

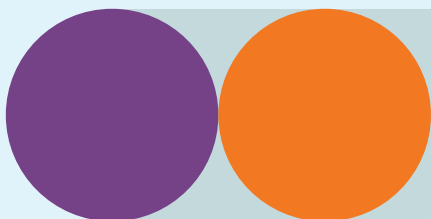
THOMAS NELSON
NEW KING JAMES VERSION®

COLOR CODE BIBLE FOR KIDS



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COLOR CODE BIBLE FOR KIDS



Unlock the Bible for your Kids: 1,900 Color-Coded Verses for Kids to Explore Scripture in a Fun and Interactive Way!

The *Color Code Bible for Kids* is designed to make key themes in the Bible easily recognizable. By simplifying complex biblical concepts through this unique color-coded system, The *Color Code Bible for Kids* empowers children to understand and live out their faith with confidence and joy.

Nine separate categories with different color highlights provide focused attention to the most important biblical concepts in the Bible.

- God highlighted in gold
- Jesus highlighted in red
- Sin highlighted in navy
- Salvation highlighted in orange
- Love highlighted in pink
- Worship highlighted in blue
- Growth highlighted in green
- Heaven highlighted in purple
- Family highlighted in teal

Children can begin studying the Bible for themselves while also quickly applying the truths found in each passage.

Plus, a color-code index provides all the verses highlighted for each concept to easily do a more focused study of a particular theme by themselves or with a parent.



Why Millions Trust the NKJV

The New King James Version preserves the authority and accuracy, as well as the rhythm and beauty, of the original King James Version while making it understandable to current readers. The result is a Bible translation with a majestic touch that is clear and readable for children.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT THE BIBLE?

- 40** Human writers of the Bible
- 1,600** Years it took to write the Bible (~1500 BC to ~ AD 100)
- 3** Languages the Bible was written in (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek)
- 3** Continents the Bible was written on (Asia, Africa, and Europe)
- 1,200+** Languages the Bible has been translated into
- 5,000,000,000+** Bibles that have been sold¹

SIGNIFICANT YEARS IN BIBLE PUBLISHING

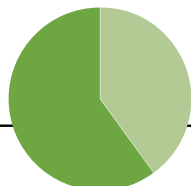
- 1228** Chapter numbers added to the Bible
- 1388** First Bible in English published
- 1448** Old Testament verse numbers added to the Bible
- 1551** New Testament verse numbers added to the Bible
- 1752** First Bible in America published
- 1901** Red letters of Jesus' words added to the Bible
- 1982** New King James Version published

BOOKS, CHAPTERS, AND VERSES OF THE BIBLE

WHOLE BIBLE 66 BOOKS

OLD TESTAMENT
39 BOOKS

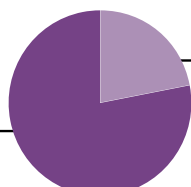
NEW TESTAMENT
27 BOOKS



WHOLE BIBLE 1,189 CHAPTERS

OLD TESTAMENT
929 CHAPTERS

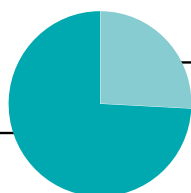
NEW TESTAMENT
260 CHAPTERS



WHOLE BIBLE 31,102 VERSES

OLD TESTAMENT
23,145 VERSES

NEW TESTAMENT
7,957 VERSES



¹ Guinness World Records, "Best selling book of non-fiction," Guinness World Records, <http://www.guinness-worldrecords.com/world-records/best-selling-book-of-non-fiction/>.

What is Special About The Bible?

