

An Expository Study on the Book of Colossians

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Introduction:

This is an expository study of the book of Colossians. In our text we have primarily used the KJV of the bible. All bible texts are in italics. Our text scriptures are designated by the word "Text:" The book of Colossians was written by Paul to the gentile church at Colosse, a city in Asia Minor, probably between A.D. 60-67, from prison in Rome. This church was founded by Epaphras, a co-worker of Paul. Epaphras had evidently written a glowing report to Paul of their spiritual growth and steadfastness. However, he must have stated his concern that seeds of doctrinal errors were being planted that diminished the absolute

sovereignty and Lordship of the Lord Jesus. There were also elements of pharisaical teachings combined with Greek philosophical speculation and the early forms of gnosticism. All of which diminished the glory of the Lord Jesus. Sadly, many of these ideas are still around today.

1 - Paul's Greeting to the Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2

*Colossians 1:1 ¶ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,
2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The apostle Paul set forth his authority stating that he is an apostle by the will of God (Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:1). Paul also acknowledges Timothy who is with him in Rome as a fellow laborer. As the older generation of leadership passed away, this endorsement helped Timothy be established in the future leadership of the church.

Paul is writing to saints and faithful brethren who according to Romans 1:7 and 1Corinthians 1:2 are those who call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and are beloved of God and sanctified or set apart in Christ Jesus and called to be saints. We didn't suddenly decide to be saints, God called us and set us apart as vessels for His use.

These sanctified saints are those who have believed and obeyed the gospel. Paul desires that these saints be endowed with grace and peace from God our Father and from His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:14,17). It was God bestowing His grace upon us that enabled us to simply hear the gospel. It was grace that enabled us to believe the gospel story. It was grace that enabled us to obey the gospel (Mk. 16:16; Ac. 2:38,10:32; 1Jo. 5:13). We take the gospel for granted but we need to remember that untold billions of people have never heard it once. Why are we so privileged? Do we appreciate that fact? What does God expect from us in return? We were saved by grace through faith which is a gift of God. Our works had nothing to do with it. We did nothing to attract God's attention before conversion and have done nothing of our own selves since (Eph. 2:8-9). Any accomplishments we have attained are because of the divine enablement of the Holy Spirit. We all are given grace according to the measure of the of the gift of Christ (Eph. 4:7).

He imparts His gifts to each one, as He wills (1Cor. 12:11) and to whom much is given, much is required (Lu. 12:48).

Our own righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God (Isaiah 64:6). We were saved by God's mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost (Tit. 3:5). We were freely justified or declared righteous by the grace of God, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus (Ro. 3:24). God saved us according to His own purpose and grace which was given us in Christ before the world began. When God was hanging the stars in place and calling each of them by name (Isa. 40:26), He was writing our names in the book of life also (Rev. 13:8, 17:8).

2Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called [us] with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

Grace is our teacher: God's grace teaches us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Tit. 2:11-14).

Because of grace, sin can have no dominion over us (Ro. 6:14). We have an everlasting consolation and good hope, because of grace.

2Thessalonians 2:16 ¶ Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given [us] everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Because of grace, our needs are fulfilled that we might be able to labor for the kingdom of God (2Cor. 8:9, 9:8).

The Peace of God: Ever since Adam sinned the world has been in turmoil. In all of history, there has only been a handful of years when war wasn't being waged somewhere upon the earth. People cry, "Peace and safety," but peace and safety seems to be an elusive dream, destruction comes in its place (1Th. 5:3).

Isaiah 57:21 [There is] no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

James 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

About 750 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Isaiah prophesied that a child would be born, and a son given who would

bear the burden of the government. His name would be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. He would establish an everlasting government upon the throne of David with ending justice and peace (Isa. 9:6-7).

Psalms 29:11 The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace.

Isaiah 52:7 ¶ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

When Jesus was born the angels announced the birth of the peace giver Lu. 2:14). What a different place this world would be if the world would have received Him, rather than nailing Him to the cross (1Cor.2:8). Think of all the slaughter that could have been averted, if sinful men had only submitted to the rule of God and let His peace control their actions.

Jesus promised us a peace that was not of this world. When the world is on the brink of self destruction , the peace of God that is beyond understanding keeps our hearts and minds through the Lord Jesus (Jo. 14:27; Php. 4:7).

The peace of God is only promised to the believer. Tribulation and anguish is promised to the sinner (Ro. 2:9). Having received the peace of God by believing in Jesus, we can maintain His peace in our hearts by practicing the things that we have learned and received from those who are our examples (Php. 4:9). As we walk in the baptism of the Spirit ,the God of hope fills us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost (Ro. 15:13). It is in the Holy Ghost that we find righteousness, joy and peace (Ro. 14:17).

See: [The Peace of God](#)

Somebody Has Said

"We have an unchanging gospel, which is not today green grass and tomorrow dry hay; but always the abiding truth of the immutable Jehovah." (C.H. Spurgeon)

2 - Paul's Prayer for the Colossian Believers

Colossians 1:4-14

We stated last week, that the church at Colosse was established by Epaphras, a co-worker of Paul. He spoke highly of these saints in a letter to the apostle Paul, who had never met them face to face.

Evidently he also expressed concerns to Paul concerning false teachers and doctrines that the church was facing. Paul begins on a positive note by making mention of their better qualities, before he deals with the areas where they need correction. We all need correction at times, but the manner in which it is delivered makes all the difference in the world as to how we receive it.

Paul begins his letter by assuring these saints that he is constantly praying for them, just as he assured all of the other churches in his care that he was constantly praying for them also.

Text: Colossians 1:3 ¶ We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Paul told us in 1Thessalonians 5:7 to "Pray without ceasing."

Obviously Paul couldn't be on his knees 24/7, but he stayed in constant communion with heaven as he went about his daily tasks.

Jesus told us in Luke 18:1 that "...men ought always to pray, and not to faint." He told us in Luke 21:36 that we were to, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

In the introductions that Paul wrote to the various churches under his care, we see the same urging for us to be in constant prayer.

Romans 12:12 Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Colossians 4:2 ¶ Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

We could summarize Paul's prayer for all the churches from Ephesians 3:14-19.

*Ephesians 3:14 ¶ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;
19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

Text: *Colossians 1:4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,*

Paul learned in the letter from Epaphras that the church at Colosse was walking in faith, and that their faith was being demonstrated by their love for one another. Love is an essential element of God's substance. John told us to love one another because God is love and that if we don't show love we don't know God. In other words, like I brag to my children when they do well, "The acorn doesn't fall very far from the tree (1Jo. 4:8)." Love is a natural fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22). Jesus said that men would know we were His disciples by the love that we show for one another (John 13:35). Unfortunately, in the minds of men, one instance of a Christian acting contrary to love, negates the loving acts shown by others.

Text: *Colossians 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;*

See: [Hope, a Firm Expectation Based on God's Word](#)

Text: *Colossians 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:*

After Pentecost, the disciples obeyed the great commission to go into all the world and preach the gospel. The gospel of hope reached all of the known world in a very short time. It was noted of the apostles that they had turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). The gospel does that, doesn't it?

