

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Prison Letters**  
**Colossians 3:1-4**

The Epistle to the Colossians

Theme: The Preeminence of Jesus Christ, the Superiority of Jesus Christ

Ch 1:14-20

Ch 2:3

- Ch 1    We have a hope (confident assurance, certainty) laid up in heaven for us (v5)  
         We have knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding (v9)  
         We have the inheritance of the saints in light (v12)  
         We have been delivered from the power of darkness, translated into the kingdom  
   of Jesus Christ (v13)  
         We are redeemed/ransomed/reclaimed by the blood of Jesus Christ (v14)  
         We have been forgiven of our sins (v14)  
         We who were enemies of God have been reconciled to the Father in heaven (v21)  
         Christ in us, the hope of glory (v27)
- Ch 2    The Holy Spirit's great agony for us: our hearts to be comforted, being knit  
   together (working together with the Head) in love (v2)  
         We would not let any person
- seduce us with flesh-pleasing, ear-tickling words (v4-7)
  - defile us with man's philosophies or religions (v8-17)
  - rip us off of our rewards in heaven with false humility and empty spirituality (v18-13)

Now    A pivot point in the letter

At this pivot point, let us remember: The Word of God is our

- worldview...how we see everything in the world and ourselves in it
- philosophy...Truth, knowledge, principles of being:  
   the righteousness of Christ, the simplicity that is in Christ
- culture...living in the Christ-like way before God and man

By the Word of God we

1. understand the times to know what we should do (1 Chron 12:32)
  - Days of Noah...violent times  
   Lawlessness and crime running rampant in the cities and nations  
   USA and Europe societies crumbling and unravelling
    - moral freefall, no moral compass, Is 5:20
    - overrun with a hostile migrant invasion
  - Jew-hatred erupting globally
  - Radical Islam is on the march...jihad – convert or die!

- Days of Lot...militant sexual perversion  
LGBTQ+ agenda is a frontal attack on “the image of God”  
Nearly 1/3 of Generation Z (born in late 1990s and early 2000s)  
identifies as LGBTQ+  
Trans: Imprimis Sept 2023  
Destroying women’s sports and hurting women (boxing!)  
A male with tattoos all over his face strangled to death his  
11 month old stepdaughter and is serving a 55-year  
sentence in Indiana. Now he identifies as a Muslim  
woman. He filed a civil lawsuit against the prison chaplain  
for allegedly prohibiting him from wearing a hijab outside  
his immediate bed quarters.
- pervasive deception defining the “beginning of sorrows” (Matt 24:3-8)  
Wars and rumors of wars  
Racism...by all races!  
Artificial Intelligence  
ChatGPT: Oct 7 massacre in Israel did not happen  
Microsoft AI: Futurism  
Prank or practice run?  
Conceivable or inconceivable?
- Persecution of Christians  
Invasion of Radical Islam (after the Jews come the Christians)  
Decline of Christianity (Biblical stance on sin and moral absolutes)  
with each generation...Gen X, Millennials, Gen Z, Gen Alpha  
Rising disdain for Christianity and attacks on Christianity  
Family Research Council: anti-Christian violence in USA:  
attacks on churches in 2023 are 2x of 2022 and 8x of 2018

2. clearly see God’s sign to the world of His coming judgment

- Is 11:10-12
- 1 Peter 4:17
  - not Matt 4:4 but the doctrines/commandments/traditions of men
  - compromised, unholy, worldly  
LGBTQ+ is not sin, need not repent (Social gospel, Love gospel)
  - lukewarm
  - spiritually dead
  - many are hearers but not doers of the Word  
Matt 7:20-27, Rom 2:13, James 1:22
  - corrupted by materialism and enterprise-building  
A church in Scottsdale led by a celebrity pastor refusing to marry a  
couple attending that church because they have not tithed  
enough (pay for services, business vs church)

This time...

