

Colossians 2.6-23

Everything You Really Want You Already Have!

Wm. Randolph Hearst – Rich, Powerful Newspaper Man – Castle in CA Collector of Art Treasures > Heard of Piece especially WANTED

Sent his AGENTS round World in Search of Desired Treasure “Found It! Get it CHEAP!!” > In VAULTS of Wm. Randolph Hearst

1. Concern for Christians

Paul had MANY Critics – Everywhere he Served, Colossae, Corinth Across AEGEAN Sea in Corinth “Paul is Lazy, Needs to DO More!”

Describes DAILY Duties and Burdens of his Apostolic Service...

“danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, **there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches**” 2 Corinthians 11.26-28

Apostolic responsibility for GENTILE World > Big Area, Many Peeps / Growing # Xtians & Churches > Needed Prayer, Encouragement

Paul AVERTING Crisis in Colossae > Stable, Mature, Growing in X

1.9,10 “from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him”

2.1-3 “For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you...that hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge”

ENCOURAGED in Heart / Knit together in LOVE / Full Assurance / Gospel Transformation is Complete: Belief, Behavior, Relationships

2. Confusion about Church

2.4 I say this in order that no one may delude you w/ plausible arguments

False Teaching was Deceptive & Dangerous > THEN and NOW! Our Day Great Ability to Turn-On New Teachings > Devices, Platforms

NOT Very Skilled in Knowing How to DISCERN those Teachings / Recently MET Woman > Lost HOUSE & Savings to a TV Ministry!

v. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

SCHOLARS Debate exactly WHAT was False Teaching in Colossae? / Volumes Written –
 Doctoral Dissertations focused on Question

Some particular FALSE Teaching cooked up for this Little church?

FRIED Rice > Throw whatever Going Bad into Pan, Cook before Stinks! Don't have to GO FAR
 find False Teaching > Comes right into church

Even Teaching with Good Points / Truth gets Distorted / Imbalanced

Churches trying SELL Books, Website, Program, Practice, Themselves! Should I SIGN Up? /

Run Away? Cancel Them? Call the Police?

Is this best thing since Sliced-Bread or Satan's Trick?

v. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive > Deeper than INTELLECT / CAPTIVE > Lang.
 Spiritual Attack, Satanic > Trapped by Wrong IDEA

People RED FACED because Lost Face / SEPARATE over 2ndary Matters / Need DISCERN
 Difference btwn IMPORTANT & ETERNAL

v. 16 let no one pass judgment on you / v. 18 Let no one disqualify you

CANCELLING in Colossae, Need Healthy Discussions & Disagreements

v. 8 "not according to Christ"- HE is Authority > Measure of Final Truth

Paul NOT saying don't read SECULAR Books / NOT urging us to HIDE from Critics and False
 Teachings

Not saying NO Doctoral studies in Philosophy > Paul DID! / Stand Firm on Foundation of God's
 Truth – Not Sand of Man's Ideas

vs. 11,12 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting
 off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism

Seems RANDOM to Bring Up – Circumcision > Awkward Topic! False Teachers probably

Urging Gentiles to be MORE Spiritual > Big C

RADICAL Idea > Connects Circumcision to DEATH / Mosaic Law > SIMPLE Surgery > Small
 amount Foreskin REMOVED

Jesus Circumcision points Forward to when He was CUT Off on Cross / Jesus Baptism pointed
 Forward to His Immersion in Wrath of God

Want to be CIRCUMCISED to go Deeper in X > Way of DEATH / TRUST is No Longer in X Alone > You THINK you SAVE Yourself

Think SOMETHING Lacking in X? Need to ADD Silly Act to Salvation / Speak in Tongues, Revelation, Vision, Prophecy, Roll on Ground, Bark

Church Rituals – Good Things WHEN Express RELATIONSHIP / Ritual BAPTISM > Outward SIGN of Inward REALITY

Repented of SIN / DIED w Christ to Old Life / Risen in SAVIOR / Member Local Church: God ALREADY brot U in Forever Family

Church Ritual without REALITY of Relationship w Christ / Becoming Electrician never getting Training > Light Yourself UP!

God will NOT be MOCKED by Empty Show > Moment of PRIDE! / Member of Church NOT know Jesus > REPENT or RESIGN!

Apostle Paul NEVER showed up in Colossae > Most in Ch. Never Seen / Founder/Pastor Epaphras > See Paul in Rome > Never Came Back

New Teachers Arrived! Clever, Orators, Authority, Successful "...how go DEEPER w God...this Mumbo Jumbo...that Hocus Pocus..."

Diets / Days – Ascetic Practice / Angel Worship – Rules / Regulations

Diets / Days v. 16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

MODERN Messianic Movement > Keep Jewish Feasts, Rules, Rituals / Good Evangel. Strategy for Jewish > Foolishness for GENTILES

Wrong Direction > Biblical Truth moves Forward > Fulfillment in X / We NOW have REALITY in X – All came before were Shadows

Ascetic Practice / Angel Worship v. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind

Danger: Underlying Dissatisfaction > Must be MORE than Jesus / Must ADD my Own HOCUS POCUS to get Fulness of Blessing

Rules / Regulations > v. 20 the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh

“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom” > 10 Steps to Fix You - Better Mom – Dad –
Children – Successful Business

Religion of SELF – Success, Happiness, Health, Wellness, Beautiful / Jesus invites you to Come
and DIE > DIE to yourself > LIVE for him

