

**Study Guide for *Colossians,*  
*Ephesians, Philemon,*  
*Philippians, and Calvin's*  
*Commentaries* on the same**

---

**Extra Reading for the course:  
"Paul's Prison Epistles"**

ACADEMIC  
PACKET

**RESOURCES FOR GROUPS  
USING THE ACADEMIC PACKETS**



**READ COLOSSIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILEMON, PHILIPPIANS,  
and CALVIN'S COMMENTARIES ON THE SAME EPISTLES**

**REVIEW QUESTIONS**

**Colossians**

1. According to Calvin, what happened to the cities of Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis, shortly after Paul wrote his letter to the Colossians?
2. How does Calvin describe the false teaching that began to distract the Colossians from the true Gospel?
3. Calvin says, "Let us, however, bear in mind, that the wisdom which is alone commended by Paul is comprehended in the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. According to Calvin, what is the meaning of the phrase in Colossians 1:15, "who is the image of the invisible God"?
5. According to Calvin, what does the phrase "first-born of every creature" mean in Colossians 1:15?
6. In his comments on Colossians 1:20, where it says that in Christ, God reconciled all things to Himself, "whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven," what does he say about angels?
7. How does Calvin interpret the phrase "enemies in your *mind*," found in Colossians 1:21?
8. Calvin asserts, "The entire blessing of redemption consists mainly in these two things, remission of sins, and \_\_\_\_\_."
9. Does Calvin say that the phrase in Colossians 1:23, "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled,..." indicates that a true Christian may lose his faith and lose his salvation?
10. How does Calvin interpret the phrase in Colossians 1:24, where Paul says that his suffering "fills up what is wanting" in the afflictions of Christ?
11. In Colossians 2, Paul mentions two things, in which the perfection of the Church consists — \_\_\_\_\_ among themselves, and faith in Christ.
12. In Colossians 2:6, Paul exhorts the believers to "\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ as they received Him."
13. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean by "philosophy" in Colossians 2:8?
14. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean by the "elements (or rudiments) of the world" in Colossians 2:8?
15. In what sense had the Colossians been "circumcised"?
16. What New Testament ceremony represents being "circumcised" in Christ and being "buried with Christ"?

17. What phrase does Paul use to describe the Colossians' sinful state before believing in Christ?
18. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean in Colossians 2:14, when he says the "hand-writing" was "nailed to the cross"?
19. Does Calvin believe that Colossians 2:16 means that it is no longer necessary to celebrate any days or holidays as sacred?
20. What does it mean that we are "dead to the rudiments of the world," (Colossians 2:20), according to Calvin?
21. How does Calvin interpret Paul's use of the terms "old man" and "new man"?
22. In Colossians 3, Paul tells us to put on \_\_\_\_\_ above all, which is the bond of perfectness.
23. Does Calvin believe that children should obey their parents, even if they ask them to do something against God's law?
24. Does Calvin believe that "Luke the physician," mentioned by Paul in Colossians 4:14, is the same Luke who wrote the Gospel?
25. Calvin says that all households should be "\_\_\_\_\_."

### **Ephesians**

1. Had Paul ever visited the church in Ephesus before writing his letter to them?
2. How does Calvin explain the phrase in Ephesians 1:4, "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world"?
3. Calvin speaks of "three causes of our salvation." Explain each one:
  - a. The efficient cause
  - b. The material cause
  - c. The final cause
4. What "mystery" of God's will had been hidden, according to Paul in Ephesians 1:9-10?
5. According to Calvin, in what sense is the Holy Spirit the "earnest of our inheritance" (Ephesians 1:14)?
6. According to Calvin, what is the meaning of the words "principality, and power, and might, and dominion" mentioned in Ephesians 1:21?
7. What word does Paul use in Ephesians 2:1 to describe the sinful state of man without Christ?
8. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean when he says in Ephesians 2:3 that we were "children of wrath"?
9. What does Paul mean when he says we have been "raised up together with Christ" (Ephesians 2:6), according to Calvin?

