

## **Paul's Letter to the Colossians...**

*A verse by verse study of the book of Colossians...*

### **Colossians 2**

#### ***Paul's Confrontation with Heresy...***

Chapter 2 opens with the Apostle Paul expressing the tremendous warfare and the heartfelt concern he has for these believers...

**Identifying his concern as a "Great Conflict..."**

This concern that Paul experienced was actually 4-fold in nature...

#### **Vs.1-3...**

#### **The Nature of Paul's concern identified...**

#### **vs.2...**

- 1) The hearts of God's people would be encouraged...**
  
- 2) The people of God would be unified by strong ties of Love...**
  
- 3) The people of God would understand the Mystery of God pertaining to Christ Jesus...**

*Mystery refers to a previously unknown truth now revealed through the Apostles and God's Prophets...*

The mystery is found in **Colossians 2:3** that is:  
*The Revealed Jesus, the treasury of all wisdom and knowledge...*

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Paul wrote this letter to confront the heresy (**mixed doctrine**)  
that was threatening the stability of this church...

***The best way to confront heresy is to release TRUTH  
that directly addresses or confronts the error that is being  
promoted...***

One particular group that introduced paganism into this church  
was a group called the Gnostics...

*They believed a great wealth of knowledge was needed for  
salvation; knowledge that was hidden in their Secret Books...*

*Teaching the church that they were to seek knowledge and  
wisdom but not in Jesus...*

Paul confronts this heresy by revealing that all real wisdom and  
knowledge is not hidden in secret books;

Knowledge and Wisdom are **Hidden** (**laid up, stored up, and  
reserved**) in Jesus...

**Vs.3...**

**4) The People of God would be protected from Theological  
Deception...**

***Read vs.4-5...***

**Vs.6-7...**

***Protection from deception would manifest as the church:***

- *Remembered how they 1st received Jesus and continuing in that vain...*

***By Grace through Faith... Ephesians 2:8***

- *Remain rooted in Jesus and building your life with Jesus as the foundation...*

**Vs.8-23...**

**Paul confronts each area of heresy with a presentation of Divine Truth...**

**Vs.8...**

The tradition of men is considered philosophy or vain deceit...

***Basic principles of the world...***

*Stoicheia... rudiments or 1st principles; referring to the common idea of cause and effect that was embraced by both Jews and pagans alike...*

*This basic principle of the world is referring to the Grace eliminating concept that teaches us that we as people only get what we deserve...*

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***Gnostics attempted to reduce Jesus to the status of an angel or some lesser god...***

But Paul dispels this by declaring that ALL FULLNESS dwells  
in Jesus making Him God...

*And as believers, we are complete IN HIM!!!*

**Vs.9-10...**

Another form of paganism came from those promoting Judaism  
(or legalism)...

*Judaism promoted physical circumcision as a requirement of  
relationship with God;  
and therefore attempted to impose this on the Gentile  
believers...*

*Paul confronts this error by revealing to the church what  
happened  
as believers put their faith in Jesus... Vs.11-17...*

**Vs.11...**

Paul says the Gentiles experienced a spiritual circumcision  
that entailed a cutting away of our sin nature...

**Vs.12...**

We're also buried and raised with Jesus through Baptism...  
*Through faith in God...*

**Vs.13...**

Forgiven of ALL trespasses...

**Vs.14-15...**

He has eliminated all charges that were against us,

while disarming principalities and powers...

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*Judaism also placed emphasis on certain Holy Days  
While promoting strict dietary restrictions...*

**Vs.16-17...**

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*Mysticism was another form of paganism promoted in this  
church...*

*Mysticism taught that God can be known through angel worship  
as well as through special visions...*

**Vs.18-19...**

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*The final area of paganism Paul confronts is Asceticism;  
Asceticism teaches that man can purify his spirit by punishing  
his physical body...*

Paul reveals that the believers purification comes as a result of  
us having died with Christ  
and not by any appearance of self-imposed religion or severe  
treatment of the body...

*Paul does admit that these things present a good outward  
showing;  
but in reality does nothing to control the sensual appetites of  
man's flesh...*

**Vs.20-23...**