

Let's Worship God

4th-9th March 2019
Colossians



Colossians

Monday - Colossians 2:1-7 - Praying for Believers

When reading the epistles it must always be remembered that they are letters! Colossians was a letter written to a congregation, not a book with four chapters. There were no chapter divisions in the original, and it is unfortunate that the flow of the argument at the end of chapter one is interrupted by the chapter division. Verse 1 of ch. 2 is a clear continuation of the thought expressed in ch.1:29. Paul was very concerned for the church in the Lycus valley and wants to warn them of the very real danger of false teaching.

The apostle speaks of his struggle (the word comes from the same root as 'striving' in 1:29) on behalf of the believers even although he is separated from them. He struggled for them by providing 'ammunition' against the false teachers, by his clearly setting out of the truth of the gospel, and by his constant prayer for them. His struggle on their behalf took place within his own heart in his anxiety, sympathy, and intercession for them.

Paul demonstrates a great generosity of heart and spirit, for it is unlikely that he had a personal acquaintance with many of the believers. Nevertheless he specifically mentions those who did not personally know him as the object of his concern and prayer. This demonstrates the true heart of the man of God. He loves the believers for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ, and does not rely upon his own knowledge of them to stimulate or encourage his concern for them.

There is a great lesson here for believers in every place. There is a great responsibility placed upon the believer to be concerned and to pray for fellow believers. There are many differing congregations and denominations, but only one church of Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What can be done to help us to have a greater concern for fellow believers?
2. Paul showed his concern by writing to the church; what can we do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for your sister churches.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 51 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Tuesday - Colossians 2:2-3; Ephesians 1:15-23 - Paul's Desire

When Paul states his own desire for these Christians he is simply setting out what God would have all Christians to be. He desires four things for them:

a. The strengthening of their hearts. The heart in Scripture is more than the seat of the emotions, it refers principally to the whole inward personality, including thought and will as well as emotion. Gen. 6:5; Eccl. 1:17; Heb. 4:12. The Christians in Colossae were being called on to fight to resist doctrinal and practical errors, and for that, they would need the strength that comes from God.

b. The binding together in love. This is love in the Lord Jesus Christ and thus a love in the truth. There would be little hope of false teachers gaining ground within the church if true believers were bound together in love for Christ, His truth, and one another.

c. The assurance of the truth. One of the greatest riches for the believing saint is to be firmly convinced of the truth and not to be swayed from that conviction no matter how plausible the arguments might be. The Colossian believers were being assailed by all kinds of exciting and novel teachings that seemed to offer them deeper insights into the ways of God, and the only way that they could combat these teachings was through a firm conviction that what they had been taught by the apostles was absolutely true.

d. The knowledge of the mystery of God. Paul uses the term 'mystery' to indicate a truth that would have remained hidden had God not revealed it. Paul desires that the believers might know Christ, for it is in Him that all wisdom and knowledge are to be found. These glorious life giving and life preserving truths are hidden from the ungodly, but wonderfully revealed to the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. How can the 'binding together in love' that Paul speaks of be developed?
2. Why is it important to be absolutely certain of the truth of God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be bound together with other believers in love.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 52 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Wednesday -Colossians 2:4-7; 2 Corinthians 11:1-15 - False Teaching

In writing this letter to the church Paul was very concerned that the professing believers in Colossae might be deceived by the false teaching that was taking place, and he wanted to guard and protect them.

It would seem that in the church in Colossae there were already false teachers at work amongst them, quite possibly they were not from within the congregation itself but were itinerant preachers going from place to place spreading their false teaching.

It is interesting to note that they were warned about not being deceived. It is not that they were so unsound in the truth that they would run after any false teaching that came along, it was that little by little they would be induced to accept 'new' truth because it sounded plausible and 'spiritual'. It should never be forgotten that the devil himself is sometimes disguised as a 'angel of light' 2 Cor. 11:13.

Paul believed that the best way to protect the believers against this false teaching was to direct their minds and hearts to Christ. A person who is firmly convinced that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are to be found in Christ will not go looking elsewhere to try to find truth. It is not always wise to delve too deeply into false teaching so that you can answer it point by point; it is much safer to make sure that you know the truth!

Paul's concern for the church did not blind him to the positive things going on in the congregation:

There was unity in the fellowship - he praises their 'order' or discipline, which is an expression taken from the Roman army. It was their discipline and unity that made them so formidable.

There was also steadfast faith. In spite of the challenges facing them Paul was encouraged because they were established on a solid foundation in Christ.

