



Wednesday in the Word

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Colossians Analytical Outline

General Guidelines

1. Divide the whole text into passages. Work on one passage at a time.
2. Start main (independent) sentences at the left margin.
3. Put modifying (dependent) phrases or clauses under the words they modify.
4. Make the parallel phrases obvious. If necessary, connect them with lines.
5. Place lists of qualities, actions, etc. in vertical columns.

Making the Most of an Analytical Outline

1. Look for different interpretive options as you write your outline. Each time you put a phrase under a word, ask yourself if it could go under anything else. These different possibilities may open up new ways of seeing the passage, and perhaps even a new understanding of what the author is really saying.
2. Watch for repeated words or phrases.
3. Distinguish main statements from explanations, modifying clauses, and rabbit-trails.
4. Identify crucial words of the text for later word studies.

For instructions on how to do an analytical outline see: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/resources/analyticaloutline.pdf>

Color Key

Purple Bold - Major conjunctions and transitions

Purple text - minor conjunctions and transitional phrases

Black Bold - names and places

Red text - section theme

blue text - phrases modifying the section theme

orange text - conclusions from section theme

green underline - commands/imperatives

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1:1 **Paul**,
 an apostle of **Jesus Christ** by the will of **God**, and
Timothy our brother,

1:2 To the saints and
 faithful brethren
in Christ
who are at Colossae:
 Grace to you and
 peace from **God our Father**.

1:3 **We give thanks** to **God**,
 the **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**,
 praying always for you,

1:4 **since** we heard of **your faith in Christ Jesus** and
 the love which you have for all the saints;

1:5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven,
 of which you previously heard in the word of truth,
 the gospel

1:6 which has come to you, just as in all the world
 also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing,
 even as *it has been doing* in you also
 since the day you heard of it and
 understood the grace of **God in truth**;

1:7 just as you learned it from **Epaphras**,
 our beloved fellow bond-servant,
 who is a faithful servant of **Christ** on our behalf,

1:8 and he also informed us of **your love in the Spirit**.

1:9 **For this reason** also,
 since the day we heard of it,
 we have not ceased to pray for you and
 to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will
 in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1:10 **so that** you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,
 to please **Him** in all respects,
 bearing fruit in every good work and
 increasing in the knowledge of **God**;

1:11 strengthened with all power,
 according to **His** glorious might,
 for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

1:12 giving thanks to the **Father**,
 who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

1:13 **For He** rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of **His beloved Son**,
 1:14 in whom we have redemption,
 the forgiveness of sins.
 1:15 **He is** the image of the **invisible God**,
 the firstborn of all creation.
 1:16 **For by Him** all things were created,
 both in the heavens and on earth,
 visible and invisible,
 whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--
 all things have been created **through Him and for Him**.
 1:17 **He is** before all things, and
in Him all things hold together.
 1:18 **He is also** head of the body, the church; and
He is the beginning,
 the firstborn from the dead, so that
He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

1:19 **For** it was the **Father's** good pleasure
 for all the fullness to dwell
 in Him,
 1:20 and
through Him to reconcile all things
to Himself,
 having made peace through the blood of
His cross;
through Him,
I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

1:21 **And although**
 you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind,
 engaged in evil deeds,
 1:22 yet **He** has now reconciled you in His fleshly body
 through death,
 in order to present
 before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach--
 1:23 **if indeed** you continue in the faith
 firmly established and
 steadfast, and
 not moved away from the hope of the gospel
 that you have heard,
 which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and
 of which **I, Paul**, was made a minister.

1:24 **Now I rejoice**
in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh
I do my share on behalf of **His body**, which is the church,
in filling up what is lacking in **Christ's afflictions**.

1:25 Of *this church* I was made a minister
according to the stewardship **from God**
bestowed on me for your benefit,
so that I might fully carry out *the preaching of the word of God*,
1:26 *that is*, the **mystery which has been hidden** from the *past* ages and generations,
but has **now been manifested** to His saints,
1:27 to whom **God** willed **to make known**
what is **the riches of the glory of this mystery**
among the Gentiles,
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

1:28 **We proclaim Him**,
admonishing every man and
teaching every man with all wisdom,
so that we may **present every man complete in Christ**.

1:29 **For this purpose** also I labor,
striving according to **His power**,
which mightily works within me.

2:1 **For I want you to know**
how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for
those who are at Laodicea, and for
all those who have not personally seen my face,

2:2 that **their hearts may be encouraged**,
having been knit together in love, and
attaining to all the wealth that
comes from the **full assurance of understanding**,
resulting in a **true knowledge of God's mystery**,
that is, **Christ Himself**,

2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures **of wisdom and knowledge**.

2:4 **I say this so that**
no one will delude you with persuasive argument.

2:5 For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless
 I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and
 the stability of your faith in Christ.

2:6 **THEREFORE**
 as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so
walk in Him,

2:7 having been *firmly rooted and*
now being built up in Him and
established in your faith,
 just as you were *instructed, and*
overflowing with gratitude.