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Romans 1:16 ¶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Text: *Colossians 1:7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.*

Paul was moved by the report of Epaphras. Yes, there were problems at the church at Colosse, just as there are problems at the churches that you and I attend. Somebody has said that if find a perfect church, it won't remain perfect after we get there. Because of the good report from Epaphras, Paul reiterated that he would keep them in constant prayer. He desired that they might be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; and that they might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Text: *Colossians 1:9 ¶ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

I believe it is the desire of us all to have a deeper comprehension of the God whom we serve. We haven't arrived yet, have we? As Paul said, "We haven't yet gotten a hold of Him who got a hold of us, but we are striving. We are pressing for the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. This world is rocking and reeling on it's last legs. Let us not lose sight of the hope that we have in Jesus. May we all be, "filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That we might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

We can take comfort in the fact that even though we are not perfect, we can be strengthened by the prayers of each other and especially by the present intercession of the Lord Jesus who ever lives

and makes intercession for us (Heb. 7:25) and that He who has begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of the Lord Jesus (Php. 1:6). He's brought us this far, He'll see us through.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

As our knowledge of God increases, we strive to know Him more closely and we become much more sensitive to the things of His Spirit. His word reveals to us, His eternal plan. We realize that the plan of redemption has been in place since eternity past. When the time was right, God moved upon a virgin and brought forth a child who would be called the Son of God (Gal. 4:4). Micah 5:2 tells us that this baby had existed before time even began. Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:23 tell us that His name would be called Emmanuel, meaning God with us. 1John 1:1 says He was the Word of Life which was from the beginning. John 1:1,14 called Him the Word, who was with God and was God. In the Old Testament, the Word was often manifested as the Angel of Jehovah and often as theophanies, which were appearances of the invisible God in human form (Ex. 3:2; Jos. 5:13, Dan. 3:25). At Bethlehem, The Word was made flesh and dwelled among us and we beheld His glory as the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Scripture (Eph. 1:9, 3:4,9; Col. 1:26, 2;2) tells us this is a mystery, and I agree. I think we all agree that there is only one God (Ja. 2:19), and one Spirit (1Cor. 12:13) and one man Christ Jesus (1Tim. 2:5). I don't know every aspect of this mystery, but when I read Revelation 1:8, Jesus introduces Himself as, "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." No, I can't explain it all. But Colossians 1:19 & 2:9 tells me that, "In Him dwells all of the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and Colossians 2:10 tells me that, "I am complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power."

As we learn of Him and try to comprehend the depths of His awesome holiness and perfection, we realize that we have a long way to go. As Paul said, we haven't yet gotten a hold of Him who has gotten a hold of us.

*Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,
14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

Our natural tendency is to somehow or another, impress this awesome One, who created the universe by the power of His word. If we can pray and fast more, knock on a few more doors, give more to the church, and so on, then perhaps we can get God's attention. Actually God gave us His full attention when He seated us in heavenly in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6). The resources of heaven are at our disposal but they are only accessed by faith in the work of Jesus on the cross. It's good to pray and fast and give to the church. It's simply a matter of perspective. God gave each of us His full attention in eternity past. He knew the day, the time and place that we would simply believe and obey the gospel and He wrote our names in the Lamb's book of Life (Rev. 13:8). That's the key to it all: Believe and obey the gospel. After that, it's no longer we that live, but it's Christ living in and through us (Gal. 2:20), and the works that we do, we do not to get His attention but to further His kingdom.

Text: *Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*

We are, strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power. We can't do anything by ourselves, period. There is absolutely no comparison between the best that we can offer and His glorious power. When was the last time that we parted the sea, walked on water, and fed a multitude with a few loaves and fishes? We didn't, but the possibilities are limitless when we are strengthened by the Spirit of God to perform a designated task for the furtherance of His kingdom.

Our works are counted as hay, wood and stubble, which are destined to be burned up by the unquenchable fire of Jesus (Mt. 3:12, 1Cor. 3:12-15). The apostle Paul was at a very low point in his life when he asked the Lord to remove a thorn in his flesh which he described as a messenger of Satan, who was buffeting him. The Lord answered by not answering. Paul still had his thorn but he also had the promise of God that, my strength is made perfect in your weakness. Paul no longer asked for deliverance and was pleased to be strengthened with all might, according to the Lord's glorious power. Paul said he was willing to suffer so that He might have the power of Christ resting upon himself and that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. He didn't mind, infirmities, reproaches, necessities (needs), persecutions, and distresses for Christ's sake, for when he was weak and having to rely on the Lord, he was strong indeed (Php. 4:13; 2Co. 12:10).

Text: *Colossians 1:12 ¶ Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (to be made able or qualified) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:*

We thank God that He has enabled and qualified us to be a partaker of our present inheritance in Christ Jesus. We are joint heirs (Ro. 8:17) with Him and we reign now as kings and priests to God (Rev. 1:6, 5:10). Yes, there is a lot waiting for us in heaven, but there is also a lot that we don't take advantage of in this present world. The kingdom was prepared for us from the foundations of the world (Mt. 25:34). Because we belong to Christ, we are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal. 3:29). Because we are sons, rather than servants, we are heirs of God through Christ (Gal. 4:7). When we received the Holy Spirit, we received the blessing of Abraham. Note carefully, the blessing of Abraham is not necessarily this world's riches, but rather the Spirit of Almighty God dwelling in us. Abraham was rich, but when he prophetically saw the day of Christ and rejoiced (Jo. 8:56), I believed that he esteemed that much more than all the riches of this world. Ephesians 1:14 refers to the indwelling Spirit as the earnest or down payment of our inheritance.

Galatians 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Ephesians 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Text: *Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

We were delivered from the power of darkness when we believed and accepted the gospel. At that time, something happened instantly, we were born of God. Yes, there is more required, such as repentance and water and Spirit baptism, but John 1:12-13 makes it quite clear that when we believed, we were born of God.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Text: *Colossians 1:14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, [even] the forgiveness of sins:*

We were born in sin and shaped in iniquity. As such, we were unfit to stand before God (Ro. 3:23; Ga. 3:22). However, we were redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus on the cross of Calvary. To redeem something is to buy it back and in our case a unique price was required, i.e. sinless blood. Only Jesus could meet that specification and He gladly did so on our behalf.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

At the cross, Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law, becoming a curse in our place (Gal. 3:13). He offered Himself as an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor (Eph. 5:2). He gave Himself as a ransom for us (1Ti 2:6), that He might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works (Tit. 2:14). By doing so, He has perfected forever we that are sanctified (Heb. 10:14). As the song says, Our chains are broken and our sins wiped away.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

There wasn't enough silver and gold in the whole wide world to redeem us, it took God's own blood (Acts 20:28), the spotless blood of Jesus.

*1Peter 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, [as] silver and gold, from your vain conversation [received] by tradition from your fathers;
19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

It won't be long until we join the saints of all ages, thanking Jesus for the price He paid for us. In the meantime, we'll share in and take full advantage of our inheritance in Him.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

3 - Christ is Preeminent in Creation

Colossians 1:15-18

Text: *Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

Perhaps it is difficult for us to comprehend how the meek and mild historical Jesus could be the One who spoke this universe into existence, simply by the power of His Word. It is something that we must accept by faith, else we would diminish Him and make Him less than God. Some would make Him a part of God, but scripture assures that He is absolutely fully God. God is invisible and His means of expression to you and I is through the image of Christ. The phrase, "firstborn of every creature" denotes preeminence and inheritance.

As to His preeminence, Jesus said that all things had been delivered to Him by His Father (Mt. 11:27), and that all power in heaven and earth had been delivered to Him (Mt. 28:18). He is a king over all creation (Ps. 2:6). He being the firstborn of God is sitting at the right hand of God, which is the place from whence power is executed. He will be there until all His enemies have become His footstool (Ps. 89:27, 110.1). Peter said that because of His resurrection, Jesus was exalted to the right hand of God (Ac. 2:33). Peter was talking of the place of power. Since God is invisible, His right hand would not be visible. Stephen bears this out when He saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at His right hand (Ac. 7:55). Peter said that He had gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him (1Pe. 3:22).

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Daniel 7:14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed.

