

=FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS=

Lesson 39

Colossians 2

INTRODUCTION: The church at Colosse was started in the house of Philemon, a wealthy man who was a close friend of the Apostle Paul. It was a good church, and Philemon was a good man. It was this same Philemon whose servant, Onesimus, had stolen from him and escaped. Having met Paul in prison in Rome, Onesimus was led to Christ by Paul and was sent back to Philemon with a letter from Paul seeking restoration. Epaphras, who was from the church in Colosse, was Paul's fellow prisoner in Rome. From him, no doubt, Paul had learned the state of the church at Colosse. It was a good church, but a few things had crept in. One was angel worship and its accompanying legalism. The letter to the Colossians is written from Paul to combat this legality and angel worship and to show that Christ is best of all. In Colossians 2 he especially hits the legalism in an attempt to exalt Christ. Let us notice the teachings of this chapter.

I. CHRIST IS EVERYTHING!

1. He is the fulness of the Godhead bodily. Colossians 2:9.
2. We are complete in Him. Colossians 2:10. In other words, we do not need legalism now that we have Christ.
3. We are circumcised in Christ. Colossians 2:11. Here Paul combats the continuation of the ordinance of circumcision by explaining that the circumcision that we have is of the heart through Jesus, and no longer is the circumcision of the flesh necessary.

II. PAUL TELLS THAT THE ORDINANCES AND OLD LEGALISM ARE PAST AND DONE AWAY.

Several things no longer were necessary or valid for the Christians to do. These are things that they had done, but Paul was steering the people from them now that they had Christ. In other words, now that they have Christ they don't need these things.

One of these things concerns meat. Under the law, there were regulations concerning meat. There are no such regulations now. Under the law there were regulations concerning holy drink, holy water, etc. See Colossians 2:16. There are no such regulations under Christ. Under the law there were holy days such as the Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the Feast of the Trumpets, Pentecost, etc. Now there are no holy days. Paul is telling us that every day is a holy day. To observe Lenten season is no longer necessary. To observe special seasons and special days is no longer necessary. Good Fridays, Easter Sundays, Christmas Days, etc. are not to be holy days. We may pick a particular day when we thank God for the resurrection, but to say that is the day on which He was resurrected and to make it a holy day is no longer necessary; in fact, it is forbidden.

Notice the new moon and the Sabbath days. These were observed before, but no longer. The Sabbath day was the seventh day; it began at 6:00 Friday night and ended at 6:00 on Saturday night. The Jew could not as much as pick up a stick or light a fire in his house. These Sabbaths were nailed to the cross. Christ is our Sabbath! Of course, we go to church on Sunday, but Sunday is the Lord's Day, not the Sabbath. All of these things were nailed to the cross.

There are many other things that we no longer do since Christ has come that Paul could have added here, and in other places he did add them. Such things as sacrifices, masses, clerical robes, etc. have no place in the New Testament church. They were done away with when Jesus came.

III. PAUL TELLS US WHAT WAS DONE TO THESE THINGS.

1. They were blotted out. Colossians 2:14a. In other words, they were erased, taken off the program.
2. They were taken out of the way. Colossians 2:14b. In other words, the way to Heaven is through Christ. These things were taken out of the way. They have been taken off the road and put in the ditch, if you please.
3. They were nailed to the cross, which means they are dead. At one time they lived, but now they are dead. Christ has come, and all the ritual was nailed to the cross.
4. They were spoiled. Colossians 2:15a. In other words, they are now rotten. They stink; they have been spoiled. They are not valid for our day.

5. They have been defeated. Colossians 2:15c. Notice the words, “triumphing over them in it.” The word “triumph” here implies a victor standing with one foot on the victim and one foot on the ground, and having his hand raised declaring victory. They have been killed; they are dead. They are no longer necessary. The churches that have them are dead churches. The religions that embrace them are dead religions. Christ is here! They are no longer necessary.
6. They were a shadow that had passed away. Colossians 2:17. All of these things shadowed Christ. The sacrifices, the holy days, the holy places, the holy seasons, the holy garments and all these other things were a shadow pointing to the coming Christ. Now He is here; we do not need the shadow anymore. It is foolish to look at the shadow when the body has come.

CONCLUSION: The entire book of Colossians is to tell us how wonderful Christ is. Notice these passages: Colossians 2:9, “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Colossians 1:17, “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.” Colossians 1:19, “For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.” Colossians 1:15 tells us that He is “the firstborn of every creature.” Colossians 1:16a reminds us that everything was created by Him. Colossians 1:16c reminds us, “all things were created by him, and for him.” Colossians 1:18 tells us that He is the head of the church. Colossians 1:18 tells us that He should have preeminence in everything. Paul is taking our attention away from legalism, form, ceremony, ritual, etc. and saying, “Look to Christ! He is all you need.”