

**Colossians IV
Vacant Ethics**

10:00 am *5 Min. Count Down - VIDEO -

10:05 am LIVE SHOT – ** Worship –

WELCOME to The Peak CC Church --- Online Platform – 1st time ... come in as a guest But you leave as family...

Self Intro - PEAK INTRO Young /Vibrant / Life Giving Church in the HEART of Peekskill.

We are so glad you could join us as we worship the Lord.

***Online Connect Card * RightNow Media**

10:30 AM **Announcements Video - Tithing

Building Update: 1 NEW VISION - Building Fund.

St. Patty's Day Parade -

Remember: Mon: small Groups / Tue: Prayer / Wed: Women's Small Group Thu: Bible Study / Sat: Men's Fellowship-Breakfast 9am Mohegan Diner

HOVING HOME NEXT WEEK!! 4/3

Opening Prayer

**Prayers for 1st Responders. PVAC - PD - FireFighters - International
Crisis Response UKRAINE -**

INTRO

A couple of weeks ago we began a sermon series "Colossians" - Preaching through the Book. Last week in our "Call to Action" - "Altar Call" many people came up for prayer. Some people fell to the ground...

It's difficult to say if this is biblical because Scripture does not explicitly speak about this subject. Although we can see Scriptures laced with examples of people falling in the presence of God via supernatural means.

- “that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.” (2 Chronicles 5:14)

- When the soldiers and Judas came to arrest Jesus and Jesus answered, “I am he,” (asserting his divinity) they collapsed on the ground (John 18:6).

- “And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.” But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” (Matthew 17:6)

- **When John saw a vision of God in heaven, he fell as though dead (Revelation 1:17).**
- **Saul, when on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians fell to the ground when he heard God's voice (Acts 9:3-4)..**

And there are a multitude of other examples.... But here was my personal experience.. I was on Riker's Island. Rev. Rodriguez was the Chaplain. I saw this little 5'5" Puerto Rican preacher lay a couple of fingers on THUG CRIMINALS... I'm talking legitimate gangsters. Killers.... these guys aren't "courtesy" dropping for anybody... I couldn't believe it..

Now don't get me wrong. I have seen and know that there are a lot of yaba daba doo people & courtesy droppers. But I also have witnessed incredible breakthroughs & transformations on the threshing floor. All I know is that "I myself" do not contain extra power or some special something to knock people down... I can't control what

happens when I pray for someone.. What I pray then, when it does happen, that its authentic. That it serves as a witness for others, & then I look for results.

I believe that it was after a manifestation like we had last week, that Paul then concluded his thoughts with these words...

Colossians 1:24-29 NKJV

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, *the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints*. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

I pray that it is working mightily in me as well.....

OPENING PRAYER

Empty Philosophy vs Vacant Ethics

Not Philosophy But Christ

2 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Conflict - agonizes in prayer for the believers who are now under the threat of false teachers....

Laodicea - 11 miles out of Colosse...

Prays primarily for unity in combating heresy - KNOWING that our FULL SUFFICIENCY is in CHRIST ALONE!!!

THESE MYSTERY RELIGIONS were diverse religious movements characterized by secretive initiation rituals and syncretistic practices that became popular during the first century AD..

The Lexham Bible Dictionary

Mystery religions earned their title due to the secretive initiation rites new members underwent and the secret religious knowledge that was only made available to initiates.

The common characteristics of the mystery religions included:

- **Membership by choice rather than by birth**
- **Heavy use of symbolism**
- **Focus on redemption**
- **Eschatological focus**
- **A savior-god figure that dies and is reborn**

Ask One To Be One
Shining Light
Laborious - what must we do
End Times

Mystery Religions and the Development of Christianity

The five features of the mystery religions detailed above are also common (in some form) to Christianity.

This led the history of religions (Religionsgeschichte) school of theology in Germany to conclude that Christianity developed out of (and should be considered one of) the mystery religions (Gaffin, “Paul,” 206).

However, the similarities are only superficial, and it's a fact that Christianity and the mystery religions are not closely connected.

The mystery religions each had a savior-god figure that underwent a form of death and resurrection. Interwoven with Saviors, Initiations, and Life after Death motifs.... reflect the influences of several ancient traditions, including mysticism, asceticism, and Gnosticism

HOWEVER: The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls—which show these features of Christianity to have developed from Jewish antecedents—largely discredited this view (Howell, “Pauline Thought,” 310). As well as several other pieces of evidence that have discredited the view that the mystery religions influenced the development of Christianity (Drane, *Introducing*, 272–3).

- The mystery religions were *syncretistic*, willing to incorporate other beliefs into their own structure. Christianity however, was exclusive, unwilling to merge with any other religious expression.
- The evidence used to support the claim that Christianity developed out of the mystery religions has proven to be “either false or misleading.”
- “What always impressed the Graeco-Roman world was not the similarity of Christianity to other religions, but its difference from them.”

BRYON D. HARVEY

Wisdom and Knowledge: Jewish traditions prized *wisdom*, and mystery cults valued *knowledge*. Paul affirms Christ as the true source of both. Since the believers of Colossae have Christ (1:27), they have no need for the wisdom and knowledge offered by false teachers.

4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with *persuasive words*.

Ancient philosophers used lofty arguments to persuade their audiences. Paul warns the Colossians that such teachings may appear logical, but their conclusions are false.

Romans 16:17–18 NKJV

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Also....

Eph 5: 3–7 NKJV

3 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; 4 neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. 5 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore do not be partakers with them.

5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you therefore *have received Christ Jesus the Lord*, so walk in Him,

The Greek word used here, paralambanō, can refer to the reception of a tradition

in this case, the message of the gospel handed down from the apostles (Acts 2:42; 2 Thess 3:6). Paul urges the Colossians to continue in this tradition, which contrasts with the human traditions of false teachers

Progressive spirituality in which Christ is demoted and the basics of christianity denied.. Were being promoted by heretics... here in V6 Paul calls the saints back to CHRIST – progress in in faith consists in deepening ... not discarding the basic truths of christianity...

7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

Closing Prayer - Call to Action

Please contact us via our website @thepeakcc.com Let us know how we can come along your side to help your spiritual growth...

I'd like to invite you to connect w/ us...Visitors link... fill out that connect card...

NEXT WEEK we're gonna HOVING HOME!!!!

INVITE A FRIEND!!!

**“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you,
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
And give you peace.”**

I bless you in the Name of the Father, & of the SON, & of the Holy Spirit... Amen!!

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Selected Resources for Further Study

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