2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through
 philosophy and
 empty deception,
 according to the tradition of men,
 according to the elementary principles of the world,
 rather than according to Christ.

2:9 **For in Him** *all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*
 2:10 **and in Him** *you have been made complete, and*
 He is the head over all rule and authority;
 2:11 **and in Him** *you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands,*
 in the removal of the body of the flesh by the *circumcision of Christ;*
 2:12 having been **buried with Him in baptism**, in which
you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God,
 who raised Him from the dead.

2:13 **When you were dead** in your *transgressions* and
 the *uncircumcision of your flesh,*
He made you alive together **with Him**,
 having forgiven us all our *transgressions*,

2:14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of *decrees against us*,
 which was hostile to us; and
He has taken it out of the way,
having nailed it to the cross.

2:15 When **He** had *disarmed* the rulers and authorities,
He made a public display of them,
 having triumphed over them **through Him**.

- 2:16 **THEREFORE**
no one is to act as your judge in regard to **food or drink** or
in respect to a **festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day--**
- 2:17 things which are a **mere shadow** of what is to come;
but the **substance** belongs to Christ.
- 2:18 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize
by **delighting in self-abasement** and
the **worship of the angels**,
taking his stand on *visions* he has seen,
inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,
2:19 and **not holding fast to the head**,
from whom the entire body,
being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments,
grows with a growth which is from God.
- 2:20 **If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world,**
why, as if you were living in the world,
do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,
2:21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"
2:22 (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)--
in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?
- 2:23 These are matters which have, to be sure,
the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and
self-abasement and
severe treatment of the body,
but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

3:1 **THEREFORE**
 if you have been raised up **with Christ**,
keep seeking the things above. where **Christ** is, seated at the right hand of **God**.

3:2 Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

3:3 For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

3:4 When **Christ**, who is our life, is revealed,
 then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

3:5 **THEREFORE**
consider the members of your earthly body as dead to
 immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed, which amounts to idolatry.

3:6 For it is because of these things that
 the wrath of God will come upon the sons of disobedience,
 3:7 and in them you also once walked,
 when you were living in them.

3:8 **But now** you also,
put them all aside: anger, wrath, malice, slander, *and* abusive speech from your mouth.

3:9 Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its *evil* practices,
 3:10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed
 to a true knowledge according to the image of **the One who created him--**
 3:11 *a renewal* in which there is no *distinction between* Greek and Jew,
 circumcised and uncircumcised,
 barbarian, Scythian,
 slave and freeman,
 but **Christ** is all, and in all.

3:12 **So**, as those who have been chosen of God,
 holy and beloved,
put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;
 3:13 bearing with one another, and
 forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone;
 just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.

3:14 Beyond all these things
put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
 to which indeed you were called in one body; and
 be thankful.

3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you,
 with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another
 with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing
 with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed,
do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks **through Him to God the Father.**

3:18 **Wives,** be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
3:19 **Husbands,** love your wives and
do not be embittered against them.
3:20 **Children,** be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.
3:21 **Fathers,** do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
3:22 **Slaves,** in all things obey those who are your masters on earth,
not with external service, as those who *merely* please men,
but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.
3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for **the Lord** rather than for men,
3:24 knowing that from **the Lord** you will receive the reward of the inheritance.
It is the **Lord Christ** whom you serve.
3:25 For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and
that without partiality.
4:1 **Masters,** grant to your slaves
justice and fairness, knowing that you too have a Master in heaven.
4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer,
keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;
4:3 praying at the same time for us as well,
that **God** will open up to us a door for the word,
so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ,
for which I have also been imprisoned;
4:4 that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.
4:5 Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders,
making the most of the opportunity.
4:6 Let your speech always be with grace,
as though seasoned with salt,
so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

- 4:7 **As to all my affairs,**
Tychicus, *our* beloved brother and
faithful servant and fellow bond-servant **in the Lord,**
will bring you information.
- 4:8 **For I have sent him** to you for this very purpose,
that you may know about our circumstances and
that he may encourage your hearts;
- 4:9 and with him
Onesimus, *our* faithful and beloved brother,
who is one of your *number*.
They will inform you about the whole situation here.
- 4:10 **Aristarchus,** my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also
Barnabas's cousin Mark
(about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);
- 4:11 and also
Jesus who is called Justus;
these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of **God** who are from the circumcision, and
they have proved to be an encouragement to me.
- 4:12 **Epaphras,** who is one of your number, a bonds slave of **Jesus Christ,**
sends you his greetings,
always laboring earnestly for you in his prayers,
that you may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of God.
- 4:13 For I testify for him that he has a deep concern for you and
for those who are in **Laodicea and Hierapolis.**
- 4:14 **Luke, the beloved physician,** sends you his greetings, and also
Demas.
- 4:15 Greet the brethren who are in **Laodicea** and also
Nympha and the church that is in her house.
- 4:16 When this letter is read among you,
have it also read in the church of the **Laodiceans;** and you, for your part
read my letter *that is coming* from **Laodicea.**
- 4:17 Say to **Archippus,** "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it."
- 4:18 **I, Paul,** write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.