

BIBLE SRVEY, PT 11-NT(THE EPISTLES -Col's)-“”

>>>>We're in a “Bible Survey” series
 >We've covered OT/4 Gspels/ Bk of Acts
 >& now—we're taking a wk each to look
 at all the major “letters” of the NT...
 >So far--we've covered Rmns/ 1&2 Cor's
/ Galatians/Ephesians/Philip's
[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]

>>Tdy—ready to move on Colossians
I-BACKGROUND RE: CITY OF Colossae

- A.The city of Colossae was located in
 central Turkey MAP
- B. It was part of the semi-circle of chches
 tht surrounded Eph altho it's not the
 mentioned as one of the “Seven
Chches of the Rev” in Rev2-3
- C. Whn P wrote to Colossians in 62 AD...
 there was already a chrch est'd there
 1.But it had NOT been est'd by AP
 2. Col 2:1-“For I want U to knw how
 greatly I strive for U, & for those
 at Laodicea, & for all who have
 not personally seen my face.”
- D. B tells us tht the chrches at Colossae &

Laodicca were *actually* started by a man named "**Epaphras**"

1. Col 1:6—"All ovr the wrld, the Gspel is bearing fruit, just as it has been doing amg U frm the day U heard it frm **Epaphras**, our dear brothr"
2. **REM**: we talkd abt hw AP spent ovr **2 yrs** ministering in Eph(Acts 19) --using the "**honeybee**" strategy
 - *He wld "**pollinate**" pple passing thru Ephesus with the Gspel...
 - *& thn lke "**sp honeybees**"—thy'd take the Gspl bck home w/thm
 - *& "**pollinate**"their hme twns fr/J
- 3.This is *precisely* wht Epaphras did!

STOP & SAY: THIS is why we're so passionate ab saturating Wash w/Gspl

- *Bec this town is **full** of "**honeybees**"
- *Pple doing internships/World Bank/embassies/foreign students/etc
- *& we want to see thm come to Chrt
- *We want to "pollinate" thm w/Gspl
- *So tht--**just lke Epaphras**--whn they go--they take the Gspl with them

II- LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

- A. **Colossians**—along with 3 other ltrs
 1. Ephesians's/Philipians/& Philemon
 2. Are referd to as "**The Prison Ep's**"
- B. **BEC**--P wrote all 4 of thm frm "prison"
 in Rome (**61-62AD**) while he was
 awaiting trial before Emperor Nero
- C. **IF U REM**: said tht most of P's ltrs to
 the chches all follow a similar pattern
 1. **1st section** = theolog'l issues
 2. **2nd section** = prac'l Chr-life issues
 3. Tht's certainly true of ltr to Colosians

III- 1st HALF & SEE WHT THELG ISSUE

- A. In Col 4:12--we learn tht Epaphras had
 come to Rome to visit P in jail
 1. & reported to P abt **false teaching**
 had crept into chrches of Col/Laod
- B. This false tchnng concernd prsn of Chst
- C. Ple were teaching tht J=a created bng
 & **NOT** "Gd himself in the flesh"
- D. **& WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM???**
- E. **WELL BEC**—if J is **NOT** the(1) sinless,
 (2)incarnate, (3)2nd Prsn of Gdhead
wrapped in real human flesh...
 1. Thn his death on the crss=wrthless
fr our redemption & salvation

F. So P writes to correct this serious heresy G. & in doing so—P gives us (Col 1&2) the most *comprehensive single psq* in all the B ...on the Person of Christ

IV-LET'S LOOK-5 thngs ab prsn of JC

A.#1-(most basic) Jesus= Gd Himself wrapped in hmn flesh

1. Col 1:15-"He(JC) is the (visible) image of the invisible God"
2. Col 1:19-"Gd was pleased to hve all His fullness dwell in Him (JC)"
3. Col 2:9-"Fr in Chst, all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form"
4. P repeated in Heb 1:3-"He(J)is the radiance of Gd's glory& the **exact rprsntation** of Gd's "*hupostasis*" ("*essence/essential being*")
5. & explains why J said-**Jn 14:9**--"He who has seen me has seen the Fthr
*Jn 10:30-"I & the Fthr are one"