	BOOK	CHAPTER	VERSE
MIDDLE			
Whole Bible	Micah/Nahum	Psalms 117	Psalms 103:1-2
Old Testament	Proverbs	Job 29	2 Chronicles 18:30
New Testament	2 Thessalonians	Romans 13-14	Acts 7:7
SHORTEST			
Old Testament	Obadiah (646 words)	Psalms 117 (30 words)	Gen. 10:27 + 90 others (3 words)
New Testament	3 John (296 words)	Revelation 15 (244 words)	John 11:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:16 (2 words)
LONGEST			
Old Testament	Psalms (42,023 words)	Psalms 119 (2,386 words)	Esther 8:9 (81 words)
New Testament	Luke (25,412 words)	Matthew 26 (1,619 words)	Revelation 20:4 (70 words)

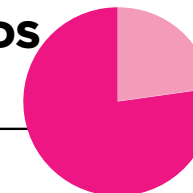
WORDS IN THE BIBLE

WHOLE BIBLE

769,296 WORDS

OLD TESTAMENT
591,320 WORDS

NEW TESTAMENT
177,976 WORDS



MIDDLE

Whole Bible	"the inward" (Ps. 64:6)
Old Testament	"soldiers of" (1 Chr. 19:18)
New Testament	"me, that" (Acts 8:24)

MAHER-SHALAL-HASH-AZ Longest word (18 letters)

9,706 Appearances of *a/an*

61,650 Appearances of *the*

4,425 Appearances of *God* or *god*

7,909 Appearances of *lord, Lord, or Lord*

981 Appearances of *Jesus*

361 Appearances of *love*

158 Appearances of *joy*

What is Special About the Bible?

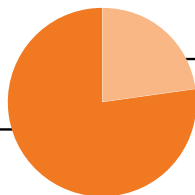
LETTERS IN THE BIBLE

WHOLE BIBLE

**3,124,782
LETTERS**

OLD TESTAMENT

2,402,942 LETTERS



NEW TESTAMENT

721,840 LETTERS

MIDDLE

Whole Bible	fl in "flesh" (Ps. 63:1)
Old Testament	at in "that" (1 Chr. 22:12)
New Testament	N a in "heaven again" (Acts 10:16)

Verse that contains all the letters of the alphabet: **EZEKIEL 28:13**

Verse that contains all the letters of the alphabet except "j": **EZRA 7:21**

Verses that contain all the letters of the alphabet except "q": **GENESIS 34:30; JOSHUA 7:24; 1 CHRONICLES 12:40; 1 KINGS 1:9; HAGGAI 1:1**

Verses that contain all the letters of the alphabet except "x": **2 KINGS 1:2; 2 KINGS 16:15; 1 CHRONICLES 4:10**

Verses that contain all the letters of the alphabet except "z": **1 KINGS 19:21; JEREMIAH 21:12; EZEKIEL 18:17**

THE COLOR CODE BIBLE OVERVIEW

The *Color Code Bible* is designed to help you trace nine of the more important ideas, or themes, of the Bible: **GOD, JESUS, SIN, SALVATION, LOVE, WORSHIP, GROWTH, HEAVEN, and FAMILY**. Each of these themes is central to what the Bible is all about—God's plan to forgive you through your coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Each of these themes has been assigned a color, and verses that speak to that theme are highlighted in that color throughout the Bible.

GOD

GOLD
God

God has always existed and is the creator of everything. He made us so that we could be in a relationship with Him. When people sinned and that relationship was broken, God put a plan in motion to restore that relationship through Jesus Christ. This is what the Bible is all about.

The Bible doesn't just tell us about God's plan to forgive us. It also shares quite a bit about who God is—how amazing and great He is. While we cannot know everything about God, we can know plenty.

We can know that God is three Persons in one. This is called the Trinity and is one of the more difficult truths about God to understand. God is one, but He has always existed in three Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. God the Father is fully God. Jesus, the Son, is fully God. The Holy Spirit is fully God. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not three different Gods or each one-third part of God. They are the three Persons of our one God. While the word Trinity does not appear in the Bible, we can see it demonstrated in Jesus' baptism when the Father spoke and the Spirit descended while the Son came up out of the water (see Luke 3:21–22). Furthermore, Jesus commanded that people be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (see Matt. 28:19). The Trinity is taught in several other passages (e.g., 2 Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 4:4; 1 Pet. 1:2).

