

“Equipping believers for growth and service by encountering God through his word.”

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

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OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

Greetings (1:1-2)

The Themes (1:3-2:5)

A. Thanksgiving

B. Prayer and Meditation

C. Paul's Ministry and Reason for Writing

Appeal for Christian Maturity (2:6-4:6)

A. Continue in Christ

B. Let No One Exclude You

C. Live in Accordance with Life of Christ

Final Greetings (4:7-18)

PAUL'S SUMMARY OF COLOSSIANS

2:6 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷ rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Vs 6: The summary of the letter: You received Christ as Lord, so walk, live your life in him.
(an imperative sentence)

Remember:

“So then:” (Therefore) “Whenever you see a therefore in Scripture, go back to see what it is there for.”

“Living in” (walking in); “rooted in;”
“built/ strengthened”

We are to become what we believe we are in Christ

To live theologically and ethically centered

Conduct our lives in Christ, as a result of being connected to him; always growing up into Christ, the head of the body, and worshiping together with thanksgiving for what God has done in Christ.

CHRISTIAN AGAINST HUMAN TRADITIONS

2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. ⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

- “See to it:” stern word
- “captive:” action of kidnapping; to take as a prize-plunder
- “philosophy:” *hapax legomenon*— some special feature of this false teaching? Hollow and deceptive
- “elementary:” earth, wind, fire, water; the fates are in control of life; not so—all is in Christ; do not give allegiance to things of this world making them rivals to Christ

TRUE CIRCUMCISION

Colossians 2:11-15 (cf. Rom. 6:1-11, Gal. 3:27-28)

Baptism—the means and result of the believer’s union in Christ; a new relationship

- No need for ritual or initiation of circumcision
- Outer (physical) contrasted with inner (spiritual)
- Liberated from old nature “put off”
- Christ defeated any need for these human rituals “stripped them” “disarmed them”
- New life and its connection is now in Christ and the church; the new place of relationships

BAPTISM IN CHRIST

Many NT references:

1. Baptism is for all those who believe in Christ
 2. It is participation in the death and resurrection of Christ
 3. We are raised to new life; to live a new life— not an escape from life, but supported by the power of Christ alive in us
- The outward expression of an internal experience of faith.
 - Vs 13: “God made you alive:” compound word— Colossians have a new life from God in Christ; nothing else does this—now spiritually alive

FORGIVENESS OF SIN THROUGH CHRIST

- Forgiveness of sin gives victory over all powers and legalism we encounter
- Vs. 14- “canceled the written code:” an I.O.U., handwritten certificate of indebtedness (Christ canceled the I.O.U. of our indebtedness caused by sin through his death and resurrection)
- Vs. 15- “a triumph:” Christ leads the victory procession—publically—through the crucifixion and resurrection events

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Colossians 2:16-23: Do not be pulled back into the lifestyle taught by the false teachers (from which you were liberated)

Not sure of the heresy, but:

- Legalism of food laws or other rituals
- They are shadows; the reality is in Christ
- These false teachings create division (an elitism)
- Angels may be worshiped (moved to god status)

These are human inventions, futile thinking not of God.

ABIDING IN CHRIST

Vs 19– growth in Christ: ongoing abiding (John 15)

“God provides the pattern for the churches’ growth and he is the source of that growth.” Patzia

Being kidnapped by these false teachers’ rules:

- a) Rules make us live in fear that we will sin if rules broken
- b) Rules will perish in time
- c) All of the false teachings are human inventions— Mt. 15:7-9
- d) These rules are deceptive and useless

THE BIBLE FOR TODAY

- Be careful that we not make rivals of Christ by things we give our allegiance to in this world.
- We have new relationships in Christ: the church should be a place of family, nurture, mentoring, teaching, encouraging, supporting of new believers.
- Be careful of falling into legalism; what is biblical teaching and what is personal conviction; human rules and God's teaching?
- We can live in freedom, do not have to live in fear because we do not keep some regulation.