

## The Colossian Concoction

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Dan: 3-5th Camp. HS Camp. REAL Tues. Counseling.
- B. Slide6-8 Charlotte: ICA - Unaccompanied Minors & Refugee children.
- C. Slide9 JM7 - Join us for a 2nd service as (2nd, 3rd) we'll have a workshop w/Task Force
- D. *Children at Risk* today 3-5pm. *Final Justice Matters Sunday planning.*

### II. Slide10,11 **Intro:** *The Colossian Concoction*

- A. What do you get when you mix *Christianity* with a dash of gnosticism, a teaspoon of mysticism, a cup of legalism, and a pound of asceticism? *The Colossian Error.*
  - 1. False teachers came in and *concocted an* odd blend *of religions.* [syncretism]
    - a) It's as bad as the chemical reaction of *Pepsi & Mentos.* Or worse, *Ammonia & Bleach*
  - 2. Their premise was that *faith in Christ* wasn't enough.
  - 3. That *true salvation* came thru knowledge gained by *spiritual enlightenment.* By Jewish dietary laws, festivals, and rituals. By buffeting your body. By mystical visions.
    - a) These were the *many rungs* on their spiritual ladder to enlightenment.
  - 4. *But* hasn't a form of *hyper spirituality* always been the challenge in the church, the *segregation* of the *spiritual haves and the have nots?*
  - 5. Know this...you never have to *season* your Christian theology to the taste of the current culture. The problem is...Christ *can't* be mixed w/the philosophies of the world. *He stands alone!*
    - a) *He is The Lord of Our Walk.* He is The Lord of Our *Salvation.* He is The Lord of Our *Growth.*

### III. Slide12 **HE IS THE LORD OF OUR WALK (1-7)**

- A. This is what Paul wishes for Colosse & Laodicea (& CM).
- B. (1,2a) *Hearts Knit Together in Love*
- C. (2b,3) *Know God's formerly Secret Plan*
- D. They are hidden **for** us not **from** us.

1. **Illust:** Our Dentist growing up was Dr. Rice in La Mirada. I remember walking past the closet. See, hidden in the closet was a basket full of toys, to which when you were finished, you were able to pick one toy from the basket.

a) **Slide13a** It **wasn't** hidden **from** me, it was hidden **for** me.

E. Christ reveals the **full truth** of God.

1. **In Him** all believers possess the secret to true knowledge because we have Christ **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**.

F. Yes, the deeper things are **hidden**, so we must: **search, study, pray, commune, trust, yield, obey, prove, pursue, & persist** like the old **gold-prospectors** of the **Calif gold rush**.

1. **Slide13b** He wants to bless us with the **joy** of continual **new discovery & surprise**.

G. (4,5) **Watch Out For Theological Deception**

H. Ancient philosophers used lofty arguments to persuade their audiences. Paul warns the Colossians that such teachings **may appear logical**, **but** their **conclusions are false**.<sup>1</sup>

I. (6,7a) **Grow In Christ**

J. **Receiving** is an act which implies the acceptance of a gift (opposite of merit).

1. **As the earth drinks in the rain, as the sea receives the streams, as night accepts light from the stars, so we, giving nothing, partake freely of the grace of God.** Spurgeon

K. **Walk** - *pres. tense* calls for a **continual & habitual action**.

L. Because we possess the secret to true knowledge (**i.e.**) **Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge**, **then** all we must do is **walk in Him**.

1. **Walking implies action**. Our religion is not to be confined to our closet.

2. We must **keep** to Him, **cling** to Him, **never let Him go**, **but live and move and have our being in Him**. [sp **walking** is the **opposite** of spiritual **striving**]

M. **Roots** - have access to moisture . For a tree to bear fruit it must have its feet in the water.

1. **What's on the tree above the ground - reveals what it secretly feeds upon underground.** 2 Kings 19:30 **take root downward, And bear fruit upward.**

N. **Built up** - Christ is the foundation of a building, on which the Colossian Christians were continually being built.