As to His inheritance: His Father loved Him and has given all things into His hands (Jo. 3:35). God has given Him the throne of His father David (Lu. 1:32) and has made Him both Lord and Christ (Ac. 2:36). At His resurrection God set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church (Eph. 1:17-23). Because Jesus, in His humanity, walked perfectly before God, He was given the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Php. 2:9-11).

Text: *Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Some would tell us that we descended from tadpoles and monkeys, but I prefer to believe that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth and that we were created in His image (Ge. 1:1,26).

Hebrews 1:10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:

Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these [things], that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that [he is] strong in power; not one faileth.

Isaiah 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I [am] the LORD that maketh all [things]; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

Text: *Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

Jesus is the eternal Word who was in the beginning with God and who was God. He was made flesh and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (Jo. 1:1,14). By Him all things consist. Things such as the sun's predictable orbit and the moon's consistent pull of gravity. How about how the atoms of any

given material are bound into their molecular structure? All things consist by Him, but what if He decided to just let go? It would be total annihilation for the whole universe. Come to think of it, that will come to pass, sooner or later (2Pet. 3:10). Are you ready for a new heaven and new earth?

Text: *Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Jesus died and shed His sinless blood that we might become a part of a called out sanctified assembly, more commonly called the church. Every believer is a part of this assembly. Jesus desires to present us to Himself as a chaste bride (2Co 11:2), without spot or wrinkle or any such thing (Eph. 5:27). Jude said that Jesus was able to keep you from falling, and to present [you] faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy (Jude 1:24). We were bought with a price far greater than silver or gold (1Co. 6:20, 7:23; 1Pet. 1:18-19). Who can set a price on the precious blood of Jesus?

Revelation 21:27 tells us that there shall in no wise enter into the heavenly city any thing that defiles, neither [whatsoever] worketh abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. That's a tall order that we can't fulfill within ourselves. However our great God who shed His own blood (Ac. 20:28) desires to sanctify us wholly and preserve our whole body and soul blameless so that we might be ready to meet Him when He returns (1Th. 5:23; Tit. 2:13)

1Thessalonians 5:23 ¶ And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and [I pray God] your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:

Ephesians 1:22 And hath put all [things] under his feet, and gave him [to be] the head over all [things] to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Somebody Has Said

It is the perfection of God's works that they are all done with the greatest simplicity. He is the God of order and not of confusion.- Isaac Newton

4 - Christ Is Preeminent In Redemption

Colossians 1:19-23

Last week we stated that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He was the firstborn of God. Firstborn denoting His preeminence and inheritance. He is before all things and by Him all things consist. He is the Creator of the universe and everything in it. Because of all this, it pleased the Father that all the Deity dwell in Him bodily (Col. 2:9).

Text: *Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

God was pleased to have all of His Deity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost dwell in the body of His Son, who was conceived by the power of His Spirit, in the womb of a young virgin girl of Galilee. The angels heralded His birth and announced that He would be called the Son of God. Hebrews 1:6 tells us that when He was born, God commanded that "all the angels of God should worship Him."

At the age of twelve, in fulfillment of Malachi 3:1, He came to His own temple. There He confounded the doctors of the law as they discussed the words that He Himself had dictated to Moses (Ex. 31:18). When He stood in the synagogue to read the prophet Isaiah, the people were in awe of the gracious words that came from His mouth (Lu. 4:22). Some soldiers were sent to arrest Him and came back empty handed. All they could say was, "Never man spake as this man (Jo. 7:46)." Others marveled that the wind and the sea obeyed His voice as he calmed the raging sea. All they could say was, "What manner of man is this! for He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him (Lu 8:25)."

Here is the last verse of a forgotten hymn, entitled Jesus is God, written in 1862 by Frederick Faber an Anglican priest.

*Jesus is God! The glorious bands
Of golden angels sing
Songs of adoring praise to Him
Their Maker and their King.
He was true God in Bethlehem's crib
On Calvary's cross true God,
He Who in Heav'n eternal reigned
In time on earth abode.*

Text: *Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

God's purpose in condescending to earth was that He might shed His blood to reconcile His whole creation back unto Himself. This was in accordance with His eternal plan and purpose. God in His own will and according to His own council determined to gather all things in One even in Christ.

Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; [even] in him:

11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Text: *Colossians 1:21a And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,*

Yes, we know what we were and exactly what we were up to when we heard the call of the gospel. Our wicked works proved that we were alienated from God.

Text: *Colossians 1:21b yet now hath he reconciled*

In spite of our being enemies of God, He loved us anyhow, just as we were.

1John 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son [to be] the propitiation for our sins.

In the mind of God, Calvary was an accomplished fact, in eternity past. It was there that Christ was a Lamb slain and our names were written in the book of Life (Rev. 13:8). My only question is: Why me, Lord? It wasn't because of my goodness or any great works that I had ever done. My own righteousness is as filthy rags in your sight (Isa. 64:6). No, I was your enemy. I was alienated from you and only cared to gratify my flesh. Why me? I find the answer in Titus 3:5, it was because of His mercy.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Text: *Colossians 1:22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*

As the song says, "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus." What can make me clean? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What gives me the right to come boldly to His throne? His Blood and only His blood.

1Corinthians 6:11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Text: *Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;*

Jesus shed His blood so that we might be presented to Him, holy, unblameable and unproveable in His sight. However, it doesn't come without effort on our part. We have to continue in the faith. A sinner's prayer can be a start, but it is only a start. We have to be grounded and settled and having not forsaken the hope of the gospel. This is a big order, but we don't accomplish it by our own power. Jesus sent His Spirit to help, teach and lead us (Jn. 7:38, 14:26).

Somebody Has Said

It is the duty of every Christian to be Christ to his neighbor.
--Martin Luther

5 - Christ is Preeminent in The Church

Colossians 1:24 - 2:3

Colossians 1:24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Paul was writing this epistle to the Colossians (and Laodicians), who were people whom he had never met personally. He was writing from a prison dungeon, which entailed a good bit of suffering. Paul did not complain about the suffering, in fact he rejoiced because of it. Jesus had suffered for the church and was now in heaven. Paul felt it was his privilege, as a minister to suffer also.

Text: *Colossians 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;*

Paul was a chosen vessel to carry the gospel to the gentiles, kings and the children of Israel (Ac. 9:15). He preached throughout the known world and we are highly blessed that his teaching has come down to us.

Text: *Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

Paul preached the mystery of Christ to all the churches. The mystery of Christ is simply that God clothed Himself in the flesh of Jesus to purchase our salvation on the cross of Calvary (1Tim. 3:16). Jesus died and was resurrected to the throne of heaven and poured out His Spirit to all willing believers (Ac. 2:33). He now lives in us by His Spirit (Col. 1:27, 2Cor. 3:17).

Text: *Colossians 1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:*

Paul cared to know nothing among his charges except Christ and Him crucified (1Cor. 2:2). Some followed Peter because he was a Jew. Others followed Apollos who was a great orator. I'm sure that others had their favorites, whom they followed over some variance of doctrine. Paul would have none of this. To him, the message was simply Christ crucified, resurrected and ascended. Seems to me that this is the message that we need today.

Text: *Colossians 1:29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

Colossians 2:1 ¶ For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

Unlike some who practice "out of sight, out of mind," Paul had great conflict over these folks he had never seen.

Text: *Colossians 2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;*

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

He desired that these people who were being bombarded with false teaching and heathen philosophy, would have a fresh vision of their eternal God and Savior in whom is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Paul preached the preeminence of Christ in His church. We are privileged to have Him dwelling within us and we are thankful for the hope of eternal life that He has given us. In Ephesians 1:17-23, Paul prayed for the Ephesians that they would be able to comprehend the magnitude of the God that they served. God demonstrated His power by raising Jesus from the grave and enthroning Him in heaven far above all principality, power, might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come.

