

Colossians Overview

The church at Colosse was not founded by Paul...or even visited...it was probably an outreach of Ephesus.

Paul is writing a letter to a fellowship he has never even met

Colosse, in modern day Turkey, was about 100 miles east of Ephesus, on the major trade route

Thus, it was a melting pot of every religion, philosophy, and belief
In the midst of all sorts of deceptions, God started a church

Another prison epistle

The situations were encouraging and edifying in Ephesus and Philippi.

Not so in Colosse.

This church was in trouble, invaded and infected by heresy.

When Paul receives word of the false doctrines threatening the church at Colosse, he writes this letter to refute the eastern mysticism and Judaizer legalism.

Paul re-establishes the truth of the Gospel of Grace and presents the supremacy of Christ – that He is central and supreme and sufficient – to strengthen the church

Paul's letters to the Ephesians and the Colossians have similarities

- Same carrier – Tychicus
- Same place – in a Roman prison
- Very similar first chapter

But...the Epistle to the Ephesians is about the Body of Christ....

The Epistle to the Colossians is about the Head of the Body

Ch 1-2 doctrine

Ch 3-4 practical application

Colossians Chapter 1

- v1 Paul, an apostle...by the will of God
Paul being an apostle was God's plan, not Saul of Tarsus'
- v2 grace and peace
once again, the Siamese twins, the order of which is critical
- v3 praying always for you:
we see again the heart of Paul...a man of prayer...
praying for people he has never met!
- v4-5 we heard of your faith...love...hope
1 Cor 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the
greatest of these *is* charity.

Faith...and fruit (of the Spirit)...so we know the faith is real

Loving Jesus makes it easier to love people!

Hope is our "expectation" that is "reserved" (laid up, guaranteed)

Titus 2:13 the return of Jesus Christ for His Bride!

1 John 3:1-3 the hope that purifies

in 1 Thes 1:3, Paul speaks again on this

- faith...our work
John 6:28-29 Then said they unto him, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?"
Jesus answered and said unto them, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. "
- love...requiring labor (picking up your cross)
- hope...requiring patience

v6 which is come unto you...all the world:
 at the time Paul wrote this, the gospel had come to all the world
 (the Roman world)...about 32 years after Pentecost of Acts 2!
 Think about that!
 How much more effective was the early Church than the Church today!
 Why?

The consuming fire of the Holy Spirit guided and empowered the Church
then

Now, the Church relies on

- Technology
- Organization
- Programs (constantly demanding money)
- Man's abilities

To grow the Church

By and large, the Church does not rely on

- the Holy Spirit
- the Word of God
- Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church and the Builder of the Church
Matt 16:18

The power to change the world is

- God's
John 6:44
Acts 2
Acts 19:1-6
- in the Word of God
Acts 19:8-20, 23-27
Rom 1:16
Jer 23:1-4, 29
Heb 4:12
- in prayer
Acts 6:4 continually to prayer and Word of God

Matt 28:19-20 is NOT accomplished by man's

- Programs
- Strength
- Marketing cleverness

It is ONLY accomplished by

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

bringeth forth fruit:

“fertile” soil that hears the Word of God, the Gospel of Grace, and then grasps God’s grace and truth...will bear good fruit...and lots of it
Is 55:10-11
Rom 10:17

The fruit of the Gospel of Grace = faith...love...hope
and a radical change in the hearts of men
Grace changes everything. Moses was drawn by it...so is every man.

The Word of God has radically changed my life!
I hunger for it.
I am excited about it
I want to share it
I want the Word of God to radically change your life!
I want you to hunger for it
I want you to be excited about it
I want you to share it

v7-8 Epaphras...fellow servant...faithful minister:
an elder of the local church, perhaps sent from Ephesus

What a wonderful way to describe someone!
My desire is to be spoken of this way!
Servant and faithful minister of

- God’s Word
- Jesus Christ
- God’s people

led by the Holy Spirit

v9-11 do not cease to pray for you and to desire:
we see the heart of a shepherd in Paul – never stops praying...even for people he had never met
what was Paul praying about for these people?

Paul’s intercessory prayer...from the heart of God...for them...and us:

1. to be filled with the knowledge of God’s Will, having spiritual wisdom and understanding
2. to walk worthy of the Lord
3. to be fruitful
4. to increase in knowledge of God
5. to be strengthened with all might and power to live with all
 - patience
 - longsuffering
 - joyfulness

v9 be filled with the knowledge of His will:
1st prayer request: to know the will of God
the will of God is not a mystery! It's in the Word
Prov 1:7, where "fear of the Lord" = Scripture

Have you ever sought...are you currently seeking...to know the will of
God for your life?