10. In commenting on Ephesians 2:8, Calvin asserts, "Faith, then, brings a man \_\_\_\_\_ to God, that he may be filled with the blessings of Christ."
11. What does Paul say about the religious situation of the Ephesians before they came to faith in Christ?
12. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean in Ephesians 2:15, when he says that Christ has abolished "the law of commandments, contained in ordinances"?
13. How does Calvin interpret the statement in Ephesians 2:20 that we are built upon the "foundation" of the apostles and prophets?
14. Does Calvin assert that the inclusion of the Gentiles was not mentioned in the Old Testament?
15. What future change regarding the law had not been understood during the Old Testament, a change that opened the door for Gentiles, according to Calvin?
16. In what sense did God especially make known his "manifold wisdom," as expressed in Ephesians 3:10, according to Calvin?
17. Does Calvin say that if someone has Christ, he also has the Holy Spirit?
18. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean when he says there is "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5)?
19. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean when he says that Christ "led captivity captive" (Ephesians 4:8)?
20. What does Paul mean when he says that Christ "descended first into the lower parts of the earth" (Ephesians 4:9), according to Calvin?
21. How does Calvin understand the word "apostles" in Ephesians 4:11?
22. How does Calvin understand the word "prophets" in Ephesians 4:11?
23. Does Calvin think that the phrase "pastors and teachers" refers to one and the same church office?
24. Does Calvin argue that we should not be angry at people, but only at their faults?
25. According to Calvin, what does Paul mean when he says in Ephesians 5:5 that "no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God"?
26. Does Calvin believe that Ephesians 5:11 ("have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness") means that Christians should not be friends with non Christians?
27. Does Calvin think that Ephesians 5:22 ("Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord") was an ethical norm that was valid for the society of the time of the New Testament, but that it no longer applies in our modern society?
28. Calvin states, "The man who does not love his wife is a \_\_\_\_\_."
29. Since Paul uses the word "mystery" (translated "sacramentum" in the Latin Vulgate) to refer to the union of a man and a women in marriage in Ephesians 5:32, does Calvin argue that marriage should be considered a sacrament?

30. Referring to Ephesians 6:4, Calvin says, "Parents, on the other hand, are exhorted not to irritate their children by \_\_\_\_\_."

31. List the elements included in the spiritual armor that Paul describes in Ephesians 6.

### **Philemon**

1. Where was Paul when he wrote the letter to Philemon?

2. Where did the church meet in which Philemon participated?

3. How does Calvin believe that verse 7 of Philemon should be translated?

4. In Philemon, verse 10, Paul calls Onesimus his \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Does Paul think that Onesimus has done nothing wrong?

6. How did God turn the problem of Onesimus' escape into a blessing? What benefits does Paul mention in his letter to Philemon?

### **Philippians**

1. What was the occasion of Paul's writing to the Philippians?

2. Was one of Paul's concerns for the Philippians the presence of false apostles among them?

3. Does Calvin consider the terms "bishop" and "pastor" to be synonymous in the New Testament?

4. According to Calvin, does Paul normally use the term "deacon" to mean the same thing as "elder"?

5. Does Paul think the Philippians are true believers?

6. What blessing does Paul mention that has resulted from his imprisonment in Rome, according to Philippians 1:12-13?

7. Calvin understands the "praetorium" to be the hall and palace of \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Does Paul rejoice when the gospel is preached, even if it is out of false motives?

9. In Philippians 1:20, Paul says, "For me to live is \_\_\_\_\_."

10. According to Calvin, does Paul mean to say in Philippians 1: 23 that, in terms of personal benefit, it would be better for him to die?

11. What special quality of Christ does Paul highlight in Philippians 2?

12. According to Calvin, in what sense did Christ "empty" Himself when He took the form of a man?

13. How does Calvin interpret the phrase in Philippians 2:12, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling"?

14. Why does Paul especially commend Timothy, in Philippians 2:20-22?
15. According to Philippians 2:26-27, why were the Philippians concerned about Epaphroditus?
16. How does Calvin interpret the phrase in Philippians 3:2, where Paul calls the false teachers the "concision"?
17. How does Calvin interpret Philippians 3:11, where Paul says, "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead"?
18. How does Calvin interpret the phrase in Philippians 4:5, "the Lord is at hand"?
19. According to Philippians 4:7, what do we receive when we pray and give thanks?
20. According to Calvin, when Paul says he can do "all things" in Christ, he means he can do all things related to his \_\_\_\_\_.
21. According to Calvin, when Paul says, "my God will supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19), what kind of needs is he speaking only of?