Ephesians 1:22 (Amplified Bible) And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church],
23 Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

Christ is on the throne and His awesome power fills the universe. But, how is this power demonstrated to a lost and dying world? You're right, it's by you and me, who are His body. We are His ambassadors, we hold forth the Word of Life in the midst of a crooked nation/world, and we plead with them to be reconciled to God (2Cor. 5:20; Php. 2:15-16). When Jesus was on earth we saw how His body operated. With His hands he broke bread and fed a multitude (Mk. 6:44). With His feet He walked to heal a Centurion's servant (Mt. 8:7). His heart was the very heart of God. He agonized over folks who were frittering about as sheep without a shepherd (Mk. 6:34). He wept over Jerusalem and foretold their destruction because they would not repent (Lu. 13:34). With His mouth, He always had a word for the weary one (Isa. 50:4). He prayed in the garden, "Not my will, but thine be done." With His mind, He laid aside His prerogatives as God and became subject to the death of the cross (Php. 2:6).

We as His body (1Cor. 12:27) are His hands, His feet, His ears, and His heart. Jesus was always reaching out to the lost, and so must we. This

is a full time avocation. If He is preeminent in His church, He must also be preeminent in our daily living. His work is our work and His agenda is our agenda. He taught us to pray, "Thy kingdom come and thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven." If this is our prayer, then we as His representatives, must do all in our power to see it effected.

Jesus commissioned His disciples to go into all of the world to preach the gospel, and that they did in a big way. They turned the world upside down in a very short time. They didn't leave it all to the preacher and his paid staff. They simply witnessed to the things that they had seen and heard (Ac. 4:20). Which begs a very important question for all of us. What have we seen and heard and how well do we share it with others? I'll be the first to confess that I fall far short.

We are to go into all the world and preach the gospel, with signs following. The one who receives the gospel and is baptized will be saved, those who not will be damned. We have the power to heal the sick and cast out demons in the name of Jesus and to speak with new tongues. Also, in His name we can take up serpents and if we drink any deadly thing it will not hurt us. I venture to say that most of us have never gotten past the new tongues. There's something about snakes and poison that we shy away from. However, if the need arises we have the authority from our Lord to use the power of His name to handle the situation (Mt. 28:19; Mt. 16:15-16).

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry he read the scripture of Isaiah 61:1, which is recorded in Luke's gospel. This was His commission from God and as members of His body, it is our commission also.

*Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*

6 - Freedom From Enticing Words

Colossians 2:1-7

Text: Colossians 2:4 ¶ And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

As we stated earlier, Paul wrote to the Colossians, whom he had never

seen face to face. He had been told by Epaphras, the founder of the church, that they kept good order and were steadfast in the faith. However, Epaphras must have also told Paul that there were problems arising. Someone or somebody was trying to subvert their faith in Christ. We've seen these types over the years. I remember one anointed pastor who came up with a heretical doctrine after he had begun to lose position in his church organization. I remember another describing angelic visits. This man got into some downright perversion, when he started teaching about spiritual wives. I remember a handsome young evangelist fleecing a congregation of a goodly amount of money as he used enticing words to describe how an angel had commissioned him to start a radio program. It was found out later that he left the church that night to meet his girlfriend. He did sound real good though. Some in the congregation had discernment that something wasn't right, and unfortunately others got burned.

We have to be careful of enticing words. We live in a time when people desire to hear smooth things and deceits and there is no shortage of those willing to oblige.

Isaiah 30:10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits:

We need to weight every word that we hear, and check it against God's word. Sometimes the faster the speaker speaks and the more his volume increases, the faster the amens come from the congregation. When we reflect upon what the speaker actually said, we may regret that we were so quick to agree.

Text: *Colossians 2:6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:*

When we believed the gospel we believed that Jesus was all powerful to take care of every situation in life. He hasn't changed one bit. He's all that we need, period. We believed the simple gospel that, "...It behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations... (Lu. 24:46-48). We were labored and carrying a heavy burden. We heard the promise of Jesus that He would take our load and to ease our burden, if we would only come under His yoke (Mt. 11:28-30). We gladly received His promise and we became a new creature in Christ (2Cor. 5:17). Paul is saying that we need to continue what we started and don't let anyone beguile us. Those who would entice us would say that, "Jesus is okay, but you need something else and I've got just the thing that you need."

We live in an area where a large percentage of the population belong to a particular sect. The people can't be surpassed in good works and moral character. Unfortunately they are taught that God the Father was once a man who ascended to godhood, and of course you can do the same, if you work hard enough. When they knock on my door, I start the conversation by saying, "I believe that Jesus Christ is Almighty God manifested in the flesh," and that cuts the conversation rather short.

Another sect knocks on my door quite often. They are to be commended for their door knocking . but their works won't gain them entrance into heaven, when they teach that Jesus is "a god" rather than God Almighty. Jesus said that we believe that He is He, we'll die in our sins (Jn. 8:34).

Text: *Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

We have no desire to follow anything or anybody whose words and practices detract from the preeminence of the Lord Jesus and what He accomplished on the cross on our behalf. We were taught by godly teachers who not only had knowledge of God's word, but they also had a deep relationship and experience with their Savior. When they prayed, heaven moved. Their grammar may have been faulty at times, but their message was spot on. Some would tell us that there is some good in all religions and we see elements of Buddhism and other eastern religions being embraced by professing Christians. I would say that old Buddha is dead, leave him buried.

When the apostle Paul was leaving Ephesus for Rome, he warned the Ephesian elders that grievous wolves would appear among them and that of their own selves men would arise speaking perverse things in an effort to draw men unto themselves (Acts 20:28-31). Peter said that false prophets would arise among the church who would speak damnable heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them (2Pe. 2:1). Romans 16:18 tells us that "... They that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Ever since Satan beguiled Eve in the garden, deceivers have abounded among God's people. He goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1 Pe. 5:8). However, We are not gullible children anymore. God has given us His Spirit and He leads and guides us in all truth and brings to remembrance all things that Jesus commanded (Jn. 14:26).

Somebody Has Said

"On Christ, and what he has done, my soul hangs for time and eternity. And if your soul also hangs there, it will be saved as surely as mine shall be. And if you are lost trusting in Christ, I will be lost with you and will go to hell with you. I must do so, for I have nothing else to rely upon but the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived, died, was buried, rose again, went to heaven, and still lives and pleads for sinners at the right hand of God." - Charles H. Spurgeon

Chapter 7 - Beware of Vain Philosophy

Colossians 2:8-10

Text: *Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*

Beware lest any man spoil you: Paul is saying don't let any man take you captive as in the spoils of war. Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour (1Pe. 1:8). False teachers who knowingly pervert God's word are his willing agents. They usually present some new wind of doctrine or practice (Ep. 4:18). If what we hear violates what we've been taught, then we need to do some serious digging before we jump on anybody's bandwagon. It may look and sound good, but will it stand up to all scripture. If it doesn't, flee. Actually when it comes to doctrine there is nothing new, it has all been kicked around since the early days of the church and has been thoroughly debated. If anyone wants to sell you something such as some concoction of holy anointing oil or miracle spring water, hold onto your wallet and flee. Our healing is through the name of Jesus as we claim the promise of Isaiah 53:5 that by His stripes we are healed. Furthermore it's free.

Through philosophy and vain deceit: Some of the Jews followed a man named Philo who was a philosopher from Alexandria, Egypt. He taught that the stories of the Old Testament are all allegories that simply teach spiritual truths. That belief is still with us today and leads to much confusion. Philo was heavily influenced by Greek philosophy. It is interesting to note that the apostles for the most part were Jewish fishermen, but the early church fathers were mainly Greeks, who shaped the direction of the church after the apostles died. I wonder how the church would look today, if the original Jewish influence had remained?

