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Paul's heart was for all who would Believe. We saw early on in Acts that Paul's heart was drawn to the Jews. God had told Paul to take the Good News to the Gentiles, but Paul would often first engage the Jews in whatever community he was in and often met with violence and hatred for his message of Salvation through Christ Jesus. Some Jews would become Believers but they would often be shunned by their own Jewish community.

As time went on and Paul concentrated his efforts toward the Gentiles all throughout Asia. It would break Paul's heart when he would hear about congregations, he had planted that were falling into false teachings. Paul would often write to these congregations to encourage them to stand with the Truth that they had been taught by himself or other Apostles and Disciples. He would encourage them to be grounded in the Truth.

Even though Paul had not been to Colossi one of those who had studied under Paul had taken the Good News to them; Epaphras.

Colossians 1: [7](#)As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

The term minister or servant are somewhat interchangeable. The term in the Greek is “diakonos” from Strong’s Concordance:

Transliteration: diakonos

Phonetic Spelling: (dee-ak'-on-os)

Definition: a servant, minister

But when you dig to the root of the word meaning it can mean:

“[A. T. Robertson, "[1249](#) (diákonos) properly means 'to kick up dust,' as one running an errand." [1249](#) (diákonos) is the root of the English terms, "diaconate, deacon."]

8Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Epaphras had let Paul know of false teachers that had come into the congregation at Colossi and were leading them astray. Paul in this letter not only points out the Preeminence/Superiority of Christ as Creator God and Savior but the Truth of what Jesus did on the Cross for all who Believe.

These congregations were in many small towns and in some large cities and usually met in private homes. Colossi was in what is Turkey today. It along with the Seven Churches (congregations) that Jesus addressed in Revelation 2 and 3 were all closely located. Paul even calls out one of those Seven, Jesus’s address. It is the worst of the Seven Jesus calls out.

Revelation 3: [14](#)And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

[15](#)I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. [16](#)So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. [17](#)Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: [18](#)I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. [19](#)As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. [20](#)Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. [21](#)To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. [22](#)He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation written by John at Jesus direction was not written until about 30 years after this letter from Paul to Colossi. Paul mentioned his concern for Laodicea, 30 years later Jesus condemns Laodicea for its “lukewarm existence”. How persistent the false teaching can overtake the True by those who are not on guard and study the Word to know the Truth.

Colossians 2

Built Up in Christ

([Revelation 3:14-22](#))

1For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and *for* them at Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

There are many mysteries contained in the Bible about God and Christ. Those mysteries shrouded in prophecy are revealed to the Body of Christ as God deems appropriate. Perhaps the greatest mystery of God was the revelation of His Son Jesus. Jesus was prophesied since creation.

Genesis 3: 15And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This was the first prophecy that one would come that would fight against the “serpent” Satan. God said that this “enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed”, is speaking about the conflict that would be between Satan and mankind. The ultimate Savior of mankind who is the ultimate

advisory of Satan is Jesus our Savior. It would be Jesus that would conquer Satan.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Our ability as humans to fight against Satan is confined to one thing or one Word. Jesus. Jesus is our Rock, our Defense against Satan.

As vs 2 tells us we as Believers are knit together, bound, and bonded to one another as the Body of Christ the Big C “Church”. Jesus told Peter that this Rock that Christ is and was going to found His Church on would be so strong that even the gates of hell could not prevail.

Matthew 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

It is through Christ, united as the True Body of Christ that we stand strong against evil.

3In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Corinthians 2: 7But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

The hidden knowledge and mysteries of God are linked. There is a Christian saying that says:

“Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care.”

True caring will come from True knowledge. In other words, what True message can you take to an unsaved, hurting world if you don't first educate yourself in the knowledge of Christ.

4And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

Romans 16:18 For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

1 Corinthians 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with persuasive words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,

I am hesitant to mention specific individuals, but times are such that we must. In my opinion charlatans such as Joel Osteen are such men. Speaking in smooth talk of riches in this life, the “name it claim it” type of teachings.

From Got Questions: “All the same, thousands of churches and millions of believers adhere to the teachings of the New Apostolic Reformation. Popular teachers associated with the New Apostolic Reformation include Bill Johnson, Rick Joyner, Kim Clement, and Lou Engle.”

Many of these men are associated with what is called IHOP International House of Prayer.

Deception is everywhere in our world, the only way to stay safe is to personally study God's Word so you know if you are being lied to.

[5](#)For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

This is a similar sentiment that is given to Believers but in the context of dying. Paul wrote about his desire to leave his body behind and go to Christ but found a personal struggle in wanting to stay in his body and continue his work for Christ here.