Questions

1. What can we learn about false doctrine from the Bereans Acts 17:11?
2. What sort of 'new' things could lead us away from the truth?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would stay focused on Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 53 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Thursday - Colossians 2:1-7 - Thankfulness

The exhortation in verses 6 & 7 is for the believers to live in accordance with the profession of faith that they had made. True believers have 'received Christ Jesus the Lord' and this points to the fullness and completeness of the salvation they have received. This again shows to the Christians the foolishness of listening to the false teachers who were telling them that something else was needed.

There are four phrases that describe the Christian 'walk'.

Paul says first of all that they had been 'firmly rooted' which speaks of being securely planted in Christ. The tense that is used here indicates that it was an act done once for all that has continuing effects. Somebody rooted in Christ by saving faith will show in his life the living relationship he has with Christ.

The second phrase - 'being built up in him' - has the picture of a tall building that is slowly getting taller and taller. This speaks of the ongoing work of sanctification in the life of the believer. The Christian who is 'walking in Christ' should be becoming more Christlike day by day.

The third phrase, also speaks of something that is continuous, becoming ever more established in the faith. A mature Christian will have an ever firmer grip on eternal realities and a deeper assurance of the truth as it is in Jesus.

Lastly Paul speaks of that continuing thankfulness that should be a noticeable part of the life of the Christian. A proper and growing thankfulness to God will inevitably lead to a spirit of praise that will show itself in ready obedience to the word and the will of God. A Christian who is truly thankful to the Lord for all that he has done for him will be one who gives glad and ready service to the Lord and to his people.

Questions

1. As we look back on the past year do we see evidence of spiritual growth and likeness to Jesus?
2. How does your thankfulness show itself in service?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that God has done for you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 54 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Friday - Colossians 2:1-10 - Tradition

It is evident that the heretical teachers in Colossae were a real threat to the stability and confidence of the believers. So Paul, having stated the positive in vs 6,7 reinforces the message by stating the negative in vs 8 - 10. He does not want the believers to be moved from their absolute assurance in the sufficiency of the Lord Jesus Christ. He makes clear that there is a tremendous contrast between the pure doctrine of Christ revealed from heaven and the spurious human wisdom of these false teachers.

There is an absolutely staggering contradiction in these verses. On the one hand there is the power and wisdom of man, and on the other the glory and majesty of the incarnate son of God.

When Paul warns the believers not to be taken captive by philosophy and empty deception he was not suggesting that it was wrong to be a diligent student. Neither was he condemning as such, the traditions of men. What he was doing was to warn them against substituting the theories and notions of men and the attempts of men to reach up to heaven by their own efforts, for the glorious gospel of Christ. There were those in the early church who wanted to retain many of the elements of Judaism and impose them on the Gentile believers, thus making salvation partly by faith and partly by works.

In contrast to this man-made deception, the apostle Paul points once again to Christ and shows that completeness comes only in him. The believer can be complete in Jesus Christ because in Christ there is the fullness of the Godhead. All the power, wisdom and understanding that are eternally present in God were present in the bodily form of Jesus of Nazareth, and the believer is 'in Christ' and thus has available to him all that he needs. There is nothing lacking and therefore the believer is complete.

Questions

1. How can we make sure that our traditions do not take us away from Christ?
2. How do we make best use of all of the resources that we have in Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the Gospel.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 55 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Saturday - Colossians 2:6-17 - Continual Thanksgiving

From verse 11 to verse 17 the apostle Paul specifies some aspects of the heresy that was threatening the Colossian church. The believers were being told that they would never have victory over the flesh unless they were first circumcised.

Paul wanted the Christians to realise the foolishness of those who were insisting upon the external rite of circumcision for those who already had received the reality symbolised by circumcision. He tells them 'you have been circumcised'. He then goes on to describe the circumcision they had received.

1. It was not made with hands. Their circumcision was not an external rite performed by a surgical operation for ceremonial impurity; it was inward cleansing of the heart by the work of the Holy Spirit. This was, of course what the outward sign symbolised Deut. 30:6. The false teachers however, were more concerned with ritual than the reality.

2. It consisted in the 'removal of the body of the flesh'. A very strong expression used to signify the complete stripping away in contrast to the partial cutting away involved in the rite of circumcision. This speaks of the new nature that is given to the child of God at conversion. This 'putting off' of the sinful flesh is an accomplished fact in the mind of God, and is an increasing reality in the life of the believer.

3. It is centred in Christ. True circumcision is possible only through Jesus Christ. It was to him and to his perfect sacrifice that the physical rite of circumcision pointed - the taking away of sin and the cleansing of heart and life.

Paul established here the very important principle that the centre and substance of the Christian religion lies in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What evidences do you see in your life of the continuing 'removal of the body of the flesh'?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

Praise: Psalm 56 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

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