



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

Colossians 2 (Part-I)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

- **Paul's concern and prayer (1-3)** What is Paul's great burden as revealed by his three fold prayer?; How can we encourage others/what should unite us/what are dangers of incomplete understanding of the Word?; What is the 2nd mystery? (1st 1:27)

2.10.21



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion:

Colossians 2 (Part-II)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

- **Deception, Commendation, Continuity (4-8)**: How are people lead astray? What are two commendable qualities that Paul recognizes among Colosse believers? What should follow our salvation experience?
- **Our completeness in Christ (9-13)**: In whom does fullness dwell? In whom are we made complete? Can we add anything to 'complete', 'fullness', 'perfection'? How does circumcision fit in this discussion? What does circumcision represent... physical versus spiritual? How are we circumcised? What type of circumcision is the Lord looking for? ... is there support for it in the Old Testament? What does baptism represent and what does it accomplish? What was our past condition? What is our new condition in Christ?
- **Law/legalism Abolished in Christ (14-17)**: What are three broad type of laws? What was abolished? Are any of the laws made stricter in New Testament? Is it okay to practice any of the abolished laws? What was the shadow of things to come?
- **Warning against False spirituality and human rules (18-23)**: What type of false teachings are we warned against? What is the end result of being 'spiritual' and 'legalistic'?
- **Personal reflection: *Is your life complete?***

2.17.21



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion: Colossians 2 (Part-III)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

- **Chapter TWO: Warning against False spirituality and human rules (18-23):** What type of false teachings are we warned against? What is the end result of being 'spiritual' and 'legalistic'?

- **Personal reflection (Ch.2):** *Is your life complete?*

2.24. 21

Paul's concern and prayer (1-3)

What is Paul's great burden as revealed by his three fold prayer?,

What is the 2nd mystery? (1st 1:27)

Paul's concern and Prayer

Based on Paul's prayer, we can perhaps infer the following:

- Discouragement in church
- Lack of unity in church
- Lack of spiritual growth

Paul's 3-fold prayer

1. Hearts maybe encouraged or comforted (2)

- Discouragement caused by failures, disappointment, loss, hopelessness, etc.
- What discourages you? How do you encourage yourself?
- **How can we encourage others?**
 - Through wisdom of scriptures
 - Through our prayers
 - Through listening, uplifting affirming words, our fellowship, practical assistance
- If alone, we can encourage ourselves in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6 David was greatly distressedbut David encouraged himself in the Lord)
- Avoid “miserable comforters” (Job 16:2)

Paul's 3-fold prayer

2. United or knit together in Love (2)

- * Church as a body should be interconnected, interdependent
- * Unity leads to much blessing (Psalms 133)
- * Jesus prayed for Unity (John 17: 11, 21, 22)
- * Unity among believers must be based on our living faith through the work of the cross (not race, language, denomination etc.)
- * **what unites us?** (one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God & Father, [Ephesians 4:3-6](#))

Paul's 3-fold prayer

3. Full riches of complete understanding or assurance (2)

Incomplete understanding of scriptures

- * leads to defeat in times of trials, challenges
- * can be dangerous (easy victims of false teachings)
- * cannot be very profitable to others (Remember Apollos in Acts 18?)

2nd Mystery

(1st Mystery 1:27)

IN CHRIST, are hidden all the treasures
of wisdom and knowledge (3)

- Without Christ in our life, our knowledge will always be incomplete and our wisdom will be limited ... Christ has the answers to all questions and solutions to all problems!
- Why seek incomplete wisdom of the world?

Deception, Commendation, Continuity (4-8):

How are people lead astray?

What are two commendable qualities of Colosse believers?

What should follow our salvation experience?

Deception

How are people lead astray?

- False teachings (4)
- Deceptive words built on worldly wisdom and traditions (8)
 - Many passages warn of false teachings (such as, II Peter 2, Acts 20:28-30, I John 4:1-6, Mathew 7:15-20)
 - False teachings have the form of religion and godliness, but lack the power (II Timothy 3:5) (example, Idol worship, traditions)

Right fellowship is important

“Watch out for **false prophets**. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15, NIV)

“In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we command you, brothers and sisters, to **keep away from every believer** who is idle and disruptive and does not live according to the teaching you received from us”

(II Thessalonians 3:6, NIV)

Christians are often lead astray and weakened in churches 😞

Two commendable qualities (5)

#1 Order/Discipline

- Discipline is a great quality to have, personally and as church
- Discipline comes with intentional effort, not naturally
- God is not a God of disorder (1 Corinthians 14:33) Let all things be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Two commendable qualities (5)

#2 Steadfastness/faithfulness/consistency

- Can the Lord trust us to be faithful stewards?
- “It is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2, NIV) “Whoever can be trust with very little can also be trusted with much” (Luke 16:1) reward for faithfulness (Mathew 25:21)
- Lord will test us with small responsibilities/ministries before giving us bigger tasks. Church must follow the same principle (1 Timothy 3:6 cautions against appointing a new convert as an overseer/elder) (oftentimes, the first assignment in Hebron assemblies in India was cleaning the toilets)

What must follow salvation Experience?

