

# Study Buddies

## Quick Bible Reference Guides

### COLOSSIANS: Honor the Lord with Your Life

*Note: This resource was prepared based on the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. It is always good to use more than one Bible version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the languages of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.*

#### Overview

The letter from the Apostle Paul to the Colossians encourages Christians to keep following Christ and not be tricked by false teachings or fooled into following any of the many religious ideas and practices that were being taught in Asia Minor at the time (2.8, 16-23). He urges Christians to “live a life that honors the Lord” (1.10). The letter also includes a beautiful hymn that explains who Christ is (1.15-20) and concludes with advice on how to live a new life in Christ.

#### Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- 1.9-11 Living a life that honors God
- 1.24,25 Serving the Church, the “body of Christ”
- 3.1-4 Focusing on heavenly things
- 3.10, 11 Being a new person in Christ
- 4.2 The importance of prayer

#### Study Questions

1. What does Paul pray for concerning the Colossians? (1.9-12). What does it mean to “live a life that honors the Lord?”
2. List the key points of the hymn in 1.15-20. Choose one point and describe what it means to you.
3. What is the message that Paul says had been kept secret for ages and ages, and why is it important to the Colossians? (1.24-28).
4. How is Paul’s message different than the message that others are trying to teach the Colossians? (2.8-23). What messages in the world today pull people away from the new life that God offers in Christ Jesus?
5. Paul says those who trust in Christ are “new persons” (3.10) and God’s “own special people” (3.12). What are some of the things God’s people should not do? (3.5-9). What are the qualities God’s people should begin to practice? (3.12-17).
6. Read again what Paul had to say about spreading the message and explaining the mystery about Christ (4.2-6). What advice does he give about how to treat unbelievers? Which of Paul’s points will help you most the next time you try to share your faith with someone?

#### Something to Think About

Paul talks about dying with Christ (2.20) and being raised to life with Christ (3.1). What does this mean? How has this affected you and your life?

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Dear Group Leader:

If you're looking for a straightforward resource to enhance study time with your group, you have come to the right place. Study Buddies give a brief synopsis of the Bible book you wish to study and highlight key points and verses throughout the text. There are also thought-provoking questions included to get the discussion going.

These study sheets were prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible. But when studying, it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. We encourage this practice because it will enable you and your companions to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Study Buddies can be used at church, in the home, or in the workplace (where permitted) **free of charge**. Here are a few ways for you to get the most out of them:

- Use in church classroom settings for both adult and youth groups. Add a little flavor by touching upon topics that are relevant to your community. Are you in an urban setting? Rural? Suburban? How does your community compare to the communities and people of the Bible? Find ties that will make the lessons personal and relevant to the specific circumstances that you are facing.
- Use with people who don't know much about the Bible. Maybe they are new Christians or people who are uncertain about what the Bible is about. These sheets can act as a primer to basic Bible knowledge about the contents of each book and why it was written.
- Use during family time with your teens and pre-teens as a reinforcement to the lessons learned in church. While your son or daughter may already think that they're adults, these study sheets can help you help them transition into adulthood with grace and compassion.
- Finally, use with your neighbors, co-workers, friends and loved ones who have expressed an interest in the Bible. Form a small in home group and increase your awareness of what the Scriptures are saying. Try to develop bonds that will help each of you remain faithful to God and his Word.

We hope that you'll find these study sheets to be an excellent starting point for your lessons.

Sincerely,  
*American Bible Society*