

Colossians – Resist the Heretics

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I. Paul Had a Plan for the Colossians

A. Paul wanted the Colossians to mature in spiritual knowledge and doctrinal application. “*For this cause we* also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to *pray for you*, and to desire *that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*,” (COLOSSIANS 1:9)

B. Paul wanted believers to demonstrate the truth they had received in changed lives and then expand on that platform. “That ye might *walk worthy of the Lord* unto all pleasing, *being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge* of God;” (COLOSSIANS 1:10)

C. However, Paul wanted these spiritual and practical realities to develop in the normal Biblical forms. “*Strengthened* with all might, *according to his glorious power*, unto *all patience and longsuffering* with joyfulness;” (COLOSSIANS 1:11)

II. Believers Must Learn Who Christ Is and What He Does

A. Christ is above all creation. “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; *that in all things he might have the preeminence.*” (COLOSSIANS 1:18)

B. Christ is the creator of all reality. “For *by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible*, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by him, and for him:*” (COLOSSIANS 1:16)

C. Before there was a world, Christ was. “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” (COLOSSIANS 1:17) “Who is the image of the invisible God, *the firstborn of every creature:*” (COLOSSIANS 1:15)

D. Christ is the ultimate reconciler for those who remain faithful to Him. “And, *having made peace through the blood* of his cross, by him *to reconcile all things unto himself*, by him, *I* say, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated *and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled* In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be not moved away from the hope of the gospel*, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;” (COLOSSIANS 1:20-23)

II. Guard Against Error

A. Hold the truth faithfully. “And this I say, *lest any man should beguile you* with enticing words. For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:* Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, *as ye have been taught*, abounding therein with thanksgiving.” (COLOSSIANS 2:4-7)

B. The genuine gospel is far more powerful than external, ceremonial, or traditional religion. “As *ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught*, abounding therein with

thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (COLOSSIANS 2:6-8)

C. The genuine gospel liberates; grace triumphs over all its competitors through Christ. “And you, **being dead in your sins** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened** together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”** (COLOSSIANS 2:13-15)

D. Do not be misled by attractive ideas and practices which are incompatible with grace. “**Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels**, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, **vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, And not holding the Head**, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.” (COLOSSIANS 2:18-19)

III. Practice the Doctrine of the Preeminence of Christ

A. Develop holy ambition. “If ye then be risen with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, **not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.** When Christ, *who is our life*, shall appear, then **shall ye also appear with him in glory.”** (COLOSSIANS 3:1-4)

B. Avoid behavior which has proven to fail and from which grace has delivered believers. “**Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them.”** (COLOSSIANS 3:5-7)

C. Submit to God’s peace. “And **let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called** in one body; and **be ye thankful.”** (Colossians 3:15)