

COMA Questions for Epistles*

One-to-One Meetings

Context

- What can you learn about the people or situation to which the letter was written?
- What clues are there about the author and his situation?
- What was the main point of the passage immediately before this one? Are there any logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?

Observation

- Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there key connecting words (“for,” “and,” “but,” “therefore,” “because,” etc.) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?
- What are the key words? What words or ideas are repeated?
- What is the main point or points? What supporting points does the author make?
- What surprises are there in the flow of the argument?

Meaning

- How does this text related to other parts of the book?
- How does the passage relate to the Lord Jesus?
- What does this passage teach you about God?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

Application

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude or belief that you need to change?
- How does this passage call on you to change the way you live?
- How can I give thanks and pray based on what I have learned from this passage?

General Instructions:

1. With one other person, find a mutually-convenient time to meet weekly.
2. There is no leader or teacher, it is a conversation over God’s Word.
3. Do not be afraid to ask questions, linger over what you don’t understand.
4. Try to keep meetings to an hour:
 - 5 min – meet and catch-up
 - 10 min – share one thing to give thanks and to request, then pray.
 - 40 min – read the passage aloud together and talk through COMA (reverse side)
 - 5 min – pray from the passage studied.
5. For more, see David Helm, *One-to-One Bible Reading* (Matthias Media, 2011).

Schedule for Reading Colossians:

Meet and read Colossians by the following dates:

- Mar 23 Col 1:1-14
- Mar 30 Col 1:15-20
- Apr 6 Col 1:21-2:5
- Apr 13 Col 2:6-15
- Apr 20 Col 2:16-23
- Apr 27 Col 3:1-4
- May 4 Col 3:5-17
- May 11 Col 3:17-4:1
- May 18 Col 4:2-1

* Taken from David Helm, *One-to-One Bible Reading* (Matthias Media, 2011), pp. 61-62.