After the tradition of men: The church at Colosse was a mixture of folks who had come from various backgrounds: Jew, Gentile, Greek

and pagan. There was a tendency to borrow a little from each of these, to keep everybody happy. That tendency is still with us today. Nobody wants to be offensive but we can't cherry pick God's word in an effort to keep everybody happy. Jesus said that if we break one of the least of His commandments and teach men to do likewise, we would be the least in the kingdom of heaven (Mt. 5:19). That's serious business. Where will we stand if we violate His more weighty commandments?

After the rudiments of the world: Some say that the rudiments of the world refer to the fact that some of the Jewish elements had a belief that assigned powers over the physical elements of the world to angelic beings. These spiritual entities divided their powers among the north, south, east and west. People would appeal to these powers for help and try to use them as intermediaries between men and God. I saw this demonstrated several years ago in Mexico. Five men danced on a platform at the top of an 80 foot pole and played a horn as they appealed to the gods of the four points of the compass.

And not after Christ: The teachings of Christ are in direct conflict to the teachings of this world. The world view is listed in 1John. 2:15 - 17 as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. The world tells us that we are number one and we deserve all good things. Jesus said that if we want to find our life, we have to lose it first and let Him live His life in and through us (Mk. 16:25).

Text: *Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

One of the errors of the philosophers and gnostic leaning false teachers was to teach that the Deity was distributed among various angelic beings. Paul refers to these angelic entities as principalities and powers. There are indeed hierarchies of angels and demons in the unseen spiritual realm (Da.10:13,20). I feel it is best to leave them as unseen and concentrate on Jesus. We've all been in services where the devil received more mention than Jesus, and I'm sure that he enjoyed every minute of it. When we corporately lift up the name of Jesus, the devil is not going to hang around (Ja. 4:7).

The deceivers taught that matter was evil and that there was no way that God would come into the world in a human body. Scripture tells us otherwise.

1Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Text: *Colossians 2:10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

We are complete in Jesus! Period! He is the eternal Word who was in the beginning with God and was God. The Word took on flesh and in Him we see the glory of the eternal, invisible, omnipotent, all knowing, and everywhere present God (Jn. 1:1,14). Jesus walked as a man and was tempted in every way that we've been tempted, yet without sin. He knew what it was to sweat and get dirt under His fingernails. He felt all the emotions that we feel such as hunger, pain and rejection (He. 4:15).

Hebrews 2:14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto [his] brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things [pertaining] to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

After redeeming us by His blood, He ascended to the throne of heaven where He acts as our High Priest and Intercessor (Ro. 8:34). In addition He lives in the hearts of all who have received Him (Jn. 14:18).

When we have difficulty understanding a portion of His Word, We need to simply tell Him so. His Spirit brings to our remembrance all that He taught and commanded (Jn. 14:26). If we have a problem, we don't pray to some long dead person who was known for good works and a holy life. No, that would grieve Him greatly. He is a jealous God and He demands the preeminence in all things (Ex. 20:5; Co. 1:18) We have the privilege to come directly to the throne of God boldly to find help in the time of need (Heb. 4:16). Jesus is just as close as the mention of His eternal name (Jn. 14:14).

Somebody Has Said

"Avoid a sugared gospel as you would shun sugar of lead. Seek the gospel which rips up and tears and cuts and wounds and hacks and even kills, for that is the gospel that makes alive again. And when you have found it, give good heed to it. Let it enter into your inmost being. As the rain soaks into the ground, so pray the Lord to let his gospel soak into your soul." - Charles Haddon Spurgeon

8 Water Baptism, The Circumscion Of Christ

Colossians 2:9-15

Text: *Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

In our recent devotionals, we have stressed that after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God and that all of the fullness of the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Ghost dwells in Him bodily.

Although, in an effort to simplify things, we assign body parts to God, He is an invisible Spirit with no visible body parts. "The "Right Hand of God" is a metaphor for the place of power and authority. At His ascension, Jesus said that all power of heaven and earth had been given unto Him. His sittings at the right hand of power displays Him as the image of the invisible God.

See: [The Right Hand of God](#)

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

We have also stressed that our salvation is complete in Jesus, we have need of nothing or anyone else. We have only begun to fathom the unsearchable riches of His being. Why are folks tempted to look elsewhere? He is the head of all principalities and powers. The angelic hosts are subject to His instant command (Isa. 6:1-8), and the demonic legions were defeated at the cross (Eph. 3:10; Col. 2:15).

Ephesians 3:8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Text: *Colossians 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:*

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Paul called water baptism, "The circumcision of Christ." According to Paul, this circumcision takes place in the water, where the sins of our flesh are cut away by the circumcision made without hands. In other words it is a spiritual happening that man has nothing to do with.

There are two prevalent views on water baptism: The traditional view which deems water baptism to be necessary and is mentioned in some early creeds as being for the remission of sins. There is also what some call the Baptist view which holds that water baptism is an outward sign of an inward work. Obviously something takes place when we repent and believe the gospel. But if our baptism is only a testimony of what has already taken place, this seems to contradict the words of Paul who tells us that this transaction takes place in the water.

And then of course what is the proper baptismal formula? We may not agree but I'll lay it out as I see it and you decide what does the bible have to say on the subject?

I take the text of Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19 and Acts 2:38 to be absolute emphatic and imperative commands of Jesus and Peter. Obviously you don't get baptized until you have believed, come to faith in Christ and repented first. The actual water itself does not save us (1Pet. 3:21), but faith and obedience does.

Mark 16:16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Our modern texts of Matthew 28:19 quote Jesus as commanding water baptism in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Eusebius, an early church historian, who had access to early writings, claimed that the actual words of Jesus were: "Go, and make disciples of all the nations in My Name, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," ...

A long list of respected scholars state that the early church baptized only in the name of Jesus until the apostles had passed away and the doctrine of the Trinity was gaining prominence.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to an inquiring mob as to what they were hearing as the Holy Ghost was being poured out on about 120 believers. When he had finished, the mob was convicted of the fact that they had crucified their Messiah, the Lord of Glory. They cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter commanded repentance and water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, with the promise of receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost? Three thousand obeyed and were added to the church that very first day.

See: [Baptism for the Remission of Sins](#)

SEE: [The Name of Jesus](#)

Acts 2:37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

I've heard some say that they would rather believe Jesus than Peter. Well, if Peter contradicted Jesus, we might as well just throw our bibles away. No, there is no contradiction. In whatever way, Jesus stated the baptismal formula, there is no conflict. We must remember that Peter and the other apostles had spent forty days listening to Jesus as He gave commandments of things pertaining to the kingdom of God (Acts 1:3). We should also remember that every instance where the baptismal formula is mentioned in the book of Acts, it is in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

God revealed Himself at the burning bush as the I AM, stating that this was His name and His memorial for all generations (Ex. 3:14-15; Isa. 48:12). Jesus claimed the name I Am for Himself (Rev. 1:8).

Philippians 2:6 tells us that God has given Him the name above every name that every knee should bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. God's name denotes all that He is, has been and will be and it is revealed in Jesus. The literal meaning of His name is The Lord Jehovah has become our Savior.

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God [is] my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH [is] my strength and [my] song; he also is become my salvation.

Matthew 1:21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

When we are baptized into His name, we are honoring the One to whom all power of heaven and earth has been given and in whom the fullness of the godhead dwells bodily. As we've studied in our earlier devotionals, it is He who created all things, all things consist by Him and He upholds all things by the word of His power. We honor the One who shed His blood on our behalf. We pray for the sick in His name and cast out demons in His name and Colossians 3:17 tells us that whatever we do in word or deed, we should do in the name of Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father by Him.