We can know that God is Spirit. Another important truth about God is that He is Spirit; He has no physical body (see John 4:24). When we think of a person, we think of a body first because that is what we see. But a body isn't what makes you a person. The inner part of you that is often called a spirit, or a soul, is. This is where your thoughts, emotions, decisions, likes, and dislikes come from. When the Bible tells us that God is Spirit, it means He has thoughts, emotions, decisions, likes, and dislikes too. However, unlike us, all that God thinks, feels, and does is perfect. And He has no body like we have to limit Him. We can only be in one place at a time. God is everywhere. We get sick and die. God does not.

We can know that God is holy. The word *holy* means to be set apart or different. God is completely separate from sin and evil (see Lev. 19:2). All He is and all He does is good and perfect. And just as God is separate from sin, He also cannot accept people who are sinful. This is why He could not just look the other way at our sins but must judge us for it. This is where the beauty of the gospel shines. God did not just ignore sin; He judged it when Jesus took it upon Himself and died on the cross.

We can know that God is love. Because God is holy, He could have left us to face the punishment for our sins against Him. But He is also love (see 1 John 4:8). He isn't just loving. He is the source and definition of love. And God pours out His amazing, perfect love freely on us. The Bible tells

The Color Code Bible Overview

us that nothing can separate those who trust in Jesus from God's love—ever (see Rom. 8:38–39).

There are many other attributes of God that are just as important—He is infinite, unchanging, righteous, and true, for example. You can learn about these, too, by exploring the highlighted verses.

The *Color Code Bible* highlights verses about God in gold. Job 37:22 says God “comes from the north as golden splendor.” When we think of gold, we think of something of great worth. Because nothing is more valuable than God, gold is the perfect color to assign to the verses about Him. As you read the *Color Code Bible*, watch for the gold-colored verses. They will help you get to know your amazing heavenly Father.

JESUS

RED Jesus

Jesus is the Son of God. Just like God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, the Son of God has always existed and always will. He was present and active in creating the world (see Col. 1:16), and He will be present to bring in the new heaven and earth (see Rev. 21). Unlike God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, though, the Son of God came to earth as a human, being born in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. Jesus grew up and lived like any other person, except He never sinned. He obeyed God the Father completely.

Jesus came to earth for several reasons. He came to show us who God is and what He is like. We can learn much about God by what is written in the Bible—that He is loving and good, for example. But seeing Jesus' love and goodness in action helps us understand God that much more.

Jesus also came to teach about God's kingdom. God is our Creator and our perfect Ruler. God wants us to live according to His ways, and when we do, we bring Him glory and experience joyful living. This is what many of Jesus' parables are about.

Jesus also came to earth to die for our sins. Even though Jesus was completely sinless, He willingly took the sins of people upon Himself. And in its place, He gives His own perfect obedience, or righteousness. Second Corinthians 5:21 puts it this way: “For He [the Father] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” This means that when you trust in Jesus, all your sin is taken by Him—every sin you have committed and every sin you will commit—and in its place, Jesus gives you His perfect righteousness. When God the Father sees you, then, He sees you looking just like Jesus. You are fully forgiven and pleasing to God no matter what.

While we learn most about Jesus in the New Testament, especially in the four Gospels, all the Bible tells His story, so we can learn about Him in all sixty-six books. Just because the name Jesus is not found in the Old Testament doesn't mean He isn't there. The Old Testament includes God's many promises that He would provide Jesus and what Jesus would be like. These are called prophecies. God promised He would send someone to defeat Satan way back in the Garden of Eden (see Gen. 3:15). We also learn that Jesus would be part of Abraham's family (see Gen. 12:3), be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2), perform great miracles (see Is. 42), be the Suffering Servant (see Is. 53), ride into Jerusalem on a donkey (see Zech. 9:9), and much more.

We also see many pictures of Jesus and what He would do throughout the Old Testament. For example, when God was freeing His people from captivity in Egypt, He sent ten plagues so that the Egyptian pharaoh would let them go. The tenth plague was the most severe—the death of the firstborn male in every home. God, however, provided a way for His people to

The Color Code Bible Overview

be spared from this plague. Each Hebrew family was to take the blood of a spotless lamb and place it around their door. Then, when God went through Egypt, He passed over the homes marked by blood. You can read more about this in Exodus 11–12. This true story looks forward to what Jesus did for us. Because Jesus gave up His life, all who trust in Him are spared from God's judgment too.