Given

- Christ's preeminence
- all we have in Christ
- the warnings of the Holy Spirit about worldly deception
- our understanding the times

a very direct exhortation to keep our focus and perspective to

- follow Jesus
- keep our sanity
- guard our hearts and minds and peace

in a world gone mad

Ch 2:20, 22b dead with Christ

Ch 3:1-4 risen with Christ

For such a time as this are we come into Christ's kingdom (Esther 4:14)

Fear not, knowing that the world gone mad does not move us off our course to finish well the ministry we have received from the Lord Jesus, to testify of the Gospel of the grace of God to warn those around us to "Get on the Ark!" (Acts 20:24, 31)

We are reminded to walk/live in our journey in this world with Christ-like holiness

v1-2 If ye then be risen with Christ...

- saved from the 2<sup>nd</sup> death by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ
- born-again of the Spirit of God
- a new creature in Christ, a child of God
- dead to sin and alive to God

seek...desire, hunger for, live for, focus on

set your affection on...exercise your mind (be in your right mind, renewed in your mind), value, hold in the highest regard, be mentally pre-disposed to

those things which are above...the things of God in heaven and not the things of man or the things of this world

where Christ sits at the right hand of God...the seat of power and authority

Matt 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father

John 5:21-29 Father has committed all judgment to the Son

Matt 28:18-20 All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world.

Eph 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

The things above are of God and are as God – eternal, good, pure  
The things below are of the world and are as the world – terminal, defiled, rotten

John 8:23-24 **Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am ~~he~~, ye shall die in your sins.**

A wise man considers the end of the matter and then chooses  
What is the end of this world?

Death

2 Peter 3:1-13  
Rev 21:1-7

Ezk 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die.  
Matt 16:26 **For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**

So which is better:

the eternal things of God (not of this world now and Life later)

or

the terminal things of this world now (and Death later)?

Therefore, are my/our choices today made with the end of the matter in mind?

Which is the wise (agree with God) choice:

- a. “Rodney King” in this world, which puts me in opposition to the Almighty, all-knowing, holy God, Judge of all the earth?
- b. Holy/separate, Christ-like, faithful to Jesus Christ, which puts me in opposition to the world and the society and culture in which we have been planted?

Which is the wise (agree with God) choice:

- a. let my light shine in the darkness of the world?
- b. put a bushel basket over my head to hide from the darkness in the world that hates the Light?

Can conditions/circumstances in the world, no matter how bad it gets, EVER make my wise choice a foolish choice?

Matt 10:16-39  
Matt 28:20b

The wise choice is always the wise choice because now and later...

v3-4 1. Ye are dead...to sin

Rom 6

- The old man is crucified with Christ
- Buried with Christ in baptism, we live in the newness of life as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father
- And we are freed from sin...dead to sin and alive to God
- Yield ourselves to God to serve Him, yielding our body as God's servant to righteousness unto holiness

2. Our life is hid with Christ...as is the Head of the Body, so is the entire Body

John 1:4

1 Cor 15:3-4

Acts 2:23-24 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

1 John 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

3. When (not "if"! ) Christ, our Life, appears, we will appear with Him in glory!

2 Cor 5:1

2 Cor 5:8

1 Thes 4:13 – 5:11

Phil 3:20-21

1 John 3:1-3

Rev 19:1-16

The end of the matter is clear, for God has so declared it and He cannot lie

The time we are appointed between now and then will be difficult...as it always has been

But we have the Holy Spirit to guide us and teach us

And we have the Word/Wisdom of God to correct and instruct us in righteousness

We who are like sheep are prone to wander...distracted and discouraged and “spooked”

2 Tim 1:7-9

Fear not!

Stand tall!

Stand in the strength of the Lord God Almighty!

Keep your “Jesus wits” about you in the mounting chaos!

Keep your eye on the prize with a laser-focus to be settled in unsettling times

Phil 3:13-15

2 Peter 3:14-18

Do not be offended in, stumble because of, Jesus and His mighty name (Matt11:6)

Lord, open our eyes to see what You see!

2 Kings 6:8-17

In the physical and temporary realm, we are vastly outnumbered!

In the spiritual and eternal realm, they are vastly outnumbered!

Be encouraged!

Be joyful!

Be calm!

Be bold!

Live as you are...v1-4

Have a good report before God!