Xtians Tender HEARTED > Want MORE of Christ – Go DEEPER / Evangelicals are Very
GULIBLE – Lacking in DISCERNMENT

Easily FOOLED by False Teachers who promise Spiritual FULLNESS / Another EXPERIENCE
– VISION – PROPHECY – DEEPER LIFE

This Practice – That Preacher – This Prophecy – That Performance

v. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come > substance belongs to X
Focus on GARMENTS that Surround GOSPEL > Not Grace of GOSPEL / Diet and Days
mere SHADOWS > Disappear when SON Rises

3. Christ the Center

WHO is this Letter From? 1.1 “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus”

Who’d he think WE R? 1.2 “saints & faithful brothers in X at Colossae”

WHY is he Writing Now? 1.4 “we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus”

1.7 PASTOR/Founder: “Epaphras... faithful minister of Christ”

WHO is Jesus? v. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Many places here on Island GAZE Out on Limitless PACIFIC Ocean / Only IMAGINE How
DEEP It Is – What Dwells Below – How FAR!?

Jesus Christ is FULLNESS of GOD > No More of God than is IN Christ

Are you Empty? Lacking? Unfulfilled? Dry? Needy? Look to Jesus! / How can you LOOK Anywhere else in Entire Universe for FULLNESS?

HE is Treasure in Field – Sell All – Buy It > Have all you NEED Forever / Jesus: Central to Church Life & Sufficient for Full Salvation: All we Need

v 10 & you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule & authority

Fullness we SEE in Christ / Fullness we RECEIVE from Christ / He POURS His Fullness into our LIVES > Come and Drink! Receive!

Paul's Favorite Description of Believer – IN CHRIST – 100 X's

If X is FULLNESS of God – You are in X – Fullness of God IN YOU / To ADD Our WORKS to FAITH is to DENY the Fullness of Christ

MORE of Christ will come from MORE of CHRIST / 1/3 way thru Letter > Paul NOT asked Colossians to DO Anything

NOW he will tell them WHAT Jesus DID for THEM / Fullness of God became Fully Man gave LIFE Fully for You

v. 13 “And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh”

Not just Lost, Confused, Wounded: DEAD! WE need a Resurrection!!

Martin Luther DREAM: Satan came w SCROLLS > Unrolled them / Luther saw OWN Handwriting – PROMISES he has Made to GOD

Baptism – Prayers – Promises – Vows – Oaths > All BROKEN Promises / LEGAL Document stands Against Us – Record of Sins, We wrote It

Nothing we can DO can Remove UNPAYABLE Debt / God is JUST – Must Punish Sin > Same God provides OUR Payment

vs. 13,14 “God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands”

Charges of Guilty Criminal NAILED to Cross on which He DIED

Legal Record REMOVED – DISARMS Enemy > No Accusation

v. 15 “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him”

We THINK of Easter as Victory Day > Resurrection of JESUS / But NT teaches GOOD

FRIDAY is Victory – SAVED on the CROSS

Empty Tomb is CONFIRMATION of COMPLETE Salvation Now Ours

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.” Revelation 12.10

So, on 1st Sunday AFTER Easter > How can I CONTINUE in X? / Got CAR Problem > Owners Manual Right There in Glove Box of Car!

vs. 6,7 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving”

Verses considered by Many > HEART of Letter to Colossians / Paul tells them, you, me, Wm R.H. > TREASURE Already in your Vault!

Christ who SAVED you – Sustains, Strengthens, Sanctifies, Saves to End

“rooted” Agriculture: tree only as strong as root system > IN HIM!

“built up” Architecture: planned, constructed, established IN HIM

“received” – Modern Church talks about Receiving in Heart: Subjective

Here Objective: God’s Sovereign, Supernatural Work

Received Established Truth: “Christ Jesus the Lord” ONLY Here in Bible

Christ = Messiah: Hero of Hebrew Scriptures/ Lord = God: Ruler of ALL

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you” 1 Cor 11.23

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures” 1 Cor 15.3

“For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ” Gal 1.11,12

Received THE Faith – NOUN and Verb – Body of Teaching, Doctrine / Authentic Spiritual Beginnings – Pastor Epaphras laid True Foundation

Received X as Lord – Root in Christ – Received the Faith

Jesus is AUTHOR and PERFECTER of our Faith / Gospel that SAVES Us – Equips us to
SERVE – SUSTAINS us to End

FOUR Questions to Consider about Teaching in churches??

1. Does this Teaching teach me to OVERCOME Sin or Disguise It?
2. Does this Teaching Build up the Local Church or Divide It?
3. Does Teaching Enslave me to Teacher or Equip me to Walk w X?
4. Does Teaching focus on Man made Regulations or Glory of Christ?

False Teachers > Way to FULLNESS is by DOING Something / What you NEED to be FULL is
JESUS > Fullness is Being in Jesus

“so walk in Him” – Paul often uses simple image: WALKING / Faithful, Regular, Ordinary,
Sometimes Boring, Walk w God

“they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like
eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint” Isaiah 40.31

v. 7 “abounding in thanksgiving”

One of Few ACTIVE Verbs in Text > Something we Should DO! / GRATITUDE is our Primary
Response to GRACE

Sign of New Life > APPRECIATE Christ Jesus the Lord More & More / Be BUSY in Praise,
Gratefulness, Thanksgiving

Colossians 2.⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him. ¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up

without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. ²⁰If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹“Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²²(referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.