Another clear picture of Jesus is the Day of Atonement, which you can read about in Leviticus 16. After God brought His people out of Egypt, He gave them instructions for how they were to live and worship Him. But they still had the problem of sin to deal with. So, God commanded that they celebrate the Day of Atonement each year. On this day, the high priest would take two goats before the people. He would pray over the first and symbolically place the sins of the people on it. He would then sacrifice that goat, providing a picture of that goat dying in the people's place. The high priest would then take the second goat, pray over it, and symbolically place the sins of the people on it too. Only this time, he would release the goat into the wilderness, symbolizing how the people's sins had been removed far away from them. Both of these goats picture what Jesus would do with our sin, perfectly, once and for all.

The *Color Code Bible* highlights verses about Jesus in red. This color reminds us how Jesus shed His blood when He died on the cross. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these red verses about Jesus. By reading them, you will discover how amazing Jesus is and what an incredible, undeserved gift He is to us.

SIN

NAVY Sin

Sin is thinking or doing anything that goes against what God has commanded. All people sin. There is no one living on this earth who is perfectly good and never disobeys God. But that was not how God created us.

When God made the first people—Adam and Eve—they were sinless. They lived in a beautiful garden called Eden and had a very close friendship with God. They had everything they needed or could ever want. But they had one rule to obey: they were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. One day, Satan used a serpent to trick Adam and Eve. He told them that God had lied when He said they would die if they ate from that tree and that if they did eat from it, they would become wise like God. Adam and Eve ended up believing Satan's lies rather than God's truth, and they ate from that tree in rebellion against God.

Because of what Adam and Eve did, sin entered the world, and everyone is now a sinner. The Bible says that the punishment for sin is death, and everyone must face that punishment too. We are all separated from the holy God. And all that goes wrong in the world is ultimately because of sin.

The *Color Code Bible* uses the dark color navy for sin because it reminds us of the dark sky at night. When it is completely dark, it's impossible to find your way around. You get lost easily and can trip, fall, and get hurt. This reminds us of what sin does in our lives. Instead of walking safely and confidently in God's light, we turn away from Him and stumble in the darkness of sin. So, all the verses about sin will be this greyish navy color. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for the grayish navy verses. They aren't fun or comforting verses to read, but we need to face this problem of sin. When we do, the other colors that follow will appear brighter and more beautiful.



SALVATION

When you work at a job, the pay you earn for your work is called a “wage.” This is money that you deserve. The Bible tells us that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). Our sins have earned us separation from God. And because God is holy and righteous, He cannot simply ignore our sins or withhold the punishment due to us. Our sin is a barrier between us and God that we can do nothing about. But while we cannot do anything, God can. And He did.

Because sin deserves death, the only way for a person to be forgiven is through another’s death. Put simply: there can be no forgiveness of sin “without shedding of blood” (Heb. 9:22). In the Old Testament, God’s people performed animal sacrifices as a means of receiving forgiveness. But God never meant for the blood of bulls and goats to save people (see Heb. 10:4). These sacrifices pointed toward the sacrifice Jesus would make. Jesus was the one-time, perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. Now, all who trust in Him are forgiven completely by His blood that was shed (see Eph. 1:7).

Being forgiven of sin is far more than just escaping judgment, though. Salvation is not just about what we are saved *from* but also about what we are saved *to*. When we trust in Christ, we are fully forgiven of all our sin, which takes care of our disobedience, and we are also declared fully righteous, which takes care of our obedience (see 2 Cor. 5:21). This means that God accepts us no matter what. We are perfectly pleasing to Him. God makes us to be new people (see 2 Cor. 5:17), and He adopts us as His children (see Eph. 1:4–5). This means that we are in perfect relationship with God as He made us to be, and we can do the things that God made us to do—we can show others how great God is.

In the *Color Code Bible*, the verses about salvation are highlighted in orange, a vibrant, happy color. The gospel of Jesus Christ is called that because *gospel* means “good news.” That we are forgiven and accepted by God in Christ is indeed good news. It is *great* news that gives us joy. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these orange verses about salvation. As you read them, if you have trusted in Christ, let them fill your heart with joy. If you have not trusted in Christ and experienced this forgiveness, why not do that today?



