

Bible Study
The Book of Colossians Chapter 1 thru 4
May 21st, thru July 16th, 2020 - Pastor Charles A. Hall

We will begin our study of the epistle or book of Colossians written by the apostle Paul between 60 and 61 AD. Unlike most of his other writings Paul was not acquainted with this church. The church is believed to have been planted by Epaphras a convert and disciple of the apostle. It is also believed that Epaphras also served as their minister in charge. The apostle Paul wrote this epistle around the same period that he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon. In fact, of the 105 verses in the book of Colossians 75 of them are also found in Ephesians. It is alleged that Paul wrote these epistles during his first imprisonment at Rome.

The epistle of Colossians was written to the people and church of Colossae as well as the church of Laodicea and the Laodiceans. The majority of the members in the church of Colossae were gentiles who had heard the Word and accepted salvation. However, the church and people were exposed to a local heresy of worshipping paganism, Judaism with legalistic customs, and Gnosticism whose views denied God as the divine creator of the universe, and held angelic beings and spiritual intermediaries as existing between man and God. They further encouraged the worshipping of the angelic beings to attain salvation. The condition of the people and church caused Epaphras to request assistance from the apostle Paul, who in return wrote this epistle. Epaphras either visited Paul in Rome or he was a co-prisoner with him in the Rome jail.

Paul wrote the epistle of Colossians to refute heresy and to demonstrate the preeminence of Christ, and to confirm encourage the readers in the Christian faith.

The theme for the epistle of Colossians is the supremacy and adequacy of Christ, which is stressed throughout the book.

If possible, please read all of chapter 1 prior to the class tonight.

Lesson for May 21st, 2020 Chapter 1 verses 1-13:

Verse 1 This greeting demonstrates the close connection between apostle Paul and his spiritual son in the ministry, Timothy.

Verse 2 Paul addresses the Colossians as Saint, he does this often in his epistles. Paul states that the unmerited favor of God be with them and the peace that can only come from a loving God be with them as well. This statement further lets them know that their ability to come before them is totally by God's grace.

- **Roman 5:1** Faith in God, we have peace with Him.
- **Ephesians 3:8** Paul considers himself less than the less, only by the grace of God.

Verse 3 Paul is giving thanks to God for them and also letting them know that he is praying for them.

Verse 4 Paul exhorts the Colossians before he deals with their spiritual issues or potential failures.

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Verse 5 The hope stated here refersto their salvation, so Paul is not saying that they are not saved, but rather their hope is based on hearing and receiving the truth.

- **1Peter 1:3-4**

Verse 6 Paul is saying to the Colossians that this hope that they have did not only come upon them only, but also all over the world, and has produced fruit, not in them only, for again in all the world. This fruit that Paul is referring to is godly character, noble conduct and righteous living.

- Paul is starting to attack the heresy and false doctrine that is just local.

Verse 7 Paul as an apostle is giving his stamp of approval on Epaphras as their minister in charge and spokesman for God.

Verse 8 Paul is letting them know that the only reason they have love for the brethren is that they received it through spiritual teaching.

- Romans 15:30 Love of the spirit

Verse 9 Paul states that the Colossians have been quicken by the spirit of God, so now they need to make sure they have knowledge, which produces spiritual understanding which is the same as wisdom.

Verse 10 This verse expresses the reason for verse 9 so that the Colossians walk or live in a manner that is pleasing unto God and in doing this they will be fruitful (God's results) in everything they do, and they continually increase in knowledge and wisdom.

- Ephesian 4:1 Walk worthy of your calling

Verse 11 As the Colossians walk worthy in the Lord they will get stronger even as they go through their tribulation and struggles.

- Ephesians 3:16 Strength by God's spirit in the inner man (divinely enabled)

Verse 12 Paul states that we should always give thanks to the father for our salvation and spiritual growth.

Verse 13 We need to give thanks because the spirit of God has lifted us out of darkness and earthly Hell and has transformed (made us acceptable) in the kingdom of His son.

- 2Peter 1:10-11

Lesson for May 28th, 2020 "Believers Faith" (Not part of this lesson series)

Lesson for June 4th, 2020 Chapter 2 verses 1-15:

Verse 14 We enjoy this new standing all because of what Jesus did on the cross, His sacrifice paid for our redemption. He is our atonement, He paid the price, He is our propitiator He took our place.

