

Colossians 1

Destroying Heresy with Truth

- **One or 4 Prison Epistles:** Acts 28:16 Paul in Roman Prison in 64 AD
 1. Ephesians
 2. Philippians
 3. Philemon
 4. **Colossians**

- **One of 3 cities inland of Ephesus**
 1. Laodicea
 2. Hierapolis
 3. **Colossi** in decline still trade route. Fertile ground for new ideas/philosophies/**heresies**

- **Church of Colossi**
 1. Not started by Paul/Never visited by Paul
 2. Bi-product on School/Hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus where Paul taught 2 years
 3. Epaphras a student? Became leader of Colossi church
 4. Primarily Gentile believers. Met in home of Philemon. 5 yrs. in existence

- **Paul while imprisoned in Rome**
 1. Visited by Epaphras with news of infiltration
 2. Paul writes Colossians. Epaphras carries letter back to Colossi

Purpose: Correct Heresies

- **Heresies:** Primarily Two with sub categories in Ch. 2
 1. **Gnosticism** Intellectualism Worship of Knowledge
 2. **Judaism** Jesus Plus Worship of Religion

- **Chapter 1**
 1. Grace and Peace from God to us
 2. Preeminence of Jesus
 3. Peace with God through the Cross
 4. Sacrificing for Truth

I. Grace and Peace from God to us

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse...

- **Paul the Apostle:** Sent one
 1. **Called** ...by the will of the Father
 2. **Sent** ...by command of Jesus Christ

- **Timothy:** Fellow Worker/Spiritual son
- **Recipients of Letter:** Saints/Brothers **in Christ**

2b... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Typical Greeting:** Only Grace leads to Peace
 1. **Peace w/God** No longer an enemy
 2. **Peace of God** Surpasses understanding/Undeserved

Grace and Peace from God the Father and Jesus our Lord

³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your **faith in Christ** Jesus and of your **love for all the saints**; ⁵ because of the **hope which is laid up** for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as *it has* also in all the world, and is bringing forth **fruit**, as *it is* also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from **Epaphras**, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

Paul and Timothy heard of the **Faith, Love** and **Hope** of Colossian believers

- **Faith** in Jesus Past Heard/Believed
- **Love** for Saints Present Unity through Humility
- **Hope** of Heaven Future Kept for us by God Himself

1 Peter 1:4 [Our hope] ...an inheritance **incorruptible** and **undefiled** and that **does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you**, ⁵ who are **kept by the power of God** through faith for salvation **ready to be revealed** in the last time.

- **Faith, Love and Hope:** Signs of true believers after hearing the Gospel
- Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected on 3rd day for our sins to new life

Spreading! Word of Truth bearing fruit in all the world

- **Paul taught** at School/Hall of Tyrannus in Ephesus
- **Epaphras took** the Word to Colossi, Hierapolis, and Laodicea [4:12-13]
- **Word Spread** throughout known world bearing fruit/changing lives now/forever

As sure as **Peace** follows **Grace** so **Love** for others follows **Faith** in Jesus and culminates in the sure **Hope** of a glorious future together...reserved and kept by the power of God Himself. [NJC]

II. Preeminence of Jesus

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you...

We heard of your love and we are praying for you
Because love won't be enough for what's coming. Deceptive Heresies

- **2 John to Elect Lady** whose love was *without discernment*

2 John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸ Look to yourselves, that we **do not lose those things we worked for**, but that we may receive a full reward.

Love won't be enough to recognize/put down the coming deception
Heresies that pervert the Gospel of Jesus Christ

- **Gnosticism** Intellectualism Greeks
- **Judaism** Jesus Plus Jews

You will need more than love

[We ask] that you may be filled with the **knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may **walk worthy of the Lord**, fully **pleasing Him, being fruitful** in every good work and increasing in the **knowledge of God**; 11 **strengthened with all might**, according to His glorious power, for all **patience and longsuffering with joy** 12 giving thanks to the Father who has **qualified us** to be partakers of the inheritance of the **saints in the light**.

These are the tools you will need...

- **Know God's Will** In all Wisdom/Understanding
 1. Discretion Praying/hearing before acting
 2. Discernment Knowing rather than guessing what is of God
 3. Discipline Doing rather than slacking. Godly habits/thinking

- **Walk Worthy of God** Pleasing God by...
 1. Bearing Fruit Loving People/Preaching Salvation
 2. Increasing in Knowledge Knowledge of Jesus IOWs Not knowledge for knowledge sake
 3. Growing in Strength For what? **A.** For what's coming you will need...

- **Patience** ...in difficult circumstances Standing for Truth in face of deception
- **Longsuffering** ...with difficult people Calling us hateful, intolerant and racist?

Thus our walk must be based on our knowledge of God and His will
With a Holy Spirit determination to do it whatever the cost!

Q. How much does Truth matter to you. Figure it out now

Know God's Will and Walk in it
Do these things and you will be ready to combat deception

Give thanks to God who calls us Saints in Light

- Give thanks to God who calls us Saints in the Light

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and **conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, 14 in whom we have **redemption** through His blood, the **forgiveness** of sins.

Ephesians 2:1 And you **He made alive**, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. **4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the

ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Biggest Problem of Mankind by Far? Sin/Death/Judgment
No Religion/Philosophy can solve that problem....Only Jesus and Jesus alone

John 10:10 [Others claim they can] The thief does not come except to **steal, and to kill, and to destroy**. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Satan enters Colossi with a few guys and two heresies
Gnosticism: Worship of Knowledge. **Judaism:** Jesus plus

2 Corinthians 11:1 [Paul loves people by telling them the truth] Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your **minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ**. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

As Paul we Combat Heresy with Truth of Jesus

15 He is the **image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation**. 16 For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him**. 17 And **He is before all things**, and **in Him all things consist**. 18 And **He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence**.

