



# Spiritual Disciplines Guide

Week of May 19, 2024

The book of Colossians is a parallel letter of Paul to the book of Ephesians. Both were written in the early 60's from prison in Rome. If Ephesians' theme is "*Who We Are in Christ*", the theme of Colossians is "*Who Christ Is*". The first two chapters of Colossians give major emphasis to the superiority of Jesus Christ, especially [Chapter 1:15-20](#) and [Chapter 2:8-17](#). Apparently the local false doctrines of gnosticism were infiltrating the church and challenging the deity of Christ and his superiority over every living thing. Paul writes this letter to correct that fallacy and clarify Christ's position as head over all.

The second two chapters, as is typical for Paul, deal with practical applications of our faith in Christian living, relationships and responsibilities. Especially notable in Paul's exhortation for us to live out our new identity as Christians and to put away all old sinful practices from our previous years of life. Since Colossians is a short book, we'll read it through twice this week. May God give you greater insight into who Christ is and how you can better represent him in your life.

Monday, May 20: Read [Colossians 1-2](#)

\*Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

**Monday: Pray for yourself:**

My relationship with God

My life roles and responsibilities

My personal needs/weak areas

My goals and objectives for the spring season.

Tuesday, May 21: Read [Colossians 3-4](#)

\*Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

***Tuesday: Pray for Family by Name.***

Wednesday, : May 22: Read [Colossians 1](#)

Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

***Wednesday: Pray for Bethel Gilead Community Church***

1. Leadership: Pray for God's grace and guidance in Pastor Jim and Pastor David's ministries and families. Pray for Linda Penn in her work at BGCC. Pray for the church council and the various ministry team leaders. Ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up more workers for the harvest ([Matthew 9:38](#))
2. Worship: Ask God to strengthen our devotion to Him, in prayer, praise and thanksgiving. Pray for more musicians to help lead the church in worship, including a pianist. Pray for the development of a youth praise team.
3. Fellowship: Ask God to deepen our love and commitment to one another as a family of believers. Pray that we incorporate newcomers into our church fellowship. Take some time to pray through this past Sunday's congregational prayer requests.
4. Discipleship: Ask God to develop the faith, dedication, and leadership of our people. Pray for the children and youth ministries at BGCC. Ask God to bless our small group ministry, to raise up new groups, new teachers and more leaders.
5. Outreach: Pray that God will use Bethel Gilead to make a positive impact on our community so that many would come to Christ. Ask God to embolden our people to intentionally reach out to others.
6. Future Faith Goals: Ask God to give our congregation a united vision for the future.

1. Pray for God's clear leading in our future plans as we call our members to a greater love and commitment to the Lord and his service. Ask God to bless our finances so that we can better accomplish his purposes for our congregation.

Thursday, May 23: Read [Colossians 2](#)

Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

***Thursday: Pray for "My World"***

*(Write down names as God brings people to mind.)*

- Neighbors • People who live around me.
- People at Work • Others God brings into my life. Take note of specific needs around you and ask God what he wants you to do to help. Who can you invite to church?
- Community -- Ask God to bring revival and a spiritual awakening to Branch County, even through time of crisis.
- Pray for the area churches and a greater spirit of unity and cooperation, especially as churches unite through the Branch County Canopy of Prayer.
- Pray for the community parachurch ministries serving our county, including Beginnings Care for Life Center, Branch County Right to Life, Joppa Recovery/Celebrate Recovery, Coach Eby Center, Family Promise, Forgotten Man Ministries, Freedom Recovery Center, God's Choice Church, Jacob's Well Ministry, Presbyterian Free Health Clinic, Shelterhouse, Tommy's House, the Gideons and the Bronson Food Pantry.
- America: Continue to pray for the nation, our national leaders and a revival in America. Pray that God would use the economy and world events to lead people to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for God's guidance and protection for our nation in the coming weeks and months.

Friday, May 24: Read [Colossians 3-4](#)

Chapter highlights:

\*A key passage for me:

\*One point of application from today's reading:

*Friday: Pray for Our Missionaries*

*David & Miriam Trott* (Spain), *Dan and DeAnn Gerard* (San Antonio, TX), *Craig and Shelly Schafer* (Asia-Pacific Region), *Joe and Sue Saunders-Robb* (Reliant), *Daniel Jezowski* (Papau, New Guinea), *Brad and Christa Babjack* (Michigan State University), *Alvaro and Raquel Garriga* (Central Asia), *Spectrum Ministries* (Tijuana, Mexico), *Gloria Stutzman* (Ensenada, Mexico)