



Daily Quiet Time Guide

Colossians, Week 2

Devotional Adapted From: Unrivaled and Who is Jesus?



HOW TO HAVE A DAILY QUIET TIME

The QT Guide is designed to help you MOVE with God through Bible Reading, reflection and prayer. It can be completed in about 7 minutes.

½ Minute Preparing Your Heart: Invest the first 30 seconds preparing your heart. You might pray, “Lord, cleanse my heart so You can speak to me through the Scriptures. Make my mind alert, my soul active, and my heart responsive. Surround me with Your presence during this time.

4 Minutes Listening To God: Take the next four minutes to read the Bible. Your greatest need is to hear a word from God. Allow the Word to strike fire in your heart. Meet the Author!

2.5 Minutes Talking To God: After God has spoken through His Book, then speak to Him in prayer.

DAY 1

Titus 2:13, John 5:18, John 10:30

Is Jesus God?

There is more confusion around the person of Jesus Christ than any other figure in human history. While most people readily accept that Jesus was a man, many will rage if you claim that He is *more* than a man.

But was He?

And if so, what’s the evidence?

First, Jesus understood himself to be divine. He claimed to be the eternal “I AM” (compare Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58). He claimed equality with God (John 5:18; 10:30). He openly accepted worship (Matthew 8:2; 9:18; 14:33; Mark 5:6; John 9:38; 20:28). He forgave sin (Matthew 9:2; Luke 7:47-48; John 8:11). He even expected His disciples to pray in His name (John 14:13-14).

Second, the disciples believed Jesus was divine. Thomas called Him God (John 20:28). John wrote, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1).

Matthew referred to Jesus as “Immanuel,” which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). Paul wrote of Jesus, “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (Colossians 2:9). And that is just a mere sampling.

Third, God the Father recognized the divinity of Christ. In Hebrews 1:8 we read, “But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.’” In this verse the Father calls Jesus, His Son, “God.” Pretty powerful!

Finally, the early church believed Jesus was divine. This is seen through their writings and creedal documents such as the Nicene and Chalcedonian Creeds. For example, the Chalcedonian Creed of AD 451 exclaims that Jesus is “truly God and truly man.” That is to say that He is one person with two natures: human and divine. He’s man, and He’s more than a man. He’s the God-man.

Jesus is the fullness of God.

Consider: What’s at stake if we demote Jesus to merely a man?

DAY 2

John 1:1, John 1:6, John 1:12-13, John 1:18

The Word Was God.

One of the most theologically in-depth passages in all of Scripture is John 1:1. This verse is a Christian gem. It’s a verse you could quickly coast over, yet it’s stunning how much truth is embedded in such a few words.

John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” *Word* is a translation of the Greek word *logos* and serves as a title referring to Jesus. *The Logos is God’s quintessential self-unveiling to humankind in the Person of Jesus Christ.*

How does John 1:1 help us understand that Jesus, the Word, is divine?

First, John 1:1 reveals that the Word was eternal. John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word.” The word *was* is in the imperfect tense, indicating a *continued* existence. So we can unpack it as follows. The Word, the eternal *logos*, Jesus Christ, was *already* in the beginning before the beginning became a beginning. Before time began, the Word was already existing—eternally existing. He was there before all of creation was here.

Second, John 1:1 calls the Word “God.” Now John takes us deeper into the theology of the eternal *logos* by attributing deity to Jesus Christ. In the final part of John 1:1 he writes, “and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Jesus was not only with God, but He *is* God. This is one of those verses in the Bible that helps us see the plurality within the Godhead. Christians believe there is one God revealed in three separate Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Consider: God wants to show Jesus to the world through us. We are His image bearers. Take time today to reflect on Jesus and ask God to help others see Him in you.

DAY 3

Colossians 1:15-20

Prototypes and Image-Bearers

The dictionary defines prototype as “a first, preliminary model of something from which other forms are developed or copied.” It’s an original model on which something is patterned, one that exhibits the essential features the subsequent models should also exhibit.

In today’s passage, Paul tells us that Jesus “is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” The Greek word for firstborn (*prototokos*) here doesn’t actually mean what we think. It’s not talking about the eldest child in a family. Jesus wasn’t born; otherwise He’d be created *by* God and thus wouldn’t *be* God. In John 8:58, Jesus confirmed this truth, saying, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

The statement Jesus was making was not that He was born before Abraham, but that He actually never came into being at all. Instead, Jesus, the eternal Word incarnate, existed before Abraham had a being. In other words, He always existed.

The use of “firstborn” is telling us that Jesus is the preeminent, self-existent prototype for all humanity. He is the model, the image and likeness of God we were created in. He is God in the flesh, God incarnate. That’s why Paul follows it by saying, “For in him all things were created...all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” It’s almost a mirroring of what John wrote in John 1:1–3, which tells us, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” And as we see a few verses later in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

Not only is Jesus our Creator, He’s also our example. He made us, He sustains us, and He leads us as Lord of our individual lives and Head of our common life as His Church. How does He accomplish this? In the same way God dwells with Jesus, He’s also pleased to have His Spirit dwell in us. As His Spirit dwells in us, we’re sustained by Him and guided by Him to live in submission and imitation of our Lord and Savior.

Consider: What does it mean to you that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God” and “the firstborn over all creation”?

DAY 4

Colossians 1:21-23

Before and After

Although Paul was under Roman house arrest for preaching the gospel, he still chose to write to the Colossian church because its founder, Epaphras, was greatly concerned with the infiltrating heresy. The false beliefs trickling through their church proclaimed that Jesus was not truly God and that certain acts were required to be saved. These were clear and heavy obstructions of the true gospel which is why Paul clarifies the gospel message and its implications for our lives throughout much of the letter.

Think about pre and post workout pictures. Why is this phenomenon so popular and satisfying? Perhaps it’s because the Lord has wired us to find beauty in positive transformation since that is exactly what He offers us through the gospel. As Paul states in today’s Scripture, we used to be “alienated” and “enemies” of God. Our evil hearts and deeds completely disconnected us from our holy God, yet

He made a way to reconcile us through His son, our Savior. Before Christ, we were evil, hateful, and slaves to our sin, yet after Christ, we are “holy in [God’s] sight, without blemish and free from accusation.”

The difference between our reconciliation and before and after workout photos is that we did nothing to make our reconciliation happen. Our reconciliation to God was only accomplished by His sacrifice, grace, plan, and love. There is nothing we could ever do to earn right standing with God, no amount of good deeds or moral behavior will get us to Heaven. God chose to make the way to Him possible through Christ.

Just like the “after” in a workout plan must be kept up with a lifestyle change and dedication to healthier habits, our “after” in the reconciliation God offers us, must result in a lifestyle change as well. Paul says that we must “continue in [our] faith, established and firm” because the gospel redefines our purpose. Yes, we now live to glorify God and point others to Him, but it’s through the countercultural and holy way that we live our lives.

As John describes in 1 John 3:3, those who hold onto the same hope that Paul speaks of in today’s Scripture, will “purify themselves, just as he [God] is pure.” As we live in the hope of the gospel, may we not lack in allowing it to completely change our lives.

Consider: Why is it important to acknowledge and embrace the biblical truth that the gospel will change the way you think, act, and live?

DAY 5

Romans 13:1, Isaiah 53:1-12

King or Pawn?

Is Jesus truly the King of Kings as he claimed? Or was he just a pawn in the power struggles of ancient history? Is Jesus seated “at [God’s] right hand in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 1:20)? Or is he just like the other figures in history who have come and gone?

The Bible reveals that throughout the history of Israel, God raised up people of power to accomplish his purpose in time and in eternity—men and women like Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Esther, and Ruth. He also raised up foreign powers, like the Babylonians and the Persians, to enact his will on the earth. At times, God’s people certainly wondered if he had forgotten about them as they remained exiled from the homeland. But looking back on the course of history, it is apparent that God always had a plan and a purpose for every move.

When you look at the events surrounding Jesus’ arrest, trial, and crucifixion, it can make you wonder whether God was in control. From outward appearances, it seems as if Jesus was just passed from one power to the next—from the Jewish authorities to the Roman government—like a pawn moved around on a chessboard. And it’s difficult to consider a worse outcome to these events: God, in human flesh, was betrayed and crucified on a Roman cross. This doesn’t sound like the all-powerful God we read about in Scripture. So was He in control?

As we look back in history, we see that God was using these earthly powers to unfold his plan. God needed *inside* power—the Jewish leaders—to railroad the Son of God. He also needed outside

power—the Roman authorities—to crucify him. He needed this so the prophecies would be fulfilled that he would suffer and die for our sins (see Isaiah 53:1–12). In this way, he could raise Jesus from the dead on the third day—and thus explode into life a Church that is triumphant to this day.

At times, it's easy to feel like a pawn in the chess game of life. It can seem that others hold all the power and are wrecking God's plans for us. But always remember that when you're submitted to the King, your future is in his hands. You don't have to worry about other people altering God's plans for you, for he is always in charge. He sacrificed Himself for you and was the Supreme Conqueror of the grave.

Consider: How have you seen God use a difficult circumstance to bring you closer to him? How does knowing that God is always in control help you to respond to adversity?