**Workshop 3 Homework**

In this week’s homework you’ll be “checking your work” for several days. This can lead to real discouragement and frustration. Know that **the purpose of this work is to continue to *teach*** the skills of Interrogating and Annotating, not to shame you, or find fault, or to make you feel like a failure. If you are “getting it”, this will be very affirming, but that is actually ***not*** the expectation. The expectation is that you are ***not*** “getting it” ***yet***, and need a coach to take you back and then take you *further*. This week’s work is all about that. Think of this work as extended Workshop time… **the questions are meant to continue to show you the *process* and *purpose* of this work**. Remember that I am less interested in your answers than I am with you learning the skills and process. The work this week will prove the value of Interrogating and Annotating and the richness that can come from learning to ***do it*** and then ***use it***.

Don’t be overwhelmed by the length of the work… the instructions are pretty detailed, and **it will not take nearly as much time as it seems by appearances.** Just work the steps one at a time and *stay where you are in the moment*.

**Day 1**

**Practice Annotating the rest of Colossians Chapter 1** using the **Colossians Document** we started in Workshop **looking for WWWWWH** and anything else that jumps out at you just as we practiced together. Use whichever system you like: SNOTS or a Clause Outline, color or highlight, or any combination that works for you! You’ll only know by trying. Don’t try to *exactl*y imitate my methods. The objective is **to achieve clarity by thoroughness. Find *your* methods.**

Relax. Let the text speak to you. Don’t get hung up on getting it “right”… just work it out.

**Don’t spend more than an hour on this work!** If you reach that point and haven’t finished, STOP wherever you are in the text.

**HINT:** For some people, it is easier to begin with only one of the WWWWWHs and survey the text for that one answer before doing the same again for the next, and the next… If it’s easier for you to work that way, go for it! You’ll read the text just that many more times and every time you read, this will get easier!

**Day 2**

Today you’ve got options. Feel free to complete both options if you have the time and interest, otherwise complete the option that applies to you and the work you were able to do yesterday.

**Option 1:**

**If you did not notice and mark Key Words in your annotating work yesterday, return to the verses you’ve annotated to this point** andlook for those **words that introduce whole thoughts** and that help you see sequence, links, transitions, comparisons, conditions, and purpose/conclusions. If you annotated using a Clause Outline these should be the words that began most of those clauses. Your **General Steps** handout may be helpful if you don’t know where to start with this. **Circle the** **Key Words**. **HINT:** They likely precede one of the WWWWWH’s in your annotation.

**Option 2 (or in addition to Option 1 at your discretion):**

If you feel like you annotated well yesterday **and noted the Key Words**, today, attempt to annotate using the alternate method. Feel free to use your first method to help you.

**EG:**

If you used SNOTS, look for the WWWWWHs and the **Key Words** that may precede them and use that to help you form a Clause Outline.

**Cont…**

If you started with a Clause Outline, transfer those WWWWWH answers to the text document as SNOTS, also circling the **Key Words** that lead them if applicable.

You can do this! Don’t quit before you start. Even if you know for certain that one method is going to be better for you than the other, try it anyway! There may come a time when you find your method insufficient and this way you’ll have a backup. **Limit your time here again to just an hour or less.**

**Day 3**

**Consider and answer the questions below** to help you build on the skill of **Interrogating** the text and noticing **Key Words**.

* **What does “about which” refer to in verse 5?** Did you **circle that phrase** or somehow note it? If not, do that now, **then answer** the question by drawing an arrow to the answer in the text, **or** make SNOTS, **or** write out the answer as SNOTS at the appropriate place in your Clause Outline.
* **In verses 5 and 6 what do “in the same way” and “just as” refer to; what is being compared there?** Did you **circle those phrases?** If not, do that now, than **write “COMPARISON” in the margin** next to those verses or next to where those fall in your Clause Outline. **Now answer** the question by drawing arrows to the answer, **or** make SNOTS, **or** write out the answer as SNOTS at the appropriate place in your Clause Outline.
* **What does “it” refer to in verses 6, and 7 (multiple times)?** Did you circle this pronoun? If not, do so now, then draw arrows from “it” to what it’s referring to, **or** make SNOTS, **or** write it out as SNOTS in your Clause Outline.
* **What does “for this reason” in verse 9 refer to?** Did you **circle “For” or “For this reason”**? If not, do that now, and when you find the reason, draw an arrow, **or** make SNOTS, **or** write it out in your Clause Outline as a SNOTS.
* **Notice the shift** in pronouns that begins in verse 13 and leads to a whole new subject in verse 15. Mark this in a way that draws your attention to this shift.