Proverbs 14:32 The wicked man is thrown down by his own sin, but the righteous man has a refuge even in death.

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, although we know that while we are at home in the body, we are away from the Lord.

NKJ version

Philippians 1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. [24](#)Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. [25](#)And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, [26](#)that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Alive in Christ

6As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: 7Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

The challenge of false teachers and profits is that they will always bring confusion to those who want to follow Christ. The need to be rooted in Christ, sound in doctrine of the Word is critical to withstand the efforts of the enemy. Study, study, study.

8Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Satan is abundantly clear on separating those who seek Christ as their Savior. The manner is through lies. Lies can be very subtle, even mixed in with truth. Mankind seems incapable of separating out the lie from the truth unless he has taken great pains to learn the truth and nothing but the truth. So when the lie shows up it jumps off the page at the well established Believer.

9For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

One of the most challenging things to address is how the Godhead operates. Three in One, each separate but together they are all God; The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost.

10And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

As we have studied many times, our completeness comes totally from Christ and what He did on the Cross, in the Grave and in His Resurrection. There is nothing we can do to become “more complete”. We are there in Him. The Colossians were being falsely taught to worship Angels. We will see that in vs 18. We know from many verses that True Angels of God refuse to be worshiped by men and admonish those who do to stop immediately.

11In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

As you recall, circumcision was not part of the **unconditional** Covenant with Abram that God gave him. That Covenant was about the land God gave Abram and his. It would come through his unborn lineage through Isaac.

Genesis 12: 1Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

2And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Later in Genesis 17 God then gave Abram a **conditional** Covenant. God did two things at this point, He changed Abrams name to Abraham and placed this sign on Abraham and his lineage from then on: circumcise all the male children at 8 days old as a sign that they belong to God.

Genesis 17: [9](#)And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. [10](#)This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. [11](#)And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. [12](#)And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. [13](#)He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. [14](#)And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.

I go into all that detail for this point. God placed a **“conditional covenant”** on Abraham and his lineage which were to be the Jews, the nation of Israel. That condition was the physical circumcision of the flesh as a sign of the Covenant between Abraham and God.

In the New Covenant God harkened back to the “conditional covenant” with Abraham and Israel in this way. God said that through His Son Jesus a New Covenant would be cast. In that New Covenant the sign of the Covenant would be a “Circumcised heart” of every BELIEVER.

The circumcision of the heart unlike the circumcision of the flesh cannot be done with human hands. The circumcision of the flesh was a work. There is no human work by hands that can bring about Salvation. Christ did all the work on the Cross, in the Grave and at His Resurrection. The Believer when they Believe on Jesus Christ and ask Him into their hearts, Believers submit to Jesus and He circumcises our hearts as a sign of the fulfillment of the New Covenant between Jesus and His Church.

12Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Another sign that God allows for a Believer to help fulfill the Great Commission:

Mark 16: 15And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Through obedience in Baptism God has given Believers an opportunity to publicly confess Jesus as Lord and Savior. It should not stop there; it is our obligation to continue to testify of Jesus before men.

13And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Even though we before we became Believers were dead due to our sins. We deserved death and eternal punishment for our rejection of Jesus. Many were uncircumcised in the flesh as well as being sinners. And we know that Circumcision of the Gentiles did not save them, and it did not make them Jews in the times of the Apostles or even today.

With all that profound death that surrounded us before we asked Jesus into our hearts, Jesus made a way for our Salvation.

Vs 13.....“hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”

14Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

“handwriting of ordinances” is the legal documents held by God on every living being. Those legal documents were based on the law of sin and death. For the unbeliever those documents still exist in God’s legal library waiting to be revealed at the Great White Throne Judgement.

However, for the Believer, Jesus took our debt our legal obligation to die for our sins and: ***“and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;”***

15And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

Jesus the beaten, apparently defeated prophet who dared declare Himself to be the Son of God, died on the Cross.

Jesus descended into the earth at His death. He went into the abyss, not to sheol/hades, but to Abraham’s bosom, bringing the Good News to those who had believed in God and waited to see the Messiah but had died before He came. Jesus then ascended “setting the captives free” and sits at the Right Hand of God this day, and everyday.

Ephesian 4: 8Therefore He says:

***“When He ascended on high,
He led captivity captive,
And gave gifts to men.”***

9(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also [d]first descended into the lower parts of the earth? 10He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)

When Jesus did all of this, He put death, principalities and powers in their proper place, totally under His control. Jesus showed Satan that He is the arbiter/judge of death and life, not Satan.

