

The Book of Colossians

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Morning Devotions

In your devotions this morning, read **Psalm 118** again. Because there is so much in this psalm, we don't want to move on just yet. As you read, talk to the Lord about the content of this psalm. When you have finished, go back and find one or two verses and meditate prayerfully on them. Notice how God will speak to you in a completely different way this morning, even though it is the same psalm you read yesterday.

Morning Study

Yesterday we read through Paul's letter to the Colossians. This morning we take a closer look. We will look at the first section – **Colossians 1:1-23** – which can also be divided into three subsections. Read each subsection, answering for yourself the questions associated with them. Type out your answers or jot them down on a piece of paper and file your answers with your morning study.

Read Colossians 1:1-14

- Following his greetings (**1:1-2**), Paul expresses his thanks to God for the Colossian believers. What are the two things he gives thanks for? (**1:3-4**).
- What was Paul continually praying for them and why? (**1:9-12**).
- In **1:12-14**, note the four things that Paul says qualifies you to “share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.”

Read Colossians 1:15-20

- In **1:15-17**, as the “firstborn over all creation,” four things describe the Lord Jesus' relationship to his creation. What are they?
- In **1:18**, how does Paul describe the Lord Jesus' relationship to his Church?
- How has God reconciled all things to himself? (**1:19-20**).

Read Colossians 1:21-23

- In **1:21**, what are the two things Paul says were the reason you were alienated from God?
- What is the glorious result for you of Christ's ministry of reconciliation (**1:22**).
- What two things are important for you to continue in? (**1:23**).

MEMORY VERSE

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

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!