<sup>1</sup> Faithlife Study Bible (2:4)

- O. **Established in the faith** - Faith being the cement of the building. Lightfoot
- P. **As you have been taught** - It is *not enough* for the evangelist to win men for Christ; they must **instruct** them in those principles of Christian living which alone can safeguard the soul, & prevent it from backsliding. Griffith Thomas
- Q. (7b) **Be Thankful**
- R. Guard yourself with Gratitude.
- S. **So** Christ is to be **received**, & then the Christian is **rooted** in Him, **walking** in Him, & all the while abounding in **thanksgiving**. (6,7)

#### IV. Slide14 **HE IS THE LORD OF OUR SALVATION (8-15)**

- A. Slide15a **GNOSTICISM** (8-10) *taught a salvation through a secret gnosis, knowledge.*
- B. The Gnostics diminish Christ to be an angel. **No, He is God incarnate.**
- C. (8) **Cheat you** - plunder you, **or** take you captive, **or** completely manipulate you.
- D. **Bodily** - In bodily form. Referring to Christ's human body.
1. **Gnosticism** believed...*the spirit alone was good, matter was essentially evil.*
  2. This belief led its followers to 3 main heresy's:
    - [1] **The Doctrine of Creation**: If matter is evil, God could not have created it.
    - [2] **The Doctrine of Jesus**: If matter's evil Jesus couldn't have a flesh/blood body.
    - [3] **The Ethical approach to life**: If matter is evil, then our bodies are evil.
      - a) **If our bodies are evil, then you either practice**:
        - (1) **Rigid Asceticism** (self-denial, starve, beat, deny the body) [eg. Francis Assisi]
        - (2) **Loose Morality** (eg) if the body was evil, it didn't matter what you did **to** or **with** it...the spirit was all that mattered.
- E. The Greek word for **philosophy**, *philosophia*, literally means *love of wisdom*.<sup>2</sup>
1. Philosophy originated in **Greece** during the **6th century bc** as **the systematic and logical investigation of a subject**.
  2. By the 1st century, **philosophy** broadly referred to **any moral or religious belief system**.

<sup>2</sup> Faithlife Study Bible (2:8)

- F. So for doctrine & duty, character & conduct, life & labour, thought & deed, word & work, *Christ is all, & in all.*
- G. Slide15b The flesh loves to be *religious* so long as *that religion* doesn't have *a cross to crucify the flesh.*
- H. Slide16a **LEGALISM** (11-17) *is treating biblical standards of conduct as regulations to be kept by our own power in order to earn God's favor.<sup>3</sup> Or, the erecting of specific requirements of conduct beyond the teaching of Scripture.*
1. Legalism is trying to be ethical *in your own strength.*
  2. The legalist is always a very **moral** person.
  3. The **moral legalist** is always *the elder brother* of the **immoral prodigal.**
  4. God forbids *what destroys your temple/body or injures your faith* (or someone else's).
- I. Slide16b **Crucified & Raised** (11,12)
1. We do not need the sign of **physical** circumcision to legitimize our identity as God's people.
  2. The circumcision of Christ
- J. Slide16c **Forgiven** (13)
1. **What kind of forgiveness?** - Luke 7:41,42 *There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed 500 denarii, and the other 50. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?"* (nothing to pay) **Wow!**
    - a) **All trespasses** - **ALL.**
- K. Slide16d **Charges Blotted Out** (14,15)
- L. **Wiped out** (14) - rub or wipe off *i.e. a papyrus.*
1. It was used for wiping out a memory of an experience **or** for canceling a vote **or** annulling a law **or** canceling a charge of debt.
- M. **Handwriting** - a written acknowledgment of a debt; an **I.O.U.**; a statement of indebtedness, personally signed by the debtor.

<sup>3</sup> John Piper, <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/flesh-tank-and-peashooter-regulations>