LOVE

While it is important to talk about God’s holiness and righteousness when we think about the gospel of Jesus Christ, talking about God’s love is just as important. Part of the reason that God did not leave us to face the judgment for sin that we deserve is His amazing, unfailing love for us (see Jer. 31:3; John 3:16). Even though we were rebels who sinned against God, His love stayed fixed on us. And that love led Him to give His own Son to pay for our sins.

The Bible teaches that God made us in His image (see Gen. 1:26) and that God is love (see 1 John 4:8). This means that we are like Him in many ways (but not in every way) and that one way we are to be like Him is in how we love. We are to love Him and love other people like He does (see Matt. 22:36–40). This means that we are to care about others and put them first whenever we can. It also means that we should want the best for them, and the absolute best thing for them is that they come to know Jesus, trust in Him, and be forgiven by Him. So, there are many ways we can love people, but the greatest way we can love them is by telling them about Jesus.

In the *Color Code Bible*, the verses about love are highlighted in magenta, a color that might remind you of hearts and love. This color reminds us of how God loves us and how we can love God and other people. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these magenta verses about love. Hopefully, seeing how much God loves you will make it easier to love Him and others.



WORSHIP

In many ways, we can sum up the reason we exist as worship. To worship God is to declare His great worth. Worship is to express how great God is, how much we love Him, and how much we need Him. It is to tell God how thankful we are for Him and that we want to obey Him.

Just as sin messed everything else up, it also ruined our worship of God. Instead of worshiping Him, we found other things to worship. We see this in the Bible in how people worshiped idols. But we experience it in how people worship money, fame, power, and even themselves. When we trust in Jesus, we are able to worship God as we were designed to do.

In Christ, we can worship by rejoicing in God. God created our emotions, and joy is one that He wants us to feel about Him. While life is hard at times, we know that God is always good and in control. Remembering this can comfort us and fill us with joy too.

In Christ, we can worship by thanking God. We recognize that everything good we have is from God and that Christ is our greatest good. We understand that we did nothing to deserve or earn these good gifts, but God gives them to us because of His love for us.

In Christ, we can worship by talking with God. The Bible calls talking with God *prayer*. We might think that prayer is a formal, rigid thing we do with our eyes closed. Prayer can be more organized, and it’s OK to pray with our eyes closed, but prayer is also talking with God and listening to Him as we live each day. We can always be in prayer this way. God is always there, wanting to hear from us and share with us.

These are just a few of the ways that we can worship God as followers of Jesus. Now, when we think of worship, we often think of music and singing. And that is a great way to worship, but it’s not the only way. As we have seen, we can worship simply by talking with God. We can worship by how we feel. We can worship by obeying God and living for Him. We can worship by telling others about Jesus.

In the *Color Code Bible*, the verses about worship are highlighted in blue. This is the color of the sky, which we can only see when we look up. This reminds us of our need for and privilege of looking up to God in worship. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, look for these verses that teach us what worship is and how we can worship. Let these verses prompt you to worship God today and every day.



GROWTH

We are all born helpless, unable even to feed ourselves. We cannot do anything on our own. But we don’t stay that way; we grow. We get bigger and stronger. We learn how to walk and talk. We learn how to think. And in time, we are able to do more and more on our own.

The Color Code Bible Overview

The same is true of us spiritually. When we trust in Jesus, we are like newborn babies. There is so much we haven't learned about God, Jesus, and the gospel. We likely struggle to obey God. We might not even want to obey Him very much at first. But the good thing is that we don't have to stay there.

God has given us the Bible so that we can read it and grow. He has given us the church and other believers to help us grow. And He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us grow. Like physical growth, spiritual growth is a long, slow process. You might not see much growth from day to day, week to week, or even month to month. But that doesn't mean you are not growing.

The *Color Code Bible* highlights verses that will help your spiritual growth in green. When we see the color green, we likely think of grass, plants, and trees. We might think of the springtime when these begin to grow. This reminds us of what God is doing in us. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these green verses about growth. Learn how you can grow and be encouraged that God is helping you grow. But also, be patient with yourself; understand that growth takes time.