- Ephesians 1:7

Verse 15 Jesus is the first born not first creation but first born, He is before all creation.

Verse 16 By Him were all thing things created in Heaven and the earth visible and invisible including all angelic being.

Verse 17 The fact that He made all things put Him ahead of and in front of all things.

Verse 18 This verse confirm that Jesus is not only pre-eminent before all things, He is also the head of the body which means the church.

Verse 19-20 In these verses Christ gives two reasons for His preeminence (1) all fullness of the deity is in him, and since He is completely and fully God, He is preeminent, (2) by His death on the cross God the Father reconciled the universe to Himself.

- Ephesians 2:14
- 2Corinthians 5:18

Verse 21 By the finish work on the cross Christ has reconciled man who was once at odds with Him back to Himself in a peaceful state.

Verse 22 The heretic influence tried to use Christ's earthy death as a means of showing that the angelic beings were more powerful than Christ, however Paul points out that Christ's death actually shows His superiority.

Verse 23 Paul is telling the Colossians that they have been preserved in heaven by their faith in the gospel that they heard and now believe.

Verse 24 Paul states that he rejoices in his suffering since he is a member of the body of Christ and the Lord Himself shares in his suffering, thus Paul's afflictions actually enhanced the body of Christ which is the church.

Verse 25 Paul is referring in this verse to his divine assignment given to him by God Himself, this assignment is to preach the gospel over a wide geographical area, winning converts to Christianity.

- Galatians 5:7
- Romans 5:19

Verse 26 Paul is telling the Colossians that divine truth which were hidden from ages and generation but have now been made known by God directly to His servant His apostles and prophets.

- 2Timothy 1:10-11

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Verse 27 The apostle and prophets whom God has chosen to make known among the gentiles the glorious riches of His mystery, there was no secret in the old testament that the gentile would be saved, however that Christ would dwell in the Gentile converts was unknown at that time. 's theme here is "Christ in you" with the hope of Glory or eternal life.

Verse 28 Paul is saying to the Colossians that this Christ is the one we proclaim, the one we admonish and teach everyone with all wisdom, so that everyone can be present themselves fully mature in Christ.

▪ **Acts 20:20**

Verse 29 Paul states that because of all that Christ has done for him, it causes him to labor with as much energy and might as Godly possible.

Lesson for June 11th, 2020 Chapter 2 verses 1-15:

Verse 1 In this verse the apostle Paul is letting the Colossians and the people of Laodicea know that even though he is facing difficult times and situations however, he is fighting through his struggles for their benefit as well as others he has not met.

Verse 2 Paul is telling the Colossians and Laodiceans that he is overcoming the struggle in verse 1 so that their minds might be strengthen by proper spiritual instructions and understanding so they can be mature followers understanding God's mystery about Jesus Christ and able to safeguard themselves against prevailing heresy.

Verse 3 These mysteries mentioned in verse 2 are not all hidden but have been laid up for the revelation of Christ who is the source from which all wisdom and knowledge come.

Verse 4 The apostle Paul states to the Colossians and Laodiceans that he is presenting this biblical truth to them so that they may not be deceived.

Verse 5 Paul tells the Colossians and Laodiceans that although he may not be with them in the flesh however, he states that is with them in spirit and he is delighted to hear how disciplined they are and how firm and faithful they are in their commitment to Jesus Christ.

Verse 6 – 7 Paul reminds the Colossians and Laodiceans that they have been taught that Jesus Christ is Lord, so they ought to live like they know him. Paul point out that they have a good foundation which has been established in faith which they should maintain and grow with a heart of thanksgiving.

Verse 8 The Colossians and Laodiceans are to be on guard and alert for false teachers who try to deceive them through worldly traditions and philosophy, which are not after the teaching of Christ.

Verse 9 Paul asserts that that verse 8 worldly teaching is heresy however, in Christ is the whole of the divine nature (the fullness of the Godhead) dwells in Jesus in bodily form. This strike down the

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Colossians heresy denying the Son's deity that he possessed a body that could die and make atonement for sin.