Combat Heresy with Truth
Solution: Better Understanding of Jesus.

▪ **Seven Big Truths about Jesus**

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus Owns everything
3. Jesus Created everything
4. Jesus is Before everything
5. Jesus Sustains everything
6. Jesus is Head of His body the church
7. Jesus is Preeminent above everything

▪ V15 **Image** of Invisible God

Jesus is God

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also **He made the worlds**; 3 who being the brightness of

His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power

- V15 **Firstborn over all creation** **Jesus owns everything**
- V16 **By Him all things were created** **Jesus created everything**

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 **All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made**

- V17 **He is before all things** **Jesus preexists everything**
- V17 **In Him all things consist** **Jesus Sustainer everything**

Hebrews 1:3 ...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power

- V18 **HE is the Head of His body church** **First to rise. Not the last.**
- V18 **He is in all things Preeminent** **Supreme over everything**

Seven Truths about Jesus. All important to combat heresy. Why?

- **Every Heresy attacks...**
 1. **Work** of Jesus Less than enough
 2. **Person** of Jesus Less than God

What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. [Tozer]

Understanding the Preeminence of Jesus is all important to combat heresy. Why? Heresy is wrong teaching about God. Jesus is God in the Flesh. Get Him right

III. Peace with God through Jesus

19 For it **pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell**

- **Godhead:** Deity. State of being God

Colossians 2:9 ...in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily [lit. in bodily form]

The Gnostics distributed the divine powers among various [emanations]. Paul gathers them [every true divine power] all up in Christ, a full and flat statement of the **deity of Christ**. [Robertson]

20 and **by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.**

- V19 **Deity** In Jesus is The Fullness of God
- V20 **Humanity** By Jesus is Peace w/God through the blood of His cross

Father if there me any other way...
Peace with God is found only through the Blood of the Cross

21 And you, who once **were alienated** and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now He has reconciled** 22 in the body of His flesh through death,

to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **23 if indeed you continue in the faith**, grounded and steadfast, and are **not moved away** from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to **every creature under heaven**, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- **Once were** Alienated Enemy At War In our sin
- **Now are** Reconciled Friend At Peace Through His Cross

Romans 5:10 ...if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

- **Will be** Presented Perfect/Complete In His sight...

If [lit. since] you continue in the Faith...Not moved from the Hope of Good News
We are not saved because we endure...We endure because we are saved

Jude 1:24 Now **to Him** who is **able to keep you from stumbling**, And to **present you faultless** Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

2 Corinthians 1: 22 who also has **sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.**

Ephesians 1:13 ... **sealed with the Holy Spirit** of promise...

Ephesians 4:30 ... you were **sealed for the day of redemption.**

1 Peter 1:5 ... **kept by the power of God**

- **Gospel preached to every creature?** Great Commission in action
Grace of Jesus. Peace in Jesus. Knowledge of Jesus
Truths so important...I'm willing to suffer for them

V. Suffering for Truth

24 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, 25 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, 26 the **mystery** which has been **hidden from ages and from generations**, but **now** has been **revealed to His saints.**

- Paul imprisoned in Rome

My suffering for you the church fill up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ?

Not what is lacking with regard to Salvation! It is finished. What is lacking meaning that workers within the body of Christ will continue to be attacked by enemies of Christ even as He the Head is no longer physically on earth but in Heaven. [NJC]

IOWs When the body of Christ is persecuted... it is Jesus they are attacking
Saul now Paul persecuted the church...Jesus said **Saul why are you persecuting Me...**

- Paul, once the persecutor now the persecuted...

2 Corinthians 1:5 ...as the **sufferings of Christ abound in us**, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

Galatians 6:17 From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the **marks of the Lord Jesus**.

Philippians 2:17 ... if I am being poured out as a **drink offering on the sacrifice and service** of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

- After Paul found **peace in Jesus** He entered **service for Jesus**

Mission: Proclaim a Mystery of God to the Gentiles

27 To them God willed [for me] 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**.

Christ in us by His Spirit and our hope of glory. We are complete in Christ
No more dead works or humanistic philosophy

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

We preach a Him not an it....

28 **Him we preach, warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom, that we may **present** every man **perfect** in Christ Jesus.

- **Jesus we preach**

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Warn every man | Wrath to Come w/out Jesus |
| 2. Teach every man | Knowledge Salvation through Jesus |
| 3. Present every man | Perfect [complete] in Christ Jesus... |

Ephesians 4:12 [Paul lived] ...for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should **no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine**, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head— Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the **edifying of itself in love**.

- Tossed by every wind of doctrine: Kevin. Tossed by every wave. Dead doesn't know it

29 **To this end I also labor**, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

This is my life's work...

To present every man perfect in Christ Jesus

Paul would not have them ignorant. He knew that **spiritual ignorance is the constant source of error, instability, and sorrow**; and therefore he desired that they might be *soundly taught in the things of God*. [Spurgeon]

Acts 20:28 ...take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will **come in among you**, not sparing the flock. 30 Also **from among yourselves** men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, **I commend you to God and to the word of His grace**, which is able to **build you up** and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

- Hold fast to the Simplicity that is in Christ

Q. How do we Discern and Disassemble Devilish Deceptions?

A. Gaining Greater Understanding of Jesus through His Word. Get Jesus right.

- **Seven Big Truths about Jesus**

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus Owns everything
3. Jesus Created everything
4. Jesus is Before everything
5. Jesus Sustains everything
6. Jesus is Head of His body the church. Only people going to heaven
7. Jesus is Preeminent above everything

How much does Truth mean to you?