

Redemption & Forgiveness of Sin

Colossians 1:7-14

Colossae a city in Phrygia, a Roman province of Asia, now Turkey, 100 mi. E of Ephesus. Thriving in 5thC BC under Xerxes, export of black wool dyed from chalk deposits, very expensive. City situated on main trade routes. Those changed in Paul's day Colossae by-pass & rerouted thru Laodicea causing Colossae's decline & Laodicea rise. Mixed population Jews & Gentles—church dealt w/ Gentile heresies of pagan mysticism & Jewish legalism heresies. Paul had never been to Colossae. Church began while Paul was 3 years teaching in Ephesus **Acts 19** where Epaphras got saved & went back home to Colossae began to teach a bible study from what he learned from Paul afterward a church began.

Years later Epaphras brought word to Paul of dangerous heresies coming into the church at Colossae. **Gnosticism**-God is **good**; matter is **evil**—Both Alienated one from the other. Two schools: **asceticism** (severe treatment of the body to bring it under) Total **Indulgence** (excessive pleasure of body appetites don't affect spirit)

Gnostics taught; goal of believer is acquire knowledge not faith. Two false doctrines about Jesus: He not human but phantom, a spirit no physical body. And Jesus came in flesh, human, but not God—Christ spirit came upon Him at baptism & left at cross.

Heresy said matter is evil, so body must be suppressed, mollified, subdued thru extreme asceticism, severe treatment of body. Opposite view body not affect spirit so indulge the flesh, fully exhaust, satiate flesh. **Moses-quail, chip cookies**. Grafted onto Gnostic heresy was a form of ritual Judahism—you will attain higher knowledge thru law keeping:

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Circumcision, dietary laws, ceremony, keeping religious days, feasts, fasting, ceremonial washings, worship of angels, mystical experiences, all bringing a higher truth than gospel. This special knowledge is 'mystical' only revealed to the **Initiated**.

Epaphras was so concerned for the church he went to Paul in Rome, who was imprisoned to inform him. Paul responds in his letter to the Colossians. Timothy the acting secretary. Letter since 60-62 AD at same time letter to Ephesians & Philippians sent & carried by Tychicus Col 4:7,8; Eph 6:21. Onesimus runaway slave mentioned who went back to master Philemon a member of Colossian church 4:7-9. Epaphras stayed w/ Paul in Rome.

Colossian letter--most Christ centered of all 14 (Heb) of Paul's letters. Divided Ch 1-2 Doctrinal (healthy teaching) Ch 3,4 Practical.

Theme is pre-eminence of Christ & His sufficiency for salvation. Believers are complete in Christ. He is all & in all. No need for icons, images, candles, or Gnostic heresies.

Paul denounces all that devalues Christ (**Olympics**) or seeks to add to (self effort) the work of Christ. True knowledge of Jesus Christ is the only antidote to false religion...**Christ crucified & risen**

Need to prepare soil of our heart for full benefit--pull weeds of **sin**, uproot stumps of **Pride**, digup bolder of **unbelief**. Word is change agent **Mk 4:26-28**

7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, 8 and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

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Epaphras planted the church--short for Epaphroditus in his hometown..

Learned more than listen but idea of being a disciple. Gospel involves systematic instruction in faith & living out what we learn.

He told Paul *informed* about them—a Good report—your faith & love in the spirit—greatest of all is love. Shown thru deeds **Miki/Nani example of spirit led**

Ironside 'To pretend to be zealous for the truth of the one body while failing to demonstrate the love of the spirit is to put the emphasis in the wrong place. Doctrinal correctness will never atone for lack of brotherly love'

We need to train ourselves to be positive, especially when a person is trying hard to be what God wants them to be but falling short. *'so much good in the worst of us & so much bad in the best of us behooves the rest of us not to judge the least of us'*

These folks from CC Calif said *good sermon*...but what happen in café is what they will tell & take back & tell others about.

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Heard of their faith & love—*not ceased to pray*--pray often & pray biblical

Faith & love being the result of the gospel & systematic teaching. Paul prays for more of the same--A deep & detailed knowledge & understanding of God's will. Not by feelings or emotions or inner impressions as Mormons *a burning in the bosom* but by the word of God--meditate on, study, pray over, memorize, turn over in the mind, So come to true understanding.

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Filled w/ *knowledge of His will in all Spiritual wisdom &*

understanding—*Wisdom* is the ability to apply what we learn from the bible in everyday life. *Understanding* 1 *Divine insight*--the ability to digest & organize spiritual truths

So to *walk worthy*—2 *Divine living* consistent w/ word & walk, id as Christian seen in way we live. *Please Him* 3 *Divine favor*; *Bearing fruit* 4 *Divine fruitfulness*; *Increasing knowledge of God* 5 *Divine growth*, *Strengthened w/ all power* 6 *Divine ability*; *Attaining all steadfastness & patience* 7 *Divine endurance* stick-to-it ness Result: *joyful in giving thanks* 8 *Divine praise*

Fruitful every good work a result of living close to Jesus, abiding in Him.

Strengthened related to difficulties we endure, trial we overcome & our attitude as a result. *Qualified*, make sufficient or empower only thru finished work of Christ.

13 For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Divine rescue-set free from Satan's kingdom of darkness, death, deception—who **blinded** us to the life we were living, **ignorant** of the road we on & **dead** to where it ended.

A mystery how God works, transfers us to Christ kingdom. **Rule by a king**—it's why repentance is important—to admit to our need, helpless in our condition, powerless to change (*I think I can...*) God loosens Satan's grip on us & brings us to place of repentance, forgiveness & **redemption**

Bought off the slave block of sin & freed us to worship God by turning us to Himself—old life for new life in Christ—shopping cart to new Tacoma, Silverado, F150