- John 1:14

Verse 10 Because of verse 10 all believers are complete in Christ and have been filled by Jesus with all spiritual blessings and lack nothing.

Verses 11 thru 15 list five (5 of the spiritual blessing mentioned in verse 10:

Verse 11 the circumcision in this verse is not physical but spiritual whereby the worldly ruling power of the believer's flesh or sinful nature is now broken or removed by the power of Christ.

- Roman 6:6

Verse 12 This is not water baptism, but spiritual baptism by which Christ brings the believer into an intimate relation with Himself and with His people (church) through the Holy Spirit. **Ye are raise** signifies that God has raised the Colossians and you and I from our sinful ways to a new life with Him.

- 1Corinthians 12:13

Verse 13 You....hath He quickened means God gave the believer a new spiritual life, and forgave us of all ours sins.

Verse 14 This verse is referring to the legal indebtedness which was the Mosaic Law, which the Jews had contracted to obey and which the gentiles by conscience were obligated to obey. Since man's inability to fulfill this law man became indebted to God, but through Christ this debt was graciously blotted out by His sacrifice on the cross.

- Ephesians 2:15

Verse 15 As a result of the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary He spoiled principalities and power by disarming them of all demonic power over the believer. In this statement Paul is confronting the Colossians and Laodiceans on why would you even listen to any doctrine advocating angel worship when they all are subject to God's authority?

Lesson for June 18th, 2020 Chapter 2 verses 16-23

Verse 16 This verse give further explanation of verses 14 and 15 since Jesus' sacrifice has annulled or struck down the law, the Colossians, Laodicean nor any of us should let any man judge us regarding our diet or what we eat or drink or regarding religious calendar observance.

Verse 17 The restrictions that were proposed by the Mosaic Law were no more than a shade of things to come; however, the reality is found in Christ because He is the Body.

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Verse 18 Paul tell the Colossians and Laodicean not to allow any man to rob them of their spiritual blessings and rewards by trying to persuade them to accept their worldly heretic doctrine and false teaching that advocated a gospel of worshipping of angels which pays homage to angelic being. These false teachers are intruding into things which they have not seen, although they may claim to have witness revelations and visions which are the result of their vain (conceited and self-obsessed) and puffed up minds.

Verse 19 These false heretic teachers are not recognizing Christ as the head; thus they have no real relationship with Christ nor are they true Christian. Paul states clearly that Christ is the head and the church is the body and the body get it nourishment and support from being united or connected with the head. And the body grows or increase as God causes it to grow.

Verse 20 Paul states that since the believer is dead with Christ (free from the spiritual forces of this world) then he is also free from the rudiments (elementary religious teachings) that teaches that our salvation comes from merit or good works. Since the true gospel has freed the believer from attempting to gain salvation on his own merit he should never be subject to such legalistic laws or ordinances.

Verse 21 The heretic teaching were trying to get the Colossians and Laodicean to submit to abstain from certain food and drink, legalism is mostly negative in nature, while Christianity is balance and contains both negative and positive aspects.

Verse 22 As a follow on to verse 21 Paul states that since all food or drink will perish with the using, it is foolish to based one's eternal salvation on the abstinence or being forbidden from such temporary things like food or drink. These are merely human commands and teaching.

Verse 23 Paul points out that these heretic restrictions have an appearance of wisdom in self-impose worship and false humility and in severe treatment of the body; but this is of no value to the indulgence (satisfying) of the flesh. In other word these traditions look good to the human eye but have not heavenly rewards.

Lesson for June 25th, 2020 - Chapter 3 verse 1-11

Verse 1 Paul is reminding the Colossians believers that they have not only been freed from sin because of the sacrifice of Christ but they have also turned into new creature, leaving behind old habits, values, views, interest, desires, and sins. As new creatures their desire should be on the virtues that make them mature Christian such as domestic responsibility, an effective prayer life, and fruitful witnessing,

Verse 2 As new creature in Christ our mind and our affection should be on things that are heavenly not earthly, we should not be overly occupied with things on earth such as heretical philosophies, legalistic practices. As new creatures we should never allow our earthly blessings or accumulations of things to become our God!

