



Alpha-Omega Bible Study: The New Testament
Session 2: Acts, the Epistles, & the Apocalypse
Lesson 9: Fullness of Christ; Freedom in Christ

READ

- A. Review the list of theological themes and doctrines covered in Alpha-Omega.
- B. Choose one of the following two reading plans. For either, look for recurring themes and perhaps mark them in your Bible.
 - 1. Read the entire Book of Colossians
 - 2. Read only the following sections of Colossians:
 - ⌘ 1:1-20
 - ⌘ 2:8 – 3:17

REACT

- A. Use the space below to write down key observations or questions that arose as you read the text. Note here the themes or doctrines you found in the passages.

B. Questions:

1. Review Paul's prayer for the Colossians in 1:9-12. How do your prayers for others compare with Paul's: a) in intensity? b) in focus? c) in thankfulness?

2. Summarize in your own words Paul's teaching about Jesus Christ in 1:13-20 by using the following table:

Who Jesus Is...

What Jesus Has Done...

3. a. What is Paul's life purpose and for what does he labor (1:28-2:3)?

b. What is your purpose in life and for what do you labor? How do you and Paul compare?

4. a. Based on Paul's instructions in 2:16, 18, and 20-23, what "hollow and deceptive philosophy" (2:8) might be taking the Colossians captive?

b. What wisdom of the world and "fine-sounding arguments" (2:4) take people captive today? Which of these are most troublesome or tempting to you?

5. a. In 3:5-17 Paul contrasts the earthly nature within people with the clothes God's chosen people should put on. Summarize Paul's lists in the following table:

What belongs to the earthly nature...

The clothes of God's chosen people...

- b. What practical difference would this “new clothing” have on relationships between wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters (3:18-4:1)?
6. a. At the conclusion of his letter, Paul mentions almost a dozen women and men who had partnered with him in ministry. What does this reveal about the way in which Paul fulfilled his calling as an apostle?
- b. What are the implications for you as you seek to fulfill God’s call on your life?

REMEMBER

Commit the following verse to memory:

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- Colossians 1:13-14 (TNIV)