II: Council of Nicea-(325AD)--convened by Emp Constantine to **CODIFY the true position of Chr'ty on prsn of Ch
***NICEAN CREED**: "We believe in one LJC, the only Son of Gd, Gd of Gd,**

Light of Light, very Gd of very Gd, being of one substance with the Father”

*It's intended to affirm tht Gd the Sn & Gd the Fthr are of the **EXACT SAME substance/ essence/nature** /& **intrinsic being** as one anther

AP: DAN BROWN (DaVinci Code) =wrong

*DB: Deity of Christ was **INVENTED** at the Council of Nicea

*Truth: Deity of Christ was merely **CODIFIED** at the Council of Nicea

*Bec—as we can all see--deity of Cht is wht true Chr'ty blvd in 62AD—whn P wrote ab it ...to Colosians

B.#2- Jesus= the creator of the univ

1. Col 1:16-“For by Him(J), all things were created, both in hvn & on earth, visible & invisible; all thngs were created by Him & for Him”
2. Cf Jn 1:3: "By Him(J) all thngs were made; and without Him nothing was made that has been made"
3. Here we have another powerful affirmation of the deity of LJC

*Gen 1:1—"In the beginning, GOD
made the heavens & the earth"

4. SO—if **GOD** did it—**AND--JES** did it
then who can JES be...but "GOD"?

C.#3- Jesus= the owner of the universe

1.Col 1:16—"All things were created by
Him--**AND FOR HIM**"

2. Heb 1:2—"In these last days, Gd has
spoken to us by His Son, whom He
appointed **HEIR** of **ALL THINGS**"

ILLUST: Right now—our world is in **open
rebellion agst** J's ownership of univ

*But this is just *a temporary situation*

***One day**--J going to return to **claim**
absolute possession of His univ

*On that day *no one's* gonna argue w/hm

*Phl 2:10-(On that day)"every knee will
bow & every tongue will confess
that JC is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father"

APPL: **CASE CLOSED!**

D. #4- Jesus— upholder of the univ

1.Col 1:17—"In Him all things **hold tgether**"

2. Heb 1:3—"He(J) **upholds** the univ
by the word of His power"

3. Who holds all the protns/neutrons
electrns/mesons/ gluons/ quarks t^gth

4. Well, JC does--& he does it [**LOVE**]

*"By the word of his p^wer"

*J is so powerful...t^ht He doesn't
even need to lift His pinkie
to hold the univ together...

*All He has to do is say the word

E. #5- Jesus= redeemer of mankind

1.Col 1:14-"In whom (J), we hve
redemption, the frgivness of sins."

2. Col 2:13-"Whn U were dead in yur
sins...Gd made U alive together
with Christ, having forgiven us for
ALL our sins"

3. But it's so impt t^ht we understand
the MEANS of this redemption

4. Col 1:20-"He(J) made peace [betw
us & Gd]by the blood of His cross

5. Eph 1:7-"In Hm, we hve redmption,
the frgivns of our sins, thru His blood

6. It wasn't J's teachings/ gd example/
miracles/moral philosophies t^ht
redeemed us back to Gd

7. 1 P 1:18-"U were not redeemed

with perishable things like silver
or gold from your empty way of life
...but with the *precious blood
of Christ*"

8. **& REM:** J's blood doesn't redeem
everybody—only those who place
their *full trust in it* for their redemption

MCH MRE ON THS NXT WK-HEB'S F. SUMMARIZE

1. In Bk of Colossians--AP gives us the
most concise & powerful summary
of the Person of Christ anywhere in B
1-God Himself wrapped in human flesh
2-The creator of the universe
3-The owner of the universe
4-The upholder of the universe
5-The redeemer of mankind

II- SO WHAT?