Verse 3 Paul is telling the Colossians that as believers and newborn creatures in Christ their lives should be hidden in God through Christ. This means that the believers now lives and belongs in the spiritual realm not the worldly or carnal realm. And since Christ who set on the right side of God the

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Father is intimate with God, as a result we who are followers of Christ are intimate with God through our relationship with Christ.

Verse 4 Paul tells the Colossians that when Christ appear in His glory that believers shall appear with Him and in His likeness.

- 1John 3:2

Verse 5 Paul tells the Colossians to mortify or put to death whatever belongs to their earthly nature such as sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed that manifest themselves through certain members of their bodies. Paul urges the Colossians to put to death all sin that resides in their body. Especially since we as believer are dead to sin as stated in verse 3.

Verse 6 Continuing the habitual lifestyle mention in verse 3 bring about the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

- Romans 1:18

Verse 7 Paul remind the Colossians that they at one time walk in these same ways that the children of disobedience walk or like now.

- 1Corinthians 6:11

Verse 8 In addition to the obvious physical manifested sins, Paul tells the Colossians that they must also put off or rid themselves of all other sins such as anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from their lips.

- Ephesians 4:22

Verse 9 This verse is self-explanatory, do not lie or tell untruths to each other because you are a new creature in Christ, you are no longer that old person you once were.

Verse 10 The new man is the person we become after conversion, this new creature now possesses a new nature, values, aspiration, and lifestyle. This new man is continually being renewed or developed and as a result obtains mature knowledge of who God is, and the more the believer knows about God the more he or she will manifest God like character and conduct.

- Romans 12:2

Verse 11 Paul informs the Colossians to put aside or away man-made barriers that divide people and feed the nature of the old man. In Christ there is no regard for a person race, creed, color, gender or whether they are free or in bondage, in Christ we are all free in Him.

- Galatians 3:27-28

Lesson for July 2nd 2020 - Chapter 3 verses 12-25

Verse 12 In this verse the apostle Paul tells the Colossians as well as the readers that as God children we are called to put on, dress ourselves or assume certain virtues and qualities in our life such as **bowel of mercies** which means heartfelt compassion, **kindness** which means friendly, generous and considerate, **humbleness of mind** which is the opposer of pride and arrogance, **meekness** means being submissiveness, **long-suffering** which mean showing patience.

Verse 13 As believers we must realize that none of us has mastered all the virtues mention in verse 12, for that reason we must have an attitude of forbearing toward each other which is a spirit of forgiveness toward fellow church members.

- Mark 11:25-26

Verse 14 The crown jewel of all the virtues listed in verse 12 is **charity** which means **love**, it hold all the other virtues together in perfect unity and help us to become mature in our relationship with Christ.

- 1Peter 4:8

Verse 15 This verse tells the believers that when we are at odds or disagreement with one another we should work toward a course of action that best maintain peace and fosters harmony. Especially since believers are members of the same body, this mindset should cause us to be thankful.

- John 14:27

Verse 16 when believers are forbearing or forgiving each other and showing love to one another then the peace of God will reign among God's people, then the church become fertile ground for the work and blessings of the Lord. Believers are called to admonish or council against, advise or reprove or scold one another in Psalms, hymns, spiritual songs with grace in our hearts.

Verse 17 Whatever you do whether it be in action or words do it all in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, while giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

- 1Corinthians 10:31

Verse 18 The Word of God states that a wifely submission to her husband cannot be forced, it must come from her own free will. **As it is fit in the Lord** means that the wife's submission to her own husband is the correct thing to do in her relationship with Christ. Submission from the wife to her husband is submission rendered to Christ.

- 1Peter 3:1

Verse 19 The husband duty and Godly responsibility is to **love** his own wife! This type of love is call agapao which is the same type of love that God so love the world.(John 3:16) this is a sacrificial giving of oneself for the benefit of another. **Be not bitter against them** means the husband should not be rude, unkind, or cruel toward his wife. The wifely submission is gained in part by the husband's love.

- Ephesians 5:25

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Verse 20 This verse follows one of God commandments for the children to be obedience unto their parent. This is obedience to the parental authority of the parent which is pleasing to the Lord as related to the child relationship with Christ. Obedience given to parents is viewed as obedience given unto Christ.

