

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Colossians 2:8-17

Last time...Paul's desire and agony, part 1

Be comforted, knit together in love

Be not deceived by the voices of the smooth-talking, flesh-appealing world that is not our friend

Be rooted in Jesus Christ Who gave His life for His friends to deliver us from this present evil world

This time...Paul's desire and agony, part 2

Col 2:1-3, 8-17

Be comforted, knit together in love

Be not deceived by carnal philosophical or religious ideas that corrupt the mind

Stand on the Truth that is Jesus Christ

v1-3 Paul's great desire for

- the church at Colosse
- the church at Laodicea
- the entire Body of Christ throughout time

is that they would understand his great

- conflict
- concern
- "agon"...agony

for them/us

The agony is caused by the conflict between

his great desire for the Church (being knit together in love)
and

the voices in the world that could corrupt or even destroy the Church

Agony rooted in love

2 Cor 2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you.

God's desire and Paul's desire for us:

That our hearts might be **comforted**, called near to the heart of the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our tribulations and troubles (2 Cor 1:3-4) rather than being anxious and agitated and irritated by the evil madness of the world, which is clearly seen all around us

by, as a Body, a congregation of people being knit together (working together), united, in one accord with the mind of Christ in love

Our hearts are comforted in these Days of Noah and Days of Lot when we

- are working together, loving each other
- know Jesus Christ, and know that we know Jesus Christ!

Therefore, we are warned about these loud voices from the world:

- worldly deception (v4-7)...smooth talking that appeals to the flesh
- religious deception (v8-17)...man-centeredness that appeals to our innate self-righteousness
- spiritual deception (v18-23)...the spiritual realm not connected to Jesus

Paul is going to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to say to the church at Colosse what

- the prophets had said
- Jesus said
- he has already said to other churches (in our chronological study)
 - in Galatia
 - at Corinth
 - at Rome
 - at Ephesus

Truth...the same truth for all people in all places of all ages, the truth that changes not, the truth upon which we can trust our eternal souls

v8-15 is a review of Truth we have already heard and learned, but need to be reminded of

v8

Beware...be warned, be perceptive, be discerning

lest any man...anyone near or far, friend or foe, family or stranger

spoil you...seduce you, plunder and pillage your mind

through philosophy and vain deceit...idolatry of man-centeredness

- philosophy
 - world-view, how one sees the world and themselves in it
 - wisdom of man apart from God, such as psychology, humanism, etc
- vain deceit
 - empty idea
 - superstitions
 - religion, system of works to earn the favor of God, self-righteousness (the first and the strongest deception)

after...joined with

- the tradition (man's culturally accepted ways) of man...Mark 7:1-13
- the rudiments of the world...the world's order of rebellion against God
 - haughtiness/pride
 - spiritual pride (most dangerous form)

and not after...not joined with Christ

- lowly and meek (Matt 11:28-30)
- the Servant of God that came to serve and to give His life a ransom for many (Matt 20:28)

Jesus Christ is NOT a philosophy or an empty idea or a superstition
Jesus Christ is NOT a religion; Jesus is anti-religion
Jesus Christ is NOT an accepted way of man or of the world's order
Jesus Christ came not with peace but with a sword, to separate a people from the world
unto Himself and to His Father
Jesus Christ is

- The (singular and exclusive) Way (home)
- The (singular and exclusive) Truth (absolute and unchanging)
- The (singular and exclusive) Life (eternal)

Paul: Stand on the Truth!

v9 Truth: In Jesus Christ dwells ALL the FULNESS of the Godhead bodily
John 1:1, 14
John 10:30 same nature, character, attributes, heart, mind
Col 1:19
Gal 4:4-5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth
his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem
them that were under the law, that we might receive the
adoption of sons.

v10 Truth: **We are** complete/perfected/made whole in Jesus Christ, in Whom all the fulness
of the Godhead dwells bodily; the Godhead in Jesus, we in Jesus.
The only way Matt 5:48 can happen!

In Jesus Christ we have been reconciled into a personal relationship with
God, which is NOT possible by a dead religion, self-righteousness,
spiritual pride
Is 64:6
Matt 5:20

Only in Jesus Christ are our hearts comforted by the God of all comfort
Only in Jesus Christ can we have peace with God and the peace of God

Truth: Jesus is the head, has the preeminence, of all principality and power
Col 1:15-18
Sovereign Ruler of the spiritual realm as well as the physical realm
The Honorable Magistrate of the spiritual jurisdiction
1 John 4:4

v11 Truth: In Jesus Christ **we are** circumcised with the circumcision made without hands;
not the ritual of circumcision of the flesh by the hands of man,
which is a shadow,
but the “cutting of the heart”, putting off/divesting/dispossession of the
sin-corrupted body, sin being a heart and spiritual problem
Rom 7:18
Eph 4:17-24, 31-32
dispossessed because we have been purchased...1 Cor 6:19-20
by the circumcision of Christ, the work of Jesus in whom all the fulness of
the Godhead dwells bodily, the Substance of the shadows
Rom 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither
is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:
But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and
circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and*
not in the letter (the Law); whose praise *is* not of
men (self-righteousness), but of
God (Christ our righteousness)
2 Cor 5:21
Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh
with the affections and lusts.