PURPLE Heaven

HEAVEN

Put simply, heaven is God's dwelling place (see Matt. 5:16), where He rules sitting on His throne (see Ps. 11:4). It is not as simple as that though. Remember that God is Spirit, which means He is not only in one place; He is everywhere. This is another truth about God that might be hard for us to understand. Thankfully, God often speaks to us in the Bible in ways to make it easier for us to understand. It might be better to think of heaven as where people who trust in Jesus go when they die. They go to heaven, where they are with God.

The apostle John saw heaven in a vision given to him by Jesus, which he recorded as the Book of Revelation. John described heaven as a wonderfully beautiful place where everything is perfect. Jesus had returned to heaven after He was crucified and rose again (see Acts 1:9–11), and John saw Him there (see Rev. 5:6).

But Jesus will not stay in heaven. One day, He will return to defeat sin and death for good. And when Jesus returns, He will bring with Him a new heaven and earth, where all of us who trust in Him will live together forevermore. Like Eden in Genesis 1–2, the new heaven and earth will be a perfect place. Sin and death will not be part of it. Neither will pain and tears (see Rev. 21:3–4).

The *Color Code Bible* highlights verses about heaven in purple. Purple is a color that kings and queens often use. This makes purple the perfect color to identify heaven, where God rules from His throne. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these purple verses about heaven. While we have a lot of questions about heaven that the Bible doesn't answer, we can learn quite a bit about it still. So be encouraged and filled with hope that God has a perfect plan and a perfect place in store for us.

TEAL Family

FAMILY

The family is important to God. One of the first things God did was make a family in Eden (see Gen. 2). Then, the family was a critical part of God's plan to forgive people through Jesus (see Gen. 12:1–3). Furthermore, God

The Color Code Bible Overview

often describes His relationship with His people in terms of the family. God is our Father (see Matt. 6:9), we are His children (John 1:12), and we are reminded that we are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Because God cares about families so much, He wants to help us be in families that show love for one another, others, and God. While no family is perfect, and many are far from it, God's heart is for each to be as loving, honoring, and joyful as possible. These same lessons help us understand how we are to live as church families too.

As you know, children are an important part of the family. In addition to the Bible giving instructions for how children are to honor and obey their parents, it also speaks to the value that children bring to God's kingdom. Some of the godly kings of Judah were children when they began ruling. Jesus used a boy's lunch to feed over five thousand people (see John 6:9–10). When Jesus' followers tried to keep children from coming to see Him, He stood up for them, saying, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 19:14). Families matter to God, and so do children.

The *Color Code Bible* highlights verses about the family in teal, a color that combines the blue of worship and green of growth. While we often think of worship happening at church, God also wants us to worship Him in our homes with our families. God also designed the family to be a key way of helping us grow physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. As you read through the *Color Code Bible*, watch for these teal verses about family. These verses will help you understand the family and what you, as a child, can do for God and His kingdom.



KEY FEATURES

- **1,900 highlighted verses** clearly calling out key topics for children to apply to their faith journey
- **Index to color code highlights** to quickly find important topics throughout Scripture
- **What's Special About the Bible Article** is an illustrated look at interesting facts about the Bible including the number of authors, years it took to write, number of chapters, and much more
- **Reading plans** provide guidance on how to read the Bible on a daily basis
- **Teaching articles** for background information to gain a deeper understanding of Scripture
- **Miracles and parables of Jesus charts** provide a visual representation of key teachings and stories of Jesus in the Bible
- **Clear and readable 9-Point Comfort Print**

