might not make sense in a word-for-word translation.)

All of these challenges and more are true for Bible translation as well. The Bible was not written in English, after all! Some translators take an almost word-for-word approach, while others translate thought for thought. That's one reason we have so many to choose from. The great thing for us is that if a passage is confusing or unclear in one translation we can **read it in another translation** that might be easier to follow! That's the third Tool in our Interpretation Toolbelt. When our questions might be better phrased, "Now what in the world does that mean?" looking at another translation is a great way to find an answer.

Many of us own a variety of translations that we've collected over the years. (King James, New American Standard, The New Living Bible, New International Version...) But if you don't have alternate translations just sitting around your house—do not go out and buy anything! Websites—like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org)—provide us a variety of translations at the click of a mouse! Some of those translations are in languages other than English, in case it would help you to read a passage in Spanish, or French, or German...

Adios!

Cindy y Amigas

Week Six Homework

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

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

**Colossians 3:1-11 (NIV)**

*Observations*

<sup>1</sup>Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ, who is your <sup>(a)</sup> life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>(b)</sup> <sup>7</sup>You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup>But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger,

rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup>Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

“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 Another Translation to gain insight...if any of your questions involved a phrase or a concept that was confusing or unclear, read the passage in a different translation...or two. Websites like [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) and [blueletterbible.org](http://blueletterbible.org) provide many translations at the click of a mouse! Record what you discover.

## ***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 application of the text, identifying specific sins, promises, examples, commands, or knowledge of God.