

# THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

## LESSON 5: CHAPTER 2:17 TO 3:4

15 NOVEMBER, 2013

In Colossians chapter 2, Paul is warning Christians about the tactics of certain men who want to deceive us (verses 4, 8, 16, and 18) to rob us of our assurance in Christ (vs. 2).

- Verse 17** The Old Testament sacrifices, feasts, and holy days (vs. 16) are only a shadow of the actual things which they represent. Those things pointed to Jesus Christ on the cross. They will be reinstated in the millennium (Ezekiel 40-48) as a means of rejoicing in the Savior.
- Verse 18** We are warned about men who will use sneaky words (guile, craftiness) to talk us out of our reward. Christians earn rewards by serving the Lord. If you start serving Mohammad, or Joseph smith, or someone else who claims that an angel spoke to them, you'll lose your reward. This verse says anyone who claims to have seen an angel, DIDN'T SEE AN ANGEL.
- Verse 19** Our union with Christ. **"And not holding the HEAD"** (Jesus Christ. See 1 Chronicles 29:11). Don't let an angel talk you out of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ (the Head) nourishes the body (Christians: First Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, Colossians 2). He does this through other saved people. God wants the body (believers) to increase. Our lives are connected (knit together). We are no longer individuals. We are one with Christ (John 17:11).
- Verses 20-22** Rudiments of the world (convictions, preferences, worldly standards) are doctrines of men that do not need to be heeded, according to the Bible. Many churches create man-made requirements and impose them upon their church members, but they are unbiblical and they are a burden that the Lord did not intend for us to endure.
- Verse 23** Man-made ordinances are designed to SHOW people our devotion to God and to feed our ego. People like to brag about their works of righteousness before men. If you are doing something that you believe helps you in your spiritual walk with God, though it is not commanded in Scripture, you can't enforce that practice, you can't teach it as doctrine, and you can't judge somebody else for not doing it.
- "Will worship."** It is YOUR will to worship God that way.
- "And humility:"** if you're proud of your humility, you're not humble.
- "And neglecting of the body."** Suffering needlessly. Denying yourself and your family the good things that you could enjoy so that you can impress others with your sacrifices for the Lord.
- "Not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh."** You deny yourself of any honor so that others may consider you worthy of God's grace or more holy than others. That satisfies your flesh, but there is no extra credit for doing these things. It's not needed. In Christ, we have all we need. His sacrifice was sufficient to make you holy and to bring you to God. Put all your confidence in Jesus Christ.

## **Chapter 2 Commentators' Summary:**

Verses 8-10: Gnosticism (you can't know, so accept your ignorance). Creature versus Creator.

Verses 11-17: Legalism. Law versus Grace.

Verse 15 Spiritism. Devils versus Deity.

Verses 16 and 17: Ceremonialism. Shadow versus substance.

Verses 18 and 19: Mysticism. Reason versus revelation (I thought it, so it must be so).

Verses 20-23: Asceticism (gross and extreme forms of self-denial).

Verses 1 to 3: Christ's wisdom.

Verses 4-7: Christ's life. This is what we use to fight all the false ideas of man.

## **COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 3**

Verse 1: The FACT of the new life.

Verse 2: The FEATURES of the new life.

Verse 3: The FELLOWSHIP of the new life.

Verse 4: The FUTURE of the new life.

**Verse 1** Christ must be the main thing in your life today, above marriage, family, career, or possessions. It is not wrong to desire those things as long as Jesus Christ comes first. Our desire should be for heavenly things; eternal things.

**"Where CHRIST sitteth."** It's not about HEAVEN. It's about Jesus Christ who is IN heaven. We are to think about things that are connected with the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Verse 2** **"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."** It is important to know the difference between "affection" and "passion."

**Passion** is an emotion or a feeling resulting from the sight of a person or an object. Passion is influenced by our surroundings and our circumstances. Elijah reacted to his circumstances (James 5:17) because of passion. People get excited and stirred in their emotions in church, but not outside the church. That is the result of passion. Affect

**Affection** is a genuine and abiding (never leaves you) emotion that does not require the presence or the sight in order to keep it active or to keep it genuine. When you love someone whether they are present or absent, that is true affection. We are to love the Lord in every place and in every circumstance, good or bad.

**Verse 3** **"For ye are dead (your old man), and your life (your new life in Christ) is hid with Christ in God."** There is no safer place to be. ...So Christ was in God...reconciling the world to HIMSELF. We read that last time.

**Verse 4** **"When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."** Christ shall certainly appear again on this earth. We will appear with him in our glorified bodies. This is our blessed hope.