AVAILABLE EDITIONS



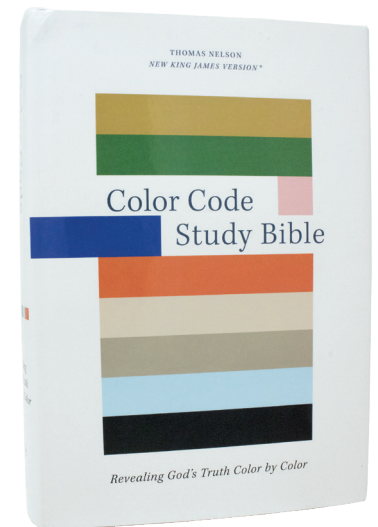
Hardcover
9781400335992, \$29.99



Pink Leathersoft
9781400336012, \$49.99



Blue Leathersoft
9781400336036, \$49.99



ALSO AVAILABLE
Color Code Study Bible Hardcover
9781400341382, \$49.99
Sample provided on reverse side

COLOSSIANS

The problem of the Colossian church was similar to what many churches experience today. The Colossian believers wanted to believe biblical truth, but they also had a difficult time letting go of some other beliefs, and some false teachers were making it more challenging. Paul was in prison, but he wanted to help the Colossians, so he wrote this letter. In it, Paul reminds the church of the basics of the Christian faith and emphasizes that Jesus is superior to everything else. Jesus needs to be at the center of the believer's beliefs and practices. If the Colossians did this, they would see how foolish it is to hold on to other beliefs and distortions of the gospel that the false teachers were sharing.

- **GENRE:** Epistle
- **AUTHOR:** Paul
- **TIME:** c. AD 60–62
- **PURPOSE:** To explain that Christ is superior to every ruler, power, and authority in heaven and earth, and that He alone saves us.

Greeting

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

²To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* in Colosse:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.^a

Their Faith in Christ

³We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit,^a as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Preeminence of Christ

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption through His blood,^a the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷And He is before all things,

and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Reconciled in Christ

¹⁹For it pleased *the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell*, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled ²²in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Sacrificial Service for Christ

²⁴I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which^a is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

Not Philosophy but Christ

2 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not

seen my face in the flesh, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and^a of Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

⁴Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. ⁵For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your *good* order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

⁶As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it^a with thanksgiving.

⁸Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Not Legalism but Christ

¹¹In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins^a of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. ¹³And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, ¹⁴having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

¹⁶So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷which are a shadow

1:2 ^a NU-Text omits *and the Lord Jesus Christ*. 1:6 ^a NU-Text and M-Text add *and growing*. 1:14 ^a NU-Text and M-Text omit *through His blood*.

1:27 ^a M-Text reads *who*. 2:2 ^a NU-Text omits *both of the Father and*. 2:7 ^a NU-Text omits *in it*. 2:11 ^a NU-Text omits *of the sins*.

of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. ¹⁸Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not^a seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

²⁰Therefore,^a if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—²¹“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” ²²which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Not Carnality but Christ

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ²Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, ⁷in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

⁸But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, ¹⁰and have put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, ¹¹where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave *nor* free, but Christ is all and in all.

Character of the New Man

¹²Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. ¹⁴But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. ¹⁵And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. ¹⁷And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

The Christian Home

¹⁸Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

¹⁹Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

²⁰Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

²¹Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

²²Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. ²³And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^a you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Christian Graces

²Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving; ³meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ, for

2:18 ^a NU-Text omits *not*. 2:20 ^a NU-Text and M-Text omit *Therefore*. 3:24 ^a NU-Text omits *for*.

GOD SIN JESUS SALVATION LOVE

which I am also in chains, ⁴that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

⁵Walk in wisdom toward those *who are* outside, redeeming the time. ⁶Let your speech always *be* with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Final Greetings

⁷Tychicus, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. ⁸I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he^a may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, ⁹with Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is *one* of you. They will make known to you all things which *are happening* here.

¹⁰Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹and Jesus who is called Justus. These *are my* only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the

circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

¹²Epaphras, who is *one* of you, a bond-servant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete^a in all the will of God. ¹³For I bear him witness that he has a great zeal^a for you, and those who are in Laodicea, and those in Hierapolis. ¹⁴Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you. ¹⁵Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and Nymphas and the church that *is* in his^a house.

Closing Exhortations and Blessing

¹⁶Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the *epistle* from Laodicea. ¹⁷And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

¹⁸This salutation by my own hand—Paul. Remember my chains. Grace *be* with you. Amen.