Continuity and growth (6-7)

- Continue in faith ... **are we progressing?**
- Rooted and built up in Him ... **are we stable & growing?**
- Strengthened and established in faith ... **are we strong?**
- Overflowing with thankfulness ... **are we worshipping?**

Continuity & growth will protect us from falling a prey to false teachings

Our completeness in Christ (9-13)

In whom does fullness dwell? In whom are we made complete? Can we add anything to 'complete', 'fullness', 'perfection'? How does circumcision fit in this discussion? What does circumcision represent... physical versus spiritual? How are we circumcised? What type of circumcision is the Lord looking for? ... is there support for it in the Old Testament? What does baptism represent and what does it accomplish? What was our past condition? What is our new condition in Christ?

In whom does fullness dwell?

9 **For in Christ** all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. ¹⁰ **And ye are complete in him ... (KJV)**

⁹ For **in Christ** all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰ **and in Christ you have been brought to fullness ... (NIV)**

- We cannot improve by adding anything to something that is complete
 - Sacrifice on the cross is a complete work ... we cannot add to it!
 - Do we believe that we are complete?

Physical Circumcision ... does not change us

- False teachers insisted on **physical circumcision** (cutting off of flesh signified **death to flesh** or acts of flesh ... but the focus shifted to the physical act of circumcision rather than the spiritual meaning)
- Paul emphasizes **spiritual circumcision** (circumcision made without hands, Circumcision of Christ made at the cross). Believer is circumcised and **dies to sin** by the circumcision of Christ. (9) (Romans 2:29, Romans 6:6)
- Old Testament also emphasizes **circumcision of the heart** (Deuteronomy 10:6/30:6, Jeremiah 4:4, Ezekiel 44:9)

Baptism... does not change us (12)

- Baptism is our public witness and symbolic of what has already happened (death to sin, and raised to a new life). The physical act of baptism does not grant us salvation.
- Real change is accomplished through continued faith in God and finished work of the cross (not physical act of baptism or any other traditions and works)
- Romans 6:1-10, baptism

Christ gave us victory ... death to life (13-15)

Past condition: **dead** in sins (13) (**separated from God**)

Intervention: Christ died on the cross
secured victory over principalities and powers
secured forgiveness for our sins
wiped out Law's requirements against us

Result: quickened or made **alive** (13) (**united with God**)

Law/legalism Abolished in Christ (14-17):

What are three broad type of laws? What was abolished?

Are any of the laws made stricter in New Testament?

Is it okay to practice any of the abolished laws?

What was the shadow of things to come?

Old Testament Laws

- * More than 600 regulations communicated by Moses
- **Ceremonial laws** (such as sacrifices, feasts, etc. overshadowed by the finished work on the cross) (so no longer applies)
- **Moral laws** (such as not to commit adultery) still apply (and indeed, Christ raised the standards in the Sermon on the mount)
- **Civil laws** (are specific to the culture/time and do not apply)

Let no man judge you ... (16)

- In what you eat and drink (such as abstinence during Lent, or not to eat Pork)
- In honoring special festivals (holy day or of new moon)
- In sabbath (such as seventh day Adventist insisting on sabbath)

Traditions of Old Testament (sabbath, food restrictions) are not binding but it can be practiced for personal reasons.

Christ has set us free

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery”

(Galatians 5:1, NIV)

Law is only a Shadow ... *why chase the shadow when we have the substance?*

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming--not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ([Hebrews 10:1, NIV](#))

By calling this covenant “new,” he has made the first one obsolete; and what is obsolete and outdated will soon disappear. new covenant has made the first one, old and obsolete, ready to vanish away. ([Hebrews 8:13, NIV](#))

Law is only a Shadow ... why chase the shadow when we have the substance?

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming (Hebrews 10:1, NIV)

- “I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17) Jesus is the fulfillment of Law.
- “we establish the law” (Romans 3:31) We fulfill law by faith in Christ ... law of faith (Romans 3:27)
- We are not under law but grace (Romans 6:14, Galatians 3:23-25).
- It is not possible to reach God by keeping all the laws and traditions.

Warning against false spirituality and human rules (18-23)

Signs of false teachers?

Why should we not go back to rules?

What is the end result of being 'spiritual' and 'legalistic'?

Beware of False Teachings (mysticism ... supernatural spiritual experiences) (18,19)

For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect (Mathew 24:24) (II Thessalonians 2:9, 10)

False teachers

- Display false humility

- Worship angels (or reaching God through angels) (I Timothy 2:5, only one mediator between God and man) (Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, II Corinthians 11:14)

- Pride

- False knowledge and visions

- Impose rules

- Not connected to the head, Christ

Legalism fails

Following rules, regulations, self-denial, false humility, and being “spiritual” **does not give us victory!**

“These things indeed have an **appearance of wisdom** in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but **are of no value** against the indulgence of flesh” (23, NKJV)

Personal Reflection

Is your Life Complete?