In Romans 6:3-6 we see several obvious facts:

- When we were baptized into Jesus Christ, we became partakers of His death.
- We rose from water baptism to walk in newness of life.
- If we have been planted by water baptism into the likeness of His death, we'll raise up into the likeness of His resurrection.

Romans 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

We can't deny that a change takes place when one responds to the gospel, but I believe that as soon as a person hears and believes the gospel, he/she should be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins. Baptism is a command of Jesus, implemented in His name by the apostles and should not be treated lightly as it is in our day and age. There is power in His eternal name.

Text: *Colossians 2:13 ¶ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Paul is reminding the church at Colosse of their initial experience with Christ. They were dead in sin and trespasses, but Jesus made them alive. All of their sins were forgiven and they were free from the curse of the law. The ordinances that were against them had been nailed to His cross. And Jesus had delivered them from the grasp of all powers and principalities that had held them in bondage. Having experienced all of that, are they now going to submit to some gifted orator, who wants to put them back into bondage?

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

See: [Baptism For the Remission of Sins](#)

See: [The Name of Jesus](#)

Somebody Has Said

"The Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time. God became Man for no other purpose." --C. S. Lewis

9 - Christ Our Head - Colossians 2:13-23

Text: *Colossians 2:13 ¶ And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

We once were slaves to sin. Our carnal man was in rebellion against God. Because of the enmity that we held against Him, we had no desire to be bound by what we falsely assumed were His restrictions.

When we read the Old Testament, all we could see was, "Thou Shall Not." We didn't take time to reason that the "Thou Shall Nots" were there for a reason.

Paul said the law was a schoolmaster that would bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. When we have come to new life in Christ, we have no further need of a schoolmaster (Gal. 3:24-25). When we are justified by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary, we are considered righteous in the sight of God, and the righteousness of Jesus is imputed to us. We began to see the righteousness of God reflected in our lives, when we let Jesus live His life in and through us.

Galatians 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Text: Colossians 2:16 ¶ Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Meat and drink was a big dividing point in the early church and still is. Jesus set us free from dietary restrictions by His sacrifice on Calvary. We are free to eat anything that we desire. Of course, common sense still prevails. If we eat pork chops every night, it is safe to say that we'll soon have a heart problem. Potato chips are delicious and fattening, etc. etc. Jesus said that it wasn't that which went into our mouths that defiled us, but rather that which came out, such as evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies (Mt. 15:11, 19-20).

We'll never know just how effective the simple prayers that we pray to bless our food really are. I'm sure that we've missed a great deal of food borne illness.

1 Timothy 4:4 For every creature of God [is] good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving:

5 For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

The drinking of wine was not prohibited in the Old Testament, except for the Nazarites (Jud. 13:7). In the Colossian church, it was a focal point for those teachers who demanded their followers to live a life of total austerity. Jesus turned water into wine (Jn. 4:46), so it obviously wasn't a sin in His eyes. We cannot judge the person who drinks alcohol without abusing it (Ro. 14:10), but there are compelling reasons to abstain totally from it. I've heard that 8 to 10% of folks who take their first drink will become addicted. That's a staggering number!

Proverbs 20:1 ¶ Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

Text: *Colossians 2:18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*

The teachers who were misleading the Colossian church, were placing angels on equal status with Christ Jesus. I'm sure their message sounded good, but if it contradicted Jesus, it must be condemned. Paul said that if an angel from heaven preached any other gospel than that which he had preached, let that angel be cursed. One of the fastest growing sects today was founded by the supposed word of an angel.

Text: Colossians 2:19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

The church is the body of Christ and He is our head. The body receives its necessary nourishment from Him and Him alone. Sad to say, but just like the Colossian church, we are constantly confronted by those who place hurdles in the path of the struggling Christian. As soon as we reach one goal, they raise the bar a little higher. Don't touch, don't taste and don't handle. Wear your hair and clothes in a prescribed manner and don't go anywhere where sinners are apt to be present. Paul said that these were commandments and doctrines of men.

Text: *Colossians 2:20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.*

This does not mean that we are free to do anything that we wish. If we have that attitude, we haven't crucified our flesh (Gal. 5:16). When we are in Jesus, His voice will tell us when we are walking contrary to His will. His word is given for instruction in righteousness (2Tim. 3:16) and godly pastors watch over our souls and warn us of impending pitfalls (Heb. 13:17).

Our next chapter is in Colossians 3 where Paul deals with the real culprits that hinder our Christian walk such as: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of our mouths.

Somebody Has Said

Before He furnishes the abundant supply, we must first be made conscious of our emptiness. Before he gives strength, we must be made to feel our weakness. Slow, painfully slow, are we to learn this lesson; and slower still to own our nothingness and take the place of helplessness before the Mighty One. - A.W. Pink

10 - Seek Those Things Which Are Above Colossians 3:1-4

A large portion of the first two chapters of Colossians, give us Paul's arguments against those who simply don't recognize the supremacy and preeminence of Christ Jesus. We studied that He is preeminent in creation, in redemption and in His church. Contrary to those who don't find the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross sufficient as full payment for their sins and ultimate salvation, we recognize that He paid the ultimate price on our behalf. Our good works are a result of Christ living in us (Eph. 2:10), but can never add to the sacrifice that He made for us on the cross (Eph. 2:8).

The teachers who were misleading the Colossians wanted them to return to the very elements of dead superstition and religion from which they had been delivered (Col. 2:8). Well, nothing ever really changes. These false teachers, with their endless enticing words, still abound in one guise or another.

Text: *Colossians 3:1 ¶ If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right and of God.*

Paul stressed the absolute Deity of the Lord Jesus. He stressed that Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Co. 1:15; Heb. 1:3) in whom all the fullness of the godhead dwells bodily and that we are complete in Him (Col. 2:9-13).

We were buried with Him in water baptism, which is the circumcision of Christ and rose to walk in a newness of life (Col. 2:12; Ro. 6:4).

When we began our new life in Him, we were translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col. 1:13). These two kingdoms are diametrically opposed to each other. Jesus said that we can't serve two masters (Mt. 6:24). The kingdom of darkness is always trying to entice us: to satisfy the base desires of our flesh, to have this world's riches and to be noticed in this world. The requirements for entrance into the kingdom of God are: to be born again of His Spirit (Jn. 3:5), to become as a little child and to totally deny self and follow Jesus (Lu. (9:23, 18:17).

Text: *Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Jesus is sitting at the place of power and authority on the throne of God (Col. 3:1; Rev. 3:21). The things that He gives us are: continual fellowship and intimacy with Him. We are seated in heavenly places with Him (Eph. 2:6) and we reign with Him as kings and priest in His kingdom (Rev. 1:6, 5:10). We have freedom from the effects of sin that is killing a large portion of the earth's population, such as drugs and AIDS.

It is easy to be misled by the mass media preachers who would have us set our eyes on the material things of this world as our God given entitlements. They emphasize the Old Testament promises to Israel of riches, if they obeyed God. In the Old Testament, riches were the seal of God's approval. In the New Testament the proof of discipleship is forsaking all to follow Jesus. Jesus promised in Luke 12:31 that If we sought His kingdom first, the necessities of life would be provided for us. The context of this chapter shows that "All these things" refers to food, clothing and shelter and by extension the necessities of life.

Jesus wasn't guaranteeing us a Cadillac and a mansion on the hilltop. It's sad to note that many Christians who had been caught up with the current health and wealth gospel have been severely hurt by the current economic recession. Many economies of the world, including the U.S. are severely under water, and we may soon learn what it means to trust Almighty God, rather than the almighty dollar.