Even if you had not noticed or circled any of these things before doing this work today… you’ve done it now! And now you have a better idea of how this works and why Interrogating and Annotating is so valuable. There is more practice with this tomorrow. You’re doing great! Think of all you’ve learned today! Congratulate yourself and maybe go have a cuppa and rest your brain!

**Day 4**

In the **Colossians Document** we are using together the ***Holman Christian Standard Bible*** arranges verses 15-19 as *poetry* in lines of *parallelism* grouped in *stanzas*. Looking at it this way helps us see order, connections, transitions etc. **That passage is included following the questions below for you to use in today’s work.**

As you Annotated this passage in your earlier work you should have noticed some **Key Words** and possibly marked them as WHY and HOW… **Check your Key Word work using the highlighted passage below. If you did not circle the highlighted words in your own annotation, go back and do that now on your own document.**

**Is there another word or phrase you could substitute for “FOR”?** How could you bring some clarity to that? The Author is drawing a conclusion. What is the support for this conclusion? Where will you find that? Could you restate that in a way that makes both the cause and effect clearer? **Consult another translation** (ESV) if you’re having a hard time thinking through this. Is anything different there that brings clarity? Put this on hold if you’re struggling to answer, but remember that the purpose for marking these “conclusion” Key Words is to see and follow the argument being made.

**Notice the punctuation at verse 16 and 18** and recall what a colon and semi-colon indicate. Are they followed by new information, or supplemental information on the same topic? How should you handle the part that follows the punctuation if it is split by versification?

HINT: Whenever you encounter a colon, in your head say “Namely” and then finish reading the sentence from there.

**What is the obvious thing to do when you encounter a list while annotating?** Whatever ***your*** answer is to that question, **do that** now on/in/next to the passage below.

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For in Him all things were created:

things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,

whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 And He is the head of the body, the church;

He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead,

so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him,

20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,

whether things on earth or things in heaven,

by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.

Sometimes the hardest part of this process is the *thinking* part! When you start to notice these small details they lead to bigger questions – questions we would never stop long enough to ask and answer if we were not doing this work. Sometimes we *assume* we understand, until we look more closely. Discovery is so good! I’m so proud of you for doing this hard work! It is so honoring to God and His word. Press on, one more day!

**Day 5 – Continue to Interrogate Chapter 1 from verse 21 using the questions below.** (Do this work even if you did not get this far in your own Annotating. It will help you!)

* **Notice the comparison/contrast made at verse 21-22**. Did you circle the **Key Words** “once” and “but now”? If not, do so now, and in the margin write **“CONTRAST”** next to these two verses.

What is the contrast in those two verses? Make a small chart in your notes like below and complete it from those verses using bullet points to compare:

**ONCE BUT NOW**

- **Ask and Answer about those two verses** (21-22), who, what, why, but now… what, how, why, how? Write your answer to each word from those verses and then restate the whole idea in your own words.

- Did you circle the **Key Word** that indicated WHY in verse 22? If not, do so now.

- Did you circle the **Key Words** that gave you clues to HOW in verse 22? If not, do so now.

* Notice the conditional phrase at verse 23. Did you circle the **Key Word** that told you this is a conditional phrase? (HINT: Its partner is implied.) If not, do so now (see what just happened there?)

**Explain what is conditioned in verse 23 and upon what?** In other words, we ask and answer: “IF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, THEN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

Is this a troubling thought to you? Is it something you need to understand better? Is it an apple, a banana, or a coconut?? **What will you do now in your Interrogating and Annotating process?**

* **What does the pronoun ‘its’ in verse 25 refer to?** Did you circle that? If not, do so now. Draw arrows from “it” to what it’s referring to, **or** make SNOTS, **or** write it out as SNOTS in your Clause Outline.
* **What is the Key Word in verse 26?** What does that word indicate?
* **Who are “them” in verse 27?** Do you know what to do now in your Annotation…?
* **What is Paul’s purpose according to verse 28, and what Key Word tells you that?** Do you know what to do now in your Annotation…?
* **In verse 29, what does “to this end…” refer to?** Do you know what to do now in your annotation…?)

That was an excellent and fruitful week of work! If you made it this far, I predict that your mind is a little blown by what you’ve learned… if you have a brain cell left to consider that. I hope you do, because even now, without doing one more thing, you are better equipped to explain this chapter of Colossians to another person than you can even imagine. Take some time to prayerfully think back over the whole of your work this week and zoom out to see the big picture that you’ve put together by parts (consider another Plain Reading!). It’s like the puzzle snapping into place. Sure, you have questions; my personal thinking is that you should leave with more questions than you started with… just different ones. But now, you also have answers: answers ***you*** found in ***your*** work in ***His*** word with nothing but the Spirit and the mind He gave you! That is truly something to celebrate.