Vs 15And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

So, in doing that Jesus also freed all Believers from the condemnation of the flesh and the Law. He did not cancel the Law; He simply made the Law clear that it was subservient to Him as it always was. As Jesus said as an example:

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath:

The point being that man's laws or additions to God's Laws are of no consequence to our Savior and Creator God.

16Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: 17Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.

Christ rules all of Creation as He sees fit. He decides the manner of Salvation, He chose to become Salvation for us, so our Love it to Him and Him alone, the God Head of Creation. The Church Big

C is the observable Body of Christ on earth. It is in fact a shadow of “things to come”.

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18Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

“Beguile” means to defraud you of something that is yours.

Here lies the problem that those in Colossi were faced with and is even present today. False teachers were trying to convince them to worship angles. If the satanic agenda is not to get religious people to worship angles, then it will be to follow or worship something someone else. They were being “beguiled.” It was a fraudulent teaching. They were being defrauded by a lie.

From Strong’s Concordance Word Helps: beguile.

“2603 /katabrabeúō ("to deprive") refers to discouraging (misleading) believers, diverting them from their full potential for receiving their unique glorification (cf. Phil 3:7-14) – i.e "the full-impact" resurrection mentioned in Phil 3:11, Gk text.”

Whoever this liar was this is God’s opinion on the matter.

Vs 18.....intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

God says clearly that this person or persons do not know what they are talking about. They are acting like they have seen or somehow know about in the Spiritual realm. They have not seen nor understand what is going on in the Spiritual Realm yet due to their puffed-up ego they make proclamations about what they have not seen.

Here I think is an example of what is spoken of as to false teachers. This is the man who did not translate the Bible but re-wrote the bible and called it "The Passion Bible". Our existing translations were apparently not sufficient for Jesus, so he had this man Mr. Simmons a NAR acolyte rewrite 10 books of the bible.

https://duckduckgo.com/?t=ffab&q=Brian+Simmons+interview+on+&atb=v143-1&iax=videos&ia=videos&iai=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DnMwnUM5g_n8

beginning in 1 minute 3 seconds of the interview.

19And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Ephesians 4: 15but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part,

causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

The lies being told by this false teacher were apparently directly opposed to Jesus as the Head of the Body, the Church Big C the true Body of Christ.

Galatians 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

Jeremiah 23:16 This is what the LORD of Hosts says: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They are filling you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Turn away from them.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light.

God is going to clarify an error on the part of the Jewish religion and the unsaved world of religions. The human error is that men have repeatedly crafted new rules and regulations to control those in religions. They may determine that a certain type of clothing is required, or facial hair, a certain number of attendances, a certain amount of tax is to be paid to the religion, confessing to a certain person, demands in following their own version of the truth. Any number of religions fall into those manmade requirements.

God has set moral standards for us; it is those that we must respect out of obedience to our Lord and Savior. It is found only in a true translation of the Word of God from both the Greek and Hebrew. Paraphrasing or rewriting of God's Word causes people to be easily duped by false statements and even lies.

20Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, 21(Touch not; taste not; handle not; 22Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? 23Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

1 Corinthians 12:8 8For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

The point of these 3 verses is to rely on Christ's wisdom as to what to do and what not to do. Don't rely on man or man's ordinances. For example, today man's ordinances say a mother can kill her unborn child by abortion. Some go even further and say you can even kill the child after it is born if you chose. Wisdom from the pit of hell. Should people do what is legal according to the law or should they seek God's Wisdom and walk I that?

The problem and we see it today is someone will stand in a church (small c) and declare they have a word of wisdom or a word from the Lord. It always makes me nervous when I hear that comment as being presumptuous. Perhaps they did get a word from the Lord, most often it seems to me to be for them personally on a specific issue not necessarily to share with the congregation. The only reason I say that is that the term “a word from the Lord or a word of wisdom” is so close to prophecy it concerns me.

If that happens you need to listen carefully, if any part of it does not match up 100% with the Bible the then entire thing is to be rejected. Often these “words from the Lord” are so nebulous it is hard to say what is being spoken of but be careful.

I believe the point of these last three verses is that God determines what is good and bad for us. Not man. Study God’s Word so you will know His Will for your life, don’t worry what man thinks you should do or not do, only what God says.

I say many things, DO NOT TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, you study to make yourselves approved workmen.

2 Timothy 2: [15](#)Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. [16](#)But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. [17](#)And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and

Philetus; [18](#)Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some. [19](#)Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

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