A. Col 2:10-[**AS A F**]"In Him(J), U have
been made **complete**"

B. Then Paul goes on to explain what he means
[LOOK—THIS IS AWESOME!!!]

1. Col 2:11—"He circumcised us with a
circumcision not made with hands"
*Circumcision was God's sign that a

prsn was **IN** Gd's cvnt ppe

*P: "In Cht, U're as in as in can be!"

2. Col 1:20- "He reconciled us to Gd, hvng made peace betw us thru the blood of his cross"
 3. Col 2:13- "Whn we were dead in yur sins, He made us (sp'lly) alive..."
 4. Col 2:13- "& forgave us all our sins"
 5. 2:14- "& canceled the debt we owed (a holy Gd) by nailing it to the crss"
 6. Col 2:12- "Raised us up (to etr life)"
 7. Col 1:27- "(Put) Chst in us, the hope of glory (indwelling HS)"
 8. Eph 4:30- "(By the indwelling HS) we are *sealed* fr the day of redemption"
- *"Sealed" = Gk "branding an animal"
- ** So tht everyone know tht animal belongs to U & noone else
- *B says tht by putting HS inside us
- ** Gd has "**branded**" **us sp'lly**
- ** So tht every angel/demon/ evn Satan himself *knows...*
- ** Tht we belong to Gd fr all etrn'y
- C. **REPEAT**-Col 2:10- [**AS A F**] "In Him(J), U/I have been made **COMPLETE**"

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D. Whn it cmes to our redepmtn in JC

1. There're "NO MISSING PIECES"

2. There's "NOTHING LACKING"

3. Thre's "NTHING WE NEED TO DO"

to *supplement* our salvation!

E. WE ARE COMPLETE IN CHT! (Col 2:10)

[HALLELUJAH—AMEN—HOOYA..]

ILLUST: A few yrs ago—in undergrnd NY subway station handing out tracts w JFJ

*Yng ultra-orthodox man came up

*He: "If U give me 10 min's, I can talk U out of believing in Jesus"

*I: OK-fine—if whn U're done, I get 10 minutes"

*So he went on to talk abt traitor/ betrayed my pple/ holocaust..

*My turn: "Just one Q: 'If U were to die tonite, are U 100% certain tht U'd go right to hvn to be with Gd

**'With all your sins forgiven...

**' & with eternal life forever?'"

*He: "No—I'm not"

*I: "So—wht do U have to do to become certain?"

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*He: "I'm not totally sure. Try to be a nice prsn...keep OT laws...be a good Jew...go to synagogue"

*I: "Sir—the prblem is tht U're flwing a plan of salv tht has *holes in it*"

**It's incmplete/got missng pieces

**& the worst part—is tht U don't even *know* what those missing pieces *are* or hw to *supply* thm

*I: The plan of salv tht I hve in J the Messiah—**HAS** no missing pieces tht I havta supply!" **PTL!**

APP: Not just Judaism—but every "ism"/ "ology" has these missing pieces

*Heb 8:6—"J is the mediator of a **better** covenant tht has been founded on **better** promises" thn any other plan of salv in the universe!

CONCLUSION

>>P did not preach a religious system or a philosophy, but a **Person—LJC**"

*& tht "we're "**complete** in Him"(2:10)

*& tht nothing we do will evr make us any **MORE** complete in Him

>>>>So we don't even have to **TRY!**

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>>>>All we hvta do = try to *fall more in love w/J evryday* for his amazing love/mercy for us

>>>REM: Chr life is not ab *relig activ'y*
>>Ab *being pssn'tly in love w/Prsn of JC*

>>>So as a F--let me ask U/ME...

*Hve we bcome so busy/ preoccupied

*Tht(Rv 2:4)-“we’ve lost our 1st love”

>>>If so—let’s repent—ask Gd to draw our hearts back to him by pwr of HS

>>>>GREAT DAILY PRAYER:

Prone to wander, Lord

Prone to leave the God I love

Here’s my heart, O take a seal it

Seal it for thy courts above