Verse 21 Father do not provoke which means do not incite, aggravate, needle, irritate, hassle, or whip up on your children, or they will become discouraged.

- Ephesians 6:4

Verse 22 Servants are those that have earthly masters that have earthy charge over them, the Word of God says that you should be obedience to them not only when they are in your presence and watching but when they are absence as well. Servant are called to be obedience with a sincere disposition and attitude.

- Ephesians 6:5

Verse 23 Servants whatsoever you are called to do for your master do it wholeheartedly, as if you were working for the Lord.

Verse 24 A saved servant does verse 23 because they know their reward and inheritance come from the Lord.

- Ephesians 6:8

Verse 25 Anyone that does wrong in the eyes of God will receive for that wrong from the Lord whether they be free or bond.

- Romans 2:11

Lesson for July 9th Chapter 4 Verse 1-18

Verse 1 Earthly masters are those that have rule or charge over someone earthly existence are required by the Word of God to treat their servant's just and equal, because he himself has a master that is in heaven that he wants to treat him just and fair as well.

- Ephesian 6:9

Verse 2 Paul is encouraging the Colossians to continue to persevere and endure in prayers, with an alert mind and grateful hearts. ***Pray, watch and be thankful!***

Verse 3 Withal mean to pray for us as well, that God would provide an opportunity for Paul and his associates to preach the mystery of Christ, for which he is in bondage.

- Ephesians 6:19

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Verse 4 Paul is asking for prayer that he might speak the word of God clearly , as it should be spoken.

Verse 5 Paul is now instructing the Colossians to walk in wisdom which mean to live your life wisely toward **them that are without** or unbelievers. **Redeeming the time** means to make the most out of every opportunity to be a positive witness for the Lord.

- Ephesians 5:15

Verse 6 Paul is telling the Colossians that their speak or conversation should always be with grace, **seasoned with salt** mean to speak with spiritual wisdom, that you may know how to respond to questions about the gospel.

Verse 7 Paul is telling the Colossians that Tychicus a dear brother in the faith and a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord will let them know the condition and state of the apostle Paul.

Verse 8 Paul explain the purpose of sending Tychicus to them is for them to know their circumstance and to encourage their hearts.

Verse 9 Also returning with Tychicus is Onesimus a brother in the faith who is a Colossians who together will tell you about all things that are happening here in Rome. **Onesimus was a runaway slave who stole from his master who was one of their church members in Philemon. Paul is hoping that his remark will cause the Colossians to accept Onesimus as a Christian brother.**

- **Philemon verse 8-19**

Verse 10 Paul sends greeting from his fellow prisoners and brothers in the ministry Aristarchus and Marcus who is the cousin of Barnabas and a well-respected Christian and requested the Colossians to receive Marcus when he visits in the future. (Marcus is the same John Mark who abandoned Paul on the mission field earlier.) (Acts 15:36-39)

Verse 11 This verse identifies Aristarchus, Marcus, and Justus as Jewish Christians. Of all the Jewish converts these are the only three to be known as fellow workers in the ministry with Paul.

Verse 12 Paul also send regards to the Colossians from their minister in charge Epaphras, who has continued in prayer for their spiritual maturity and the steadfastness in the Lord.

Verse 13 Paul lets the Colossians church know that Epaphras is laboring hard in prayer for them, the church in Laodicean and Hierapolis.

Verse 14 Paul sends greetings to the Colossians from Luke the physician whom he called the beloved. He also send greeting from Demas but without any commendation by Paul. Paul may have sense something about Demas commitment and character at the time.

- 2Timothy 9-10

Verse 15 Paul sends his greeting to the Christians at the church of Laodicea, but specifically singles out Nymphas and the church in his home.

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Verse 16 Paul tells the Colossians that after they have read his letter in their church, then to make sure it is read in the church of Laodiceans, and in turn read the letter from Laodicea. Later referred to as a lost letter of Paul.

Verse 17 Paul is giving encouragement to Archippus to finish the work that the Lord has assigned him to do in the Colossian church.

Verse 18 I Paul write this letter in my own hand, remember my imprisonment. Grace be with you.