

Colossians

Review—Holding fast to the Good News

- Paul wants us to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- The centrality of Christ
- The power of Christ
- The triumph of Christ
- The danger of alternatives
- Our stance in light of the above—receptivity

Look at how Paul connects us to Christ.

⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk **in him**,
⁷ rooted and built up **in him** and established in the faith, just as you
were taught, abounding **in thanksgiving**. ⁸ See to it that no one takes
you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human
tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not
according to Christ. ⁹ For **in him** the whole fullness of deity dwells
bodily, ¹⁰ and you have been filled **in him**, who is the head of all rule
and authority.

Look at how Paul connects us to Christ.

¹¹ **In him** also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹² having been buried **with him** in baptism, **in which** you were also raised **with him** through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together **with him**, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them **in him**.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 2:16-19

¹⁶ **Therefore** let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

Why should we let no one pass judgment on us in regard to these things?

Paul isn't just saying this because we're forgiven.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 2:16-19

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.
¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

SIDE NOTE: These things are not necessarily bad!

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 2:16-19

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath.

¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

So what's the problem with all this stuff??

So much for the easy stuff.

Paul's covered a lot of ground, but it's all been unobjectionable.

- I thank God for you.
- I pray for you.
- Christ is the center of our faith.
- Christ has done it all.
- Therefore, live as if he has.
- Let no one judge you.

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- Christ has done it all.
- Therefore, live as if he has.
- Let no one judge you. (Everybody loves this one)

Here, Paul turns a corner.

The next two sections hold the force of Paul's entire argument.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 2:20-23

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations—
²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 3:1-4

¹ If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 3:5-8

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away...

Why?

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 3:5-10

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Instruction in Practice

Colossians 3:5-11

⁵ Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming. ⁷ In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. ⁸ But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. ¹¹ Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.