

Colossians Chapter Two

Outline of the Book

Paul is going to refute the heresy of Gnosticism which focused on four areas:

1. Worldly Philosophy
2. Jewish Legalism
3. Oriental Mysticism (occult practices)
4. Asceticism

Chapter One – the preeminence of Christ is Declared

- In the Gospel 1:1-12
- In Redemption 1:13-14
- In Creation 1:15-17
- In the Church 1:18-29

Chapter Two – the preeminence of Christ is Defended

- Beware of empty philosophies
- Beware of religious legalism
- Beware of man-made rules, rituals, disciplines

Chapters Three and Four – The preeminence of Christ Demonstrated – how we are to live

VS 1 Laodicea is referenced – Revelation 3:14-22

- This church was near by Colossae about a mile away
- They were to exchange letters (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon?)
- They were chastised by Jesus in Revelation as being lukewarm
- Hot springs in Hierapolis – aqueduct to Colossae water was cold – Laodicea – lukewarm

VS 2 Paul's prayer for those he has never meet

VS 3

- All treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ
- Everything we need is in Christ – do not need secret knowledge
- It is not information but the person of Jesus
- Wisdom Proverbs 8:12-21; 32-36

Paul has given:

- Encouragement – hearts comforted
- Endearment – being knit together in love
- Enrichment – all treasures and riches are in Jesus
- Enlightenment – full understanding

VS 4 – 7 Warning

- Do not fall for seductive lies that lead you away from the word of God – Eve
- 1 Peter 2:1-3; 18 – 19
- Hang on to Jesus
- A Tree - Be rooted in Him
- A Building – Be established in the faith
- A School – Being taught

VS 8 Warning

- Guard against philosophy
- Empty deception
- Traditions of men
- Principles of this world rather than Christ
- Is there absolute truth?
- Is man basically good?
- Is man acceptable to God through works?
- Do all roads lead to God?

The foolishness of God – I Corinthians 1:18

Jesus is the antidote for human philosophy, Jewish legalism, oriental mysticism, asceticism.

VS 9-10

- Fullness of Godhead is in Jesus – John 14: 7-9
- We are complete in Him
- He is the head of all principalities and power

Guilt – universal reality among people – doing wrong produces guilt – psychology has no answer for guilt- only forgiveness removes guilt – John 20: 23 Only the church has the authority to “forgive sins”.

VS 11-12

- Circumcision of the heart – not made with hands
- Dealing with the “old nature” – sinful nature inherited from Adam –
- New life through resurrection of Jesus – Romans Chapter 6

VS 13-14

- We were dead in sin; we are not alive in Christ – Ephesians 2:1-8
- We are forgiven all trespasses
- Galatians 2:16 – works of the law do not justify us before God
- John 6:33 – the flesh profits us nothing
- Our certificate of debt has been blotted out – wiped away – *tetelisti*

VS 15

- Jesus spoiled principalities and powers
- Jesus made a public display of this victory
- Jesus was triumphant over Satan

VS 16 – 23

- Let know one judge you – food, drink, worship, new moon, sabbath, etc.
- Let know one defraud you through self-abasement – asceticism
- Let know one enslave you – do not touch, do not taste – traditions of men.
- Asceticism is of not value against the flesh.