It is the most important thing I do!

if I am

- to be filled ("crammed full")
- with the knowledge ("recognition of, acknowledgment of")
- of God's will (His choices and purposes)
- and make sense of those choices

I MUST be well grounded in the Word...and I MUST be in intimate
communication with Him

Ps 1:1-3 does not speak of something on your To Do list, it speaks of a
lifestyle

God's desire is not that I have some Word in me and have occasional
intimate communication with Him...but that I be FILLED with
Him!

He doesn't want just my daily or weekly leftovers in time and energy.
He wants my firstfruits...the first and the best of my time and energy
But that's not all...He wants ALL of me.

Jesus did not partially die...He gave everything
He paid for all of me and that's the portion He wants

we spend so much time...wasting it...on things of zero eternal value
Take inventory of your Day Timer – where do you spend your time?

- Work – a good thing, a gift from the Lord...a ministry
- Eating
- "Relating" – our ministry
- Driving – redeem the time with CSN or tapes!
- Talking on the phone – what is the topic?
- Sleeping – more than you need?
- Watching TV – what eternal value?
- Surfing the Net – ditto
- Bible study – great eternal value...an investment with
30/60/100 fold ROI...not 5-10%

v10a walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing:
2nd prayer request: that our life would please God
I want this more than anything! I want to please God, don't you!?
Matt 25:21, 23
James 1:22...John 15:14
Eph 4:1-3

perspective: that is why we were created!
Eccl 12:13-14 revere Him, do His Word...is the whole of man

v10b being fruitful:
3rd prayer request: our lives would be fruitful for the kingdom of God

When I, a bondservant of the Lord, make His will mine, I will walk like
Him...and in so doing bear fruit
John 12:24 bear fruit only by dying (Matt 16:24)
John 15:1-8, 16
Phil 2:13 it is God that works in us to do His good pleasure
Ps 1:1-3 in His season
Bearing good fruit is a function of being a submissive, obedient servant

v10c increasing in the knowledge of God:
4th prayer request: we know Him more and more and more...

this is an activity not just for today but for all eternity
we are forever finite
He is forever Infinite
We will forever be learning about Him!

symbiotic relationship – a mutual dependence – between love and
knowledge
love (saying, doing) without knowledge of God is shallow and rootless...
knowledge of God without love is fruitless

how is that symbiotic relationship facilitated?
How does our love for God grow?
How do we increase our knowledge of God?
By the Word of God...
The more we know about God, the more we love Him
The more we love Him, the more we want to know Him
the more we know Him, the easier it is to trust Him and
follow Him...to be a doer of the Word
so...Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
2 Tim 2:15

v11 strengthen with all might...power:
5th prayer request: our lives be empowered by the Spirit of God

it is only by the power of God working in my life can I be

- patient (to bear up under pressure in circumstances)...our hope (v4-5)
- longsuffering (put up with people)...our love
- joyful (rejoicing in the Lord, regardless of circumstances or people)...our faith

all of those are characteristics of love...the fruit of the Spirit
all are impossible apart from the Holy Spirit

being Spirit-filled gives me the power of God to

1. walk worthy of the Lord
2. be pleasing to the Lord
3. be fruitful
4. do His will
5. increase in knowledge of God
6. be strong
7. be patient
8. be longsuffering
9. be joyful

adjectives I want the Lord to say of me...I want these to be on my
heavenly resume!

so I had better get out of the way and let Him shine!
Be Spirit-filled and Spirit-led

How is that even possible? Because God gave us a change of address

v12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father...made us meet:
meet = "qualified"
not a feeling, a spiritual reality

The Father qualified us to be (past tense)

1. partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light
2. delivered from the power of darkness
delivered = "to rescue"
3. translated into His Son's kingdom from the kingdom of Satan
translated = "to transfer, to carry away"

John 6:44

These qualifications impact us every day...dictating how we act in this world

Because of what God has done, we can no longer do what we did when we dead in our sin...and have fun doing it

- Halloween
- Partying
- Vulgar speaking
- ...

Now, when we do those things, we feel the uncomfortable conviction of the Holy Spirit...because Jesus promised to never leave us nor forsake us and He loves us too much to let sin slide

we are holy...called apart...Jesus is the Lord of our lives
so we don't fit in the ways of the world any more...
yet we still struggle because we still have a corruptible nature...
until Jesus returns, our blessed hope!

Until then, we are grateful to the Father, acknowledging that He has done everything...thereby enabling me to participate in the resurrection of Jesus Christ to eternal life

- giving sight to the man born blind...me...was His work
- my re-birth/re-creation was His work
- the search and rescue mission for me out of darkness into the Light was His doing
- my death became His...His life became mine
- my transformation into the image of His son is His work
- He reveals His will for my life to me
- my good works are His good works...the Vine bears fruit, the branch does not

the Christian walk is characterized by

- knowing God's will...and always learning about Him as we gain spiritual understanding
- pleasing the Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son
walk worthy i.e in His will
bear fruit i.e. love