- N. **Requirements** - decree, edict, something decided. A legal obligation which was a **binding law** or edict which was placed on a public place for all to see.
- O. **Against us** - hostile, directly opposed to us.
- P. **Taken it out of the way** - put it out of sight.
- Q. **Nailed it to the cross** - the manner in which Christ removed the handwriting (I.O.U.).
1. He nailed the **Mosaic Law** with all its decrees to His cross, & it **died** with Him.
- R. If someone asks, *show me where the **Sabbath day** has been changed*. Tell them it **hasn't**. Saturday is Saturday, it is the 7th day of the week, and it is the Sabbath day, always was, always will be. They then usually ask, *then why don't you keep the Sabbath day if it hasn't been changed?* **Answer:** The **DAY** hasn't changed, but **I** have been changed. I've been given a new nature now, I am joined to Christ; I am a part of the new creation. We celebrate the 1st day because that is the day He rose from the grave. That is what it means that *the ordinances have been nailed to the cross*.
- S. **Illust:** Years ago I got a *speeding ticket* in Canyon Lake.
1. It was a **trespass** (*Did you know you were doing 53 in a 35? No way!*). I called them to take care of it. Kim talked with them, being the homeowner, which was their responsibility to pay, and it was **\$250!!!**
    - a) We both tried to pay it **but** it had been mysteriously **wiped away**.
  2. The **handwriting** that was against me (even signed w/my signature).
  3. The **requirement** that was against me (*this legal obligation which was a binding law*)
  4. **It was some how taken out of the way** (*put out of sight...PTL!*)
    - a) But Brian you deserve to pay the fine (**I know**). You don't deserve grace (**I know**)
  5. \* Katrina, Police Dept.
- T. **Triumphing** - It pictures a *victorious general leading* his prisoners in that triumphal procession.
- U. Msg captures it well, vs.15 - *He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets*.

## V. Slide17a/b HE IS THE LORD OF OUR GROWTH (16-23)

### A. Don't Criticize one's Diets or Days (16,17)

1. (16a) **Diet** - No one should condemn another believer for what he or she **eats or drinks**. (16b) **Days** - No one should condemn another believer for not celebrating certain holy days.
  - a) **Festival**/yearly (like Passover, Pentecost), **new moon**/monthly, & **Sabbath**/weekly.
  - b) For these old rules were only **shadows**.

### B. (17) **Shadow** - OT ritual observances were **dim outlines** of the NT **redemptive truths**.

1. He says, "*watch it, you are going out of the **sunlight** into the **shadows***".<sup>4</sup>
2. It's as bad as a boyfriend who admires his girlfriends **photo**, while he ignores his girlfriends **presence**.

### C. Slide18a **MYSTICISM** (18,19) *taught that God can be known through 2 methods: worship of angels & seeing visions.*

### D. No, one can only know God through **Christ** (19)

1. A body functions through **nourishment**, not **legislation**. You don't tell your body, *start digesting or stop hurting*.
2. Slide18b **Grows** - not from a denial of certain foods, but rather growth comes from God.

### E. Slide19a **ASCETICISM** (20-23) *Teaches that one can purify the spirit by punishing the body*

### F. (21) How the flesh loves asceticism: *fasting, regulations about food, bodily disciplines.*

1. But **strict ascetic creeds** like those mentioned in vs.21 **don't move anyone one inch closer to God!**
2. Special religious observances with their regulations make people **feel spiritual**.
3. Nothing wrong with **spiritual discipline in the spirit & to the glory of God**; but when it is done in the **flesh** & for **our own praise**, then it becomes **sin**.
4. **Giving up** certain habits or pleasures doesn't **automatically** make you **spiritual**.

<sup>4</sup> Warren Wiersbe; Outlines of the NT.

- a) **E.g.** Eating Fish on Friday during Lent (fast from meat).
5. Obeying man-made religious regulations might **impress** some people as **spiritual**, **but** Paul states clearly that these practices **cannot control** or **overcome the flesh**.
- a) They might seem to help us develop **piety & superior spirituality**, **but** they are useless as far as God is concerned.
- G. **So Asceticism teaches that one can purify the spirit by punishing the body...**
1. **But** the spirit **can't** be purified by punishing the body. **Why? Because your body is already dead** (*died w/Christ*, vs.20) **How can beating a dead man help you?**
  2. It is impossible for **the flesh** to **control itself, better itself, or perfect itself**.
  3. **Slide19b** So if these things don't help us battle sin & mature spiritually...**what does? Paul answers this question in the remainder of the book.**
- H. **So Paul you're saying, all the believer needs is Jesus Christ? Yep!**
1. **Slide20 Just come to the Cross: Where Truth met Love. Where man's worse collided with God's best. Where righteousness kissed Justice. And where it's nothing you deserve, but everything you may appropriate for the asking.**
- I. **End: Remember to visit info booth (ICA)**