Text: *Colossians 3:3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

As the old song says, "This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through." However, while we're passing through our concern for the world should simply be to preach the gospel to all who will hear (Mk.

16:16; Mt. 28:18; Ac. 8:4) and to be the hand of God extended to all who are oppressed and suffering (Lu. 4:18). Our message is Christ and Him crucified, nothing else (1Cor. 2:2). If we preach without mentioning the cross, have we really preached at all? Jesus died so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life (Jn. 3:16-17). God help us to take the focus off of ourselves and have a renewed vision for a lost and dying world. We don't want to be classed with the church at Laodicea who was rich and increased with goods, but who had lost their first love and were doomed to be spewed out of God's mouth, except they repent (Re. 3:17).

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

1John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Text: *Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.*

We recognize that our citizenship is in heaven (Php. 3:20). We know that the very elements of this world are going to burn up with fervent heat and that we wait for a new heaven and earth where God's righteousness prevails (2Pet. 3:9-13) and where we will live eternally with Jesus. Seventy or eighty years of discipleship on this earth is nothing compared to spending eternity with our Master.

Song: [Jesus the Son of God](#) written by Bis. G.T. Haywood

Somebody Has Said

"Instead of complaining at his lot, a contented man is thankful that his condition and circumstances are no worse than they are. Instead of greedily desiring something more than the supply of his present need, he rejoices that God still cares for him. Such an one is "content" with such as he has." - A.W. Pink

11 - Put Off The Old Man

Colossians 3:5-11

Last week in Colossians 3:1-4, the apostle Paul's admonition that having been raised into newness of life in Christ Jesus, we are to seek the things that come from Him above, where He is sitting at the right hand of God on the throne of heaven. We've mentioned before that God is invisible and that the right hand of God is a metaphor for the place of honor and power. It pleased the Father that all of the Deity of the godhead should dwell in the physical body of Jesus. We are dead to sin and our life is hid with Christ in God. Christ who is our life will return for us and we will be partakers of His glory.

Text: Colossians 3:5 ¶ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Therefore, or because of our exalted position in Christ, we are to mortify or kill the deeds of our flesh that are unpleasing to God. Note the phrase, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." In contrast to being seated with Him in heavenly places, our bodies are still on this earth and are subject to all of the temptation that Satan can throw at us. Fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection and evil concupiscence (desire) describe actual acts as well as sexual lust.

In God's eyes, to covet that which belongs to another is idolatry. Likewise, if we are consumed with obtaining the wealth of this world, we are apt to neglect the things of God and this becomes idolatry. Jesus said that we can't serve God and money (Lu. 16:13).

To desire something so badly that it consumes all of our physical strength to obtain it, is to make that thing the object of our worship, thus becoming our god. Our God is jealous and will not tolerate the worship of anything or anybody, other than Himself (Ex. 34:14; De. 4:4). He also said that He would not give His glory to graven images (Isa. 42:8).

1 Timothy 6:6 ¶ But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

Hebrews 13:5 [Let your] conversation [be] without covetousness; [and be] content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Text: *Colossians 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:*

The early gentile churches were not immune from sexual sin and covetousness and neither is the modern day church. Nevertheless verse 6 is quite clear, to partake of these is to invite the wrath of God.

Text: *Colossians 3:7 In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.*

We used to do these things, however, now we are washed and sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of God (1Co 6:11). We now are a new creation in Christ, old things have passed away and all things have become new (2Co 5:17).

Text: *Colossians 3:8 ¶ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.*

As the TV ads say, "Wait there's more." Up to this point Paul has dwelled on sexual sins and covetousness but we need to go further and address some other sins that are generated from our spirit. First on the list is anger. An angry spirit obviously lacks the peace that Jesus offers (Jn. 14:27). Our anger reflects in wrath, malice, blasphemy and filthy or coarse speech that is not becoming to a Christian and which grieves the Spirit of God (Eph. 4:30).

Text: *Colossians 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;*

When we came to Jesus, we put off our old man and all of His deeds, which includes lying. Sometimes that old man is like a bug that you think you killed, but suddenly shows new life. When the old man pops up his head, we have to be like Paul who said that he died daily (1Cor. 15:31; Ro. 8:13)

Romans 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Ephesians 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Text: *Colossians 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

When Jesus took up residence in our hearts, we became a new creation in Him. We don't think, act or react like we used to. Every thought is filtered through Him. As 2Corinthians 10:5 states, we bring every thought to the obedience of Christ. That's how our new man is renewed in knowledge after the image of Jesus our Creator. While on earth, He knew no sin and guile was never found in His mouth (1Pet. 2:22). By His indwelling Spirit, He equips us to follow after His example.

Do you remember this old chorus?

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me
All His wondrous compassion and purity
O Thou, Spirit divine, All my being refine
Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me*

Text: *Colossians 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

When we walk in the perfection of Jesus, religious, racial, economic and sectarian barriers are eliminated and Jesus is magnified. I believe that this is the heart's desire of all of us.

In our next chapter, we'll look at the things that we are to put on. These will replace the things that we have put off.

Somebody Has Said

If any occupation or association is found to hinder our communion with God or our enjoyment of spiritual things, then it must be abandoned. Anything in my habits or ways which mars happy fellowship with the brethren or robs me of power in service, is to be unsparingly judged and made an end of-- 'burned.' Whatever I cannot do for God's glory must be avoided. - A.W. Pink

12 - Put On the New Man

Colossians 3:11-17

As you know, when we come to the word *therefore* we back up to see what *therefore* is *therefore*. Our text starts with the words, *Put on therefore*: So lets do a quick review of Colossians 3:1-11. We see that having been raised with Christ Jesus to a new life in Him, we are to seek those things that come from Him in heaven.

We are to set our affections on things above and not on things on the earth, because we are dead to sin and our lives are hid with Christ in God. Jesus, who is our life, will return and we will appear with Him in glory. Therefore, because of all this, we mortify and kill the deeds of our sinful flesh, which are expressed in sexual sin, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, lying and filthy speech. We have put on the new man which is patterned after the image of the indwelling Jesus and the image of Him is constantly being renewed after the pattern of our Creator. All divisions of race, gender, ethnicity and religious sect are erased in Him because He is the Savior of us all.

Text: *Colossians 3:12 ¶ Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

Having come to new life in Christ, we not only have the obligation to cease to do evil, but to do good as well. Because we are the elect of God, holy and beloved by Him (Do we comprehend these words, we are the chosen (Jn. 15:16,19), elect (Mt. 13:27; 1Pe. 1:2), sanctified and set apart (1Co. 1:2), peculiar treasure (Ex. 19:5), jewels of God (Mal. 3:17). No need to be hanging our heads, we are the sons of the living God. He dwells in us and expresses His life through us (Gal. 2:20).

Firstly, we are to put on bowels of mercies. Bowels of mercies seem like a rather uncouth statement but Greek scholars tell us that there is no word in the English language that expresses the depths that our understanding and compassion should reach, except to refer to our visceral parts, our guts. Jesus said that the living waters of His spirit would flow forth from our bellies (Jn. 4:10, 7:38). When we are not moved by the plight of others, whether their complaint is emotional or physical, we can safely say that their plight is not felt in our innermost being.

James 2:16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit?

1John 3:17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels [of compassion] from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Some say that our obligation for mercy is only for those in the church. I believe that as the opportunity presents itself we are obligated to do good for all men, especially those of the household of faith (Gal.6:10).