4:8 ^a NU-Text reads *you may know our circumstances and he may*. 4:12 ^a NU-Text reads *fully assured*. 4:13 ^a NU-Text reads *concern*. 4:15 ^a NU-Text reads *Nympha . . . her house*.

WORSHIP GROWTH HEAVEN FAMILY

60 DAYS THROUGH THE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

In about fifteen minutes a day, you will be able to read through the highlights of the Bible's main story of God's plan to provide forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

DAY	READING	PASSAGE
1	God Creates the World	Gen. 1–2
2	Sin Enters the World	Gen. 3
3	Sin Spreads	Gen. 4–5
4	God Spares Noah	Gen. 6–10
5	God Makes a Covenant with Abraham	Gen. 12; 15
6	God Provides Isaac	Gen. 21–22
7	God Delivers His People	Ex. 1–4; 12
8	God Parts the Red Sea	Ex. 13–15
9	God Gives the Ten Commandments	Ex. 19–20
10	The People Build the Tabernacle	Ex. 35–40
11	The Sacrificial System Is Established	Lev. 1–4
12	The People Return to the Land	Josh. 2–4
13	God Defeats Jericho	Josh. 2; 6
14	The People Continue to Sin	Judg. 2

DAY	READING	PASSAGE
15	The People Demand a King	1 Sam. 8–10
16	God Makes Saul King	1 Sam. 11
17	Saul Sins and Is Rejected	1 Sam. 13
18	God Chooses David as King	1 Sam. 16
19	God Makes a Covenant with David	2 Sam. 6–7
20	God Gives Solomon Wisdom	1 Kin. 2–3
21	Solomon Builds the Temple	1 Kin. 6–9
22	Solomon's Sin Divides the Kingdom	1 Kin. 10–12
23	Jeroboam Disobeys God	1 Kin. 12–13
24	Elijah Serves as a Prophet	1 Kin. 16–18
25	Elisha Serves as a Prophet	2 Kin. 4–6
26	God's People Are Taken Captive	2 Chr. 36
27	Daniel Is Faithful	Dan. 1
28	God Returns His People	Ezra 1
29	The People Rebuild the Temple	Ezra 2, 4–6

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60 Days Through The Story

DAY	READING	PASSAGE
30	Esther Saves Her People	Esth. 1–10
31	Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls	Neh. 1–7
32	Ezra Reads the Law	Ezra 7–10; Neh. 8
33	Jesus Is Born	John 1:1–18; Luke 2
34	Jesus Is Baptized and Tempted	Luke 3:21–4:13
35	Jesus Calls His Disciples	John 1:29–51
36	Jesus' Miracles Prove He Is God	John 14
37	Jesus Teaches about God's Kingdom	Matt. 13:1–53
38	Jesus Is Rejected	Luke 13:22–35; John 11:45–57
39	Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11:1–44
40	People Welcome Jesus as King	Matt. 21:1–11
41	The Leaders Want to Trap Jesus	Matt. 25:15–46
42	Jesus Is Anointed	John 12:1–8
43	Jesus Shares a Last Meal	Matt. 26:17–30
44	Jesus Is Arrested	Matt. 26:31–56

DAY	READING	PASSAGE
45	Jesus Is Put on Trial	Matt. 26:57–27:26
46	Jesus Is Crucified	Matt. 27:27–56
47	Jesus Is Raised	Matt. 27:57–28:15
48	Jesus Appears to the Disciples	Luke 24:1–43
49	Jesus Gives His Followers a Mission	Matt. 28:18–20; Acts 1:1–11
50	The Holy Spirit Comes	Acts 2:1–13
51	Peter Preaches Jesus	Acts 2:14–47
52	Stephen Is Martyred	Acts 6:8–7:60
53	The Church Spreads Out	Acts 8
54	Paul Becomes a Disciple	Acts 9:1–30
55	Gentiles Become Part of the Church	Acts 11:1–18
56	Paul Goes on Mission	Acts 13–14
57	The Church Clarifies the Gospel	Acts 15:1–35
58	Paul and Silas Plant Churches	Acts 15:36–18:22
59	Jesus Will Return	Rev. 19–20
60	The New Heaven and Earth to Come	Rev. 21–22