

# How to read the Bible

## Lesson 5—The Letters

### Example text

#### Some Rules for Christian Living

<sup>18</sup> A wife must put her husband first. This is her duty as a follower of the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> A husband must love his wife and not abuse her.

<sup>20</sup> Children must always obey their parents. This pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> Parents, don't be hard on your children. If you are, they might give up.

<sup>22</sup> **Slaves, you must always obey your earthly masters.** Try to please them at all times, and not just when you think they are watching. Honor the Lord and serve your masters with your whole heart. <sup>23</sup> Do your work willingly, as though you were serving the Lord himself, and not just your earthly master. <sup>24</sup> In fact, the Lord Christ is the one you are really serving, and you know that he will reward you. <sup>25</sup> But Christ has no favorites! He will punish evil people, just as they deserve.

**4** Slave owners, be fair and honest with your slaves. Don't forget that you have a Master in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> Never give up praying. And when you pray, keep alert and be thankful. <sup>3</sup> Be sure to pray that God will make a way for us to spread his message and explain the mystery about Christ, even though I am in jail for doing this. <sup>4</sup> Please pray that I will make the message as clear as possible.

<sup>5</sup> When you are with unbelievers, always make good use of the time. <sup>6</sup> Be pleasant and hold their interest when you speak the message. Choose your words carefully and be ready to give answers to anyone who asks questions. <sup>1</sup>

### Resources

- Carson, D. A., and Douglas J. Moo. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. Second Edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Barry, John D., Douglas Mangum, Derek R. Brown, Michael S. Heiser, Miles Custis, Elliot Ritzema, Matthew M. Whitehead, Michael R. Grigoni, and David Bomar. *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016.
- Crossway Bibles. *The ESV Study Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008.
- Wright, N. T. *Colossians and Philemon: An Introduction and Commentary*. Vol. 12. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.
- Harrill, J. Albert. "Slavery." *Dictionary of New Testament Background: A Compendium of Contemporary Biblical Scholarship*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

### Context of Colossians

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<sup>1</sup> [The Holy Bible: The Contemporary English Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1995), Col 3:18–4:6.

## Outline of Colossians

Meaning of Colossians 3:22a