

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 13

Discipleship Hour, 10/2/2020

Colossians (In Him We are Complete)

Christ is the sole provider and guarantor of reconciliation. No other person or thing has a part in this. There simply is no possibility of a mediatorial role for anyone but Christ. He has no competition and accepts no helpers) à He is the beginning and the end. He is the carrier of the divine fullness. He is all wisdom and knowledge. There is nothing before him...after him...not in space...time...quality. He is pre-eminent. In Him the full unbounded powers and attributes took up bodily residence. God's full expression of self here in a fixed abode. Christ is fully God and "you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Jesus' triumph was in the cross and specifically, "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it." = He spoiled them in total and absolute victory.

You have fullness of life in him because he rules all rule. He holds authority over all authority. Christ in you, preeminent in all! Christ in you, the Fullness of divinity... in you!

We ended last session with Paul's statement of the truth; next is the strength of the truth: **Colossians 2:16-19** So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

From v.9-15 we know that IN Christ the handwriting of legal demands against us was taken out of the way and the powers arrayed against us have been cancelled and defeated. Thus, there is no sense in yielding to blackmail. To meet demands of special ways and special means leads back to bondage. Such things are only shadows, but the substance is Christ. The heretics want to substitute a host of rituals but Paul says don't or you'll lose your liberty. Christianity is not a mere religion; it is a relationship: never substitute rules for a ruler. Colossians 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths,v.16 The "So" refers back to v.9-15: no one is

to be allowed to discern your Christian status through ritual or calendar. The above three begin with not holding fast to the head – but they also end there. This is why they are termed false teachers, false prophets, false shepherds, etc. Anyone or any teaching not leading to Christ is heresy. Anything or anyone not holding fast to Him is shadow and not substance. Anyone who attempts to show Him as less than He is has become a cultist and anyone who exalts another to Christ's primacy is the same.

Cult n. 1. a. A religion or religious sect generally considered to be extremist or false, with its followers often living in an unconventional manner under the guidance of an authoritarian, charismatic leader. b. The followers of such a religion or sect. 2. A system or community of religious worship and ritual. 3. The formal means of expressing religious reverence; religious ceremony and ritual. Oc ·cult adj. 1. Of, relating to, or dealing with supernatural influences, agencies, or phenomena. 2. Beyond the realm of human comprehension; inscrutable. 3. Available only to the initiate; secret. 4. Hidden from view; concealed.

The U.S. Treasury Department doesn't train their agents to spot counterfeit bills by immersing them in a study of counterfeiting. They teach them to spot real U.S. currency. Their agents know so much about true U.S. currency that they are able to immediately recognize a counterfeit bill when they see one. Your job is not so much to be able to recognize the occult when you see it, but to know the truth so well that when it's absent, you know it! Christ alone should be your focus! The Apostle Paul wrote, Romans 16:19b ...but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. How to Identify a Cult:

1. All growth is always from God the Father...in Jesus Christ... by the Spirit...
2. **1 Corinthians 3:6-7** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.
3. v. 19b "holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body... grows with the increase *that is* from God."
4. Notice it is through joints and ligaments that one is nourished and knit = to let go of Christ by refusing to be knit together is to be severed from the body which is to be severed from the head.
5. If Christ is not exercising the authority over your life, you are disowning Him – not holding fast to the Head, for, v. 19b says, It is by Him and in Him that you are nourished and knit together. Both verbs = present participle = continuous.
6. A cult is any individual or group who insist on absolute loyalty to a person or a group. True men and women of God will insist that you trust God alone and totally commit yourself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

7. **Psalm 119:105** Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
8. A cult is any individual or group with any philosophy or activity that refers to accessing or relying on forces, spirits, powers, energies, etc. other than the Holy Spirit. Or anything that offers you spiritual enlightenment (apart from God's Word).
9. "The Spirit makes it clear that as time goes on, some are going to give up on the faith and chase after demonic illusions put forth by professional liars. These liars have lied so well and for so long that they've lost their capacity for truth"
10. **Timothy 4:1-2** Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,
11. A cult is any individual or group that offers you spiritual rules or regulations other than those God clearly teaches.
12. A cult is any individual or group that recommends that you add anything (any work of your own) to Christ's death, burial, and resurrection in order to be saved.
13. A cult is any individual or group that proposes that your eternal salvation is provided in any other way that through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
14. "there's one Priest-Mediator between God and us--Jesus, who offered himself in exchange for everyone held captive by sin, to set them all free"
15. **1 Timothy 2:5-6** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,
16. A cult is any individual or group that suggests any other solution for your sin than the blood of Jesus.
17. A cult is any individual or group that proposes any other way to God than through Jesus Christ.
18. **1 Timothy 2:5a** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men...
19. A cult is any individual or group that recommends or requires you to bow your knee to anyone or anything other the Lord Jesus Christ.
20. . . .boasting in humility is actually a cover-up for intellectual arrogance. The intellect is sensual and therefore misleading. Those who use it are not wrong; those who trust it are! They become puffed up or swollen in their conceit as they tell you of their unworthiness.
21. "Taking a stand on visions" = standing on sand, not rock. Cultists have grades (levels) of enlightenment and therefore levels of superiority. (Hold fast to the head)
22. Self-abasement and worship of angels. Point of heresy– it is a show of humility to count yourself as unworthy and therefore not assume to a

direct contact with God. Actually it is pride of asceticism. The truly humble take God at his word. (Hold fast to the head)

23. **Colossians 2:18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
24. Returning to v. 18, there are four applications to recognize.
25. The theology of Paul is that: Christ is the head of the body. All that hold fast to the head make up that body. Therefore, you are in the reality and substance while all else is in the shadow. The body never is led by the shadow!
26. Notice, "not holding fast to the head" ... = v.17 Christ is the substance.
27. **Colossians 2:19** and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.
28. In 3:15, the Amplified version = umpire. Peace is your umpire and (no one.) Men will deprive you of your rightful prize. Peace will carry you to it.
29. **Colossians 3:15** And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.
30. This is the second, "let no one" (as in v.16) = No one. None. Zero people. "Let no one cheat you of your reward" = "disqualify" = arbitrate against: see the word "rule."
31. **Colossians 2:18** Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,
32. The rituals prefigured Christ. Now that the reality has come, the type has no significance as a picture of Dad won't do while Dad is in the chair beside you. Why see a man by his shadow when his body is present?
33. **Colossians 2:17** which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.
34. **Romans 14:4-6** Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand. One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike. Let each be fully convinced in his own mind. He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks.