

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 11

Discipleship Hour, 9/18/2020

The Truth Defined (2:1- 2:8)

How does the book fit into the New Testament?

In Romans We are Justified in Christ
In 1 Cor. We are Enriched in Christ
In 2 Cor. We are Comforted in Christ
In Gal. We are Free in Christ
In Eph. We are Quickened in Christ
In Phil. We are Joyful in Christ
In Col. We are Complete in Christ

This Completeness is Fourfold (4 Chapters)

A. Building Downward – Deeper Life

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

B. Building Upward – Higher Life

Colossians 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

C. Building Inward – Inner Life (One man does not see but God does)

Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

D. Building Outward – Outer Life (One man and God can both see)

Colossians 4:5 Walk in wisdom toward those *who are outside*, redeeming the time.

Study will proceed by looking from the foundation of truth:

1. Truth Declared 1:1-14
2. Truth Defined 1:15-2:8
3. Truth Defended 2:9-3:4
4. Truth Desired 3:5-4:1
5. Truth Displayed 4:2-18

We saw through:

Colossians 1:28-29 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

The message: "Him we preach"

The method – "we preach"

The means – "warning and teaching" Gk. warning is = admonishing "one another".

The idea is to encourage, stir up, instruct, and discipline.

The motive – to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

Paul toils and strives as a steward of the mystery to present the gospel to men and men to the gospel. He presents Christ and God lifts the veil because, (Col 1:27) "...God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Paul pursues his discourse through 2:8: v.1-3

stress the teaching and encouraging aspect of ministry. V.4-8 stress the warning aspect (admonition).

Colossians 2:1-3 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Colossians 2:4-8 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to

see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

The teaching and encouraging aspect of ministry:

Colossians 2:1-2 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

“what a great conflict I have for you” (conflict = agon = Gk. For contest and gives us the Eng. Word, “agony.”

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Laodicea is mentioned as the lukewarm church:

Revelation 3:14-21 “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

“their hearts...being knit together in love” = Gk. to make to come together...

Colossians 3:14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.

Love binds everything together in perfect harmony

It is Love that opens us to the fullness of the revelation.

Ephesians 3:17-19 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Love carries “the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God.” This is not gnosis but epignosis = “above knowledge = revelation of the mystery.

Thus, to love is to know Christ in His fullness:

John 14:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

Colossians 2:3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

-“hidden” as in mystery, not from forever being found, but that those who seek can find while the casual observer does not.

Colossians 3:3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

v4-8 = Warnings; 4-5 against heretical talk; 6-7 against spiritual immaturity.

Colossians 2:4-5 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

“Deceive you” = to listen to beguiling (tricking) speech is to let go of Christ. This is today’s liberalism....secular humanism....propagandists for antichrist.

But, Paul rejoices at their good order and firm faith (NEB = “orderly array and firm front” = military connotation = needed attitude...

...but the Colossian attack was from within. So, V .6-7 = warning against spiritual immaturity.

Colossians 2:6-7 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Notice Paul’s shift from chap 1:7 where they received the gospel by Epaphras. Here, they received Christ, (the sum content of the gospel).

What they had first received they were to walk in. Abraham had been mightily blessed by God and “built an altar at Bethel...and journeyed on. He went to Egypt but could not get blessed again until he returned to Bethel. Sometimes, you too will need to get back to Bethel.

Revelation 2:4-5 Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.

What they had received was the Christ (reconciler of all things) Messiah Jesus: the visible representation of the invisible God...the Lord...the sovereign...the pre-eminent one! They were also to “walk in him – Gk. conveys forward progress and ongoing movement.

Shape your life to match your confession.

V.6-7 “walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him.” In Him again and again; all that we are to be is in the vine.

John 15:4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

Rooted and built = two different verb tenses: Rooted = past perfect = done, but ongoing; Built = present continuous = in process as long as it is now.

Note: rooted always precedes fruits. The rooting is once for all. The fruiting is daily, hourly, ongoing.

"...rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith..." Rooted and fruited will be established by your faith and also establish you in your faith.

"...as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." were (not will be) taught: not new lessons, but new views on old lessons.

Thanksgiving is to be overflowing: Because God's gift is unending, so too is our response in thanks.

2:8 Warning against false philosophy

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

"beware" = "See to it and take heed" for the threat is real

"cheat you" = prey = to lead you away as booty = voluntarily kidnapped

"philosophy and empty deceit" = barren (no fruit); Philosophy (philo = affection for; sophia = wisdom)

James 3:13-17 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

The wisdom found in humans and their systems of operation as opposed to "all the treasures of wisdom" in Christ. This leads to...

"Traditions of men" Philosophy = knowing more and more about less and less and leads to "Traditions of men," defined as godless by Christ.

"the basic principles of the world" = Gk. plural for elements or the physical content of the universe. The elemental spirits of the universe and the basic principles of the world promote drifting from Christ because they kidnap our minds by the lies that exalt things and ideas above the level of Christ or rank Christ alongside them. This is tantamount to idolatry and disregards His pre-

eminence – the fullness of God (Paul's definition of the Truth and the hope of Glory!).

The creator of all things is the Reconciler of all things and is not to be confused with the things.

To maintain your relationship with him requires faith. As you received him by faith, so live in him by faith. To keep your faith vital:

Don't listen to heresy (error)

Don't seek "revelation knowledge" You have it – be aligned with it and the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery of Christ will be yours.

Don't fall in love with wisdom - a thing. Walk in wisdom - the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:23-31 ^{but} we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence. But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption— that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the Lord."