v12 Truth: **We are** buried
(spiritually assimilated, spiritually incorporated, spiritually absorbed)
with Jesus Christ in baptism...we are dead to sin and Jesus is our tomb
Rom 6:3-11

Truth: **We are** risen/revived unto eternal life with Jesus Christ

Rom 5:8-11
thru **the faith**
Rom 3:22
Heb 11:1, 6
Heb 12:2
of the operation/working of God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
Rom 4:16-25
1 Cor 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise
up us by his own power.
2 Cor 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise
up us also by Jesus, and shall present *us* with you
Acts 17:22-31

v13 Truth: We, who were dead in sin and dead to God, are now
quickened...made alive, now dead to sin and alive to God
Eph 2:1-9

together with Jesus Christ...conjoined, "after Christ", united with
not joined physically together like conjoined twins
but joined spiritually together, one with Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the
unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in
the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit (Life is spiritual)

How are we one with Christ, how are we made alive to God?
By grace thru faith

Truth: By the ransom of Himself, the fulness of the Godhead has forgiven us
all...not some or even most
trespasses...sins, failures, imperfections, weaknesses, wickedness
Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound.
But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:
That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace
reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ
our Lord.
Ps 103:10-12 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us
according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above
the earth, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.
As far as the east is from the west, *so* far hath he removed
our transgressions from us.
Micah 7:17-18 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and
passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage?
he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in*
mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon
us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their
sins into the depths of the sea.

1 John 1:9

The only sin that cannot be forgiven: unbelief in the OTL God

How could the God who is just forgive sinners?

v14 Truth: Jesus Christ wiped away our sentence of “Guilty!” proclaimed by the Law
Is 43:25 I, *even I, am* he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Rom 3:19-20

that was contrary to us...revealing God’s holiness and our wickedness and took/lifted it...Jesus did the heavy lifting, the entire weight of sin out of the way...blocking the way home nailing it...to fulfill the legal requirement of reconciliation to His cross

Gal 3:10-13

Rom 10:4

Result: Perfect Justice satisfied perfectly, all debts Paid-in-Full
Spiritual re-birth

John 1:11-13 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

v15 Truth: Jesus Christ, the head of all principality and power, has spoiled/ruined all principalities and powers

Jesus Christ made a public exhibition of His triumph/conquest on His cross

Heb 2:14-15 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even* the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Satan and his gang did not know what God was doing and did not “see it coming”

The good angels didn’t know and did not see either! (1 Peter 1:11-2)
Who knew?

The Godhead, and He kept His counsel to Himself
But now it is revealed!

Therefore...

v16-17 Stand on the Truth!

Let no self-righteous person condemn you for the shadows of the Substance to come:

- food
- drink

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

- holydays
- feasts
- sabbaths e.g. 7th Day Adventists

Is 1:10-20

Rom 15:13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Believer, fellow follower of Jesus Christ, the truth spoken by

- the prophets of God
- Jesus Christ, The Prophet of God
- the Holy Spirit thru Paul to the churches
 - in Galatia
 - at Corinth
 - at Rome
 - at Ephesus
 - now at Colosse

is the very same truth spoken to us today...and thru us in the world

In a world of “relative truth” that does not know the difference between

- right and wrong
- good and evil
- light and darkness
- sweet and bitter
- man and woman

we stand on the Truth, the Word of God,
the wisdom of God revealed in the world in Jesus Christ

Our worldview is the Word of God...it is contrary to all other worldviews.

Our culture of how we live in the world is Jesus Christ, the Living Word...it is contrary to all other cultures, out of all other cultures Jesus is dividing out a people into His culture

Do not stray from the Word of God
Do not be ignorant or deceived or seduced

Stand on the Truth and we will never stand alone
We will stand on the Truth and not fall
The whole world will fall but we will be standing

Because these Truths will remain forever, well past the time of this world

Matt 24:35

So...
v8
v16-17

Be warned, be perceptive, be discerning

Rom 16:17-18

Now, to the unbeliever...

Do you believe in heaven?

Who lives in heaven?

What is the entrance requirement for heaven?

Perfection

What is the home of the imperfect?

Hell

Are you perfect?

Then you have a problem you cannot solve, you cannot get into heaven on your own,
you need help

That is why God the Father sent God the Son to

- take our form
- take our sin
- take God's justifiable judgment for your sin
- take the weight of your sin out of the way home by nailing it to His cross

Jesus is the ONLY Way to get into heaven!

Ask Him to forgive you of your sin...He wants to!

Invite Jesus Christ to move into your life and remodel it

In exchange for your life (imperfect, corrupted, temporary) Jesus Christ gives you

His Life (perfect, pure, eternal)

Jesus Christ wants to make a trade with you!

(a little "insider trading" info: it is the best trade ever!)