

## SEMANTIC STRUCTURE OF COLOSSIANS

Adapted from John Callow, *A Semantic and Structural Analysis of Colossians*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., SIL, 2002

### I. 1.1-2 Co-workers and I greet you

### II. 1.3 – 4.6 Co-workers and I write to strengthen you

Theme: Conduct yourselves as those who are united to Christ Jesus our Lord, who ranks above everything that has been created. Make sure that no one makes his disciples by teaching you a false religious philosophy. Rather keep on looking forwards to things associated with heaven.

#### A. 1.3-12 We thank and pray to God for you

1. 1.3-8 We thank God for you
2. 1.9-12 We pray to God for you

#### B. 1.13 – 3.17 Because Christ ranks above all created things

##### 1. 1.13 – 2.5 God has brought us into Christ's kingdom

- a. 1.13-23 God has made peace with us
  - (1) 1.13-20 He has redeemed us
  - (2) 1.21-23 He has reconciled you
- b. 1.24 – 2.5 I now endure hardship for you
  - (1) 1.24-29 I rejoice in my sufferings
  - (2) 2.1-5 I struggle on your behalf

##### 2. 2.6 – 3.17 Therefore You must discern true and false Christians

- a. 2.6-7 You learned to be Christians
- b. 2.8-23 You are Christians
  - (1) 2.8-15 You live with Christ
  - (2) 2.16-19 You must reject carnal religion
  - (3) 2.20-23 You died with Christ
- c. 3.1-16 Therefore Live as Christians
  - (1) 3.1-4 In light of Jesus' return
  - (2) 3.5-11 Leading a new life
  - (3) 3.12-14 Forgiving one another
  - (4) 3.15-16 In peace by the Word
- d. 3.17 Worship as Christians

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### **C. 3.18 – 4.6 Therefore You must behave as Christians**

#### **1. 3.18 – 4.1 In Christian households**

- a. 3.18-19 Husbands and wives**
- b. 3.20-21 Parents and children**
- c. 3.22 – 4.1 Masters and slaves**

#### **2. 4.2-6 Praying and behaving wisely**

- a. 4.2-4 Prayer for our message**
- b. 4.5-6 Behave and speak wisely**

### **III. 4.7-18 Co-workers and I share with you**

- A. 4.7-9 I send co-workers with my news**
- B. 4.10-14 Greetings from co-workers**
- C. 4.15-17 Read my epistles**
- D. 4.18 Remember my chains**