Just as mercies comes from our innermost being we are also to demonstrate, kindness, humbleness of mind, and meekness. Then there's longsuffering, which can surely tax the limits of our endurance. But Galatians 2:20 tells us, "It's not I that lives but Christ who lives in me....." He will give us strength and wisdom to handle these taxing situations.

Text: *Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*

We are to forebear and forgive one another. Jesus said that if we don't forgive our brothers and sisters, our heavenly Father will not forgive us (Mt. 6:15; Mk. 11:6). Lest we consider our brother's trespass to be so grievous that we can't forgive them, we need to consider our trespasses against Christ for which he freely forgave us.

Text: *Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*

Charity or love is the bond of perfection, the glue and cement that holds things together. Paul gives us a detailed description of pure charity in 1Corinthians 13.

*1Corinthians 13:4 ¶ Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

This type of love is unattainable in our natural selves, but once again, "It is not I that lives, but Christ who lives in me, and the life that I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

Jesus loved His thick headed and disappointing disciples all the way to the cross (Jn. 13:1), and He loves us in spite of our imperfections. We must love our brothers and sisters in the same manner (Jn. 15:12; Eph. 5:2). Jesus is our High Priest (Heb. 3:1,4:14), and our go between God and man. He lives and makes constant intercession for our faults at the throne of God (Ro. 8:34).

If His grace covers our faults, we shouldn't be finding fault with our brothers and sisters, but rather pray and intercede for them. We perceive or comprehend the love of God because He laid down His life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for others (Jn.15:13; 1Jn. 3:16, 4:11).

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Text: *Colossians 3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*

We are to let the peace of God rule in our hearts. Peace is a fruit of God's Spirit and has been freely given to us. It is up to us to let it rule in our lives. Likewise we are to be thankful and content with God's provision. Like Paul, whether we are abased or abounding, we are thankful for what has been given to us (Php. 4:12; Eph. 5:20).

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Text: *Colossians 3:16 Let 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.*

The psalmist said that God's word was a lamp to his feet and a light to his path. He hid the word in His heart that he might not sin against God (Ps. 119:105,111).

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Jesus said that His words were spirit and life (Jn. 6:63) and were eternal. Heaven and earth would pass away, but His words would still endure (Mk. 13:31). We must rightly divide the word of God and diligently follow that which applies to us today. We have a tendency to cherry pick the pleasant parts and ignore the unpleasant. But we need all of it.

Text: *Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

Whatever we do in word or deed, we do in the name of the Lord Jesus. We don't do good deeds to make points with God or to be seen of men. We do what we do in God's name to glorify Him. Any works that we do with wrong motives will be burned as chaff at the judgment of God (1Cor. 3:15). Anything such as giving a cup of water in His name will receive a reward (Mt. 10:42). Works that we do in the name of Jesus, will not be unnoticed by Him and will certainly advance His kingdom.

Malachi 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Somebody Has Said

"Let this be to you the mark of true gospel preaching - where Christ is everything, and the creature is nothing; where it is salvation all of grace, through the work of the Holy Spirit applying to the soul the precious blood of Jesus." - Charles H. Spurgeon

13 - Godly Order Calls For Submission

Colossians 3:18 - 4:2

Our text today deals with various areas of submission. We live in the land of the free and many of us have an opinion on everything and are quick to freely express it. Submission is not usually part of our vocabulary. Nevertheless, it is an essential part of God's order. God is a God of order. Just as He set the sun, moon and stars in the heavens in precise unvarying order, He demands order in our daily Christian walk. The various areas of submission are: One to another - Wife to husband - Child to parent - to civil authorities - to employers - to church authorities and to the public in general.

Text: *Colossians 3:18 ¶ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.*

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

The first order of submission that the apostle deals with is that of the wife to the husband and his thoughts are more fully expressed in Ephesians 5:21-32, which are summarized here.

We are all to be submitted one to another in the fear of God. We read in Luke 2:51-52 that Jesus returned with His parents to Nazareth and was subject to them. As He submitted, He increased in wisdom and stature and found favor with God and man. This is a perfect example of God's order. Everybody is to be in submission to somebody else. Another example set by Jesus is when He washed the feet of His argumentative disciples (Jn. 13:4-12).

The wife is to submit herself to her own husband, as unto the Lord. The Colossian text says, "As it is fit in the Lord." The apostle here is assuming that the husband is walking in close communion with his Lord and fulfilling his own godly role. Obviously the wife cannot respect or obey the husband who is walking otherwise or who asks something contrary to God's word and will. In God's order, the husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church (1Cor. 11:3). Jesus loved us so much, that He gave His life for us. The husband is commanded to love and nourish his wife in like manner. There's no, "Me Tarzan you Jane" in that. Men have a greater responsibility to fulfill their ordained godly role in loving their wives as Christ loved the church.

Text: *Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. 21 Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

I must confess that in raising my children, I sometimes forgot the admonition to not provoke them to wrath. Certainly discipline is necessary, but to nurture the child in the fear and admonition of the Lord should certainly be our first approach. If we do this first, a lot of punishment will be unnecessary. Long life is promised to the child who respects and obeys his/hers parents. God will hold the parent responsible who fails to instruct their children in proper decorum. Most of us as children thought that we knew everything.

As we grew older, we realized that our parents knew a thing or two. It's good to let the child express their thoughts, at the proper time and place, which the parent can consider and then add a godly perspective for the child's instruction.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Text: *Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:*

23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

It's rather sad to see Christians who don't do a full day's work. Not a very good testimony. Here again, submission works both ways. The employee should do his best to see his employer succeed. The Christian employer is obligated to have the welfare of his employees as one of his utmost concerns. I remember a particular low paid job that I had during a period of recession. Quite often, the scripture was impressed on my mind that I was not just to do right when the boss was looking, but at all times as if the Lord Himself was writing my paycheck, which in fact He was. I would grumble some and then remember and thank the Lord for the job that He had given me, when many others were out of work. Marie and I have followed a simple rule in our work lives that I'm confident we have passed on to our children, which is: "Give 110% and make yourself indispensable to your employer."

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do [it] with thy might; for [there is] no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Text: *Colossians 4:1 ¶ Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.*

The Christian employer is also accountable to the Lord to pay a decent wage and provide proper working conditions (Ja. 5:1-4). We are also required of the Lord to be submissive to civil authorities: It's not much of a testimony when Christians wink at the law, whether it be speed laws or tax laws or whatever.

Titus 3:1. Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

1 Peter 2:13. Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

Romans 13:2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

We are required of the Lord to be submissive to church authority.

We all have overseers and none of us should walk free from accountability. I believe it is incumbent upon the church leadership to not forget that they are also to be in submission. Many sit back when their sheep are hurting, waiting for a call or the proper show of respect. When the Good Shepherd went searching for the lost sheep, He didn't check to see how submissive he had been. The Shepherd simply went out searching until He found the lost sheep (Mt. 18:12). We are also enjoined to feed the church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Ac. 20:28).

*Ephesians 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

*Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,
2. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

We are to submit to the older generation: I may be paranoid, but as I get older I sense that some of the younger generation feel that if you're over 50, you've had your day. I hope that is not the case and nobody really feels like that, but now that I'm 76.....?

1Peter 5:5. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all [of you] be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Text: *Colossians 4:2 ¶ Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;
3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:*

4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 ¶ Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

We must exhibit holiness in our public life. It is important to show the same face to the world that we present at church. The world expects to hear godly speech and wisdom from the saint of God. If we do so, our example can lead them to Christ. If we show anything contrary, they are very quick to notice, and we will be held accountable.

I pray that you will find these few thoughts to be helpful in your Christian walk as you strive to be a fruitful laborer for our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

You can find our weekly devotional at <http://about-him.com>

Share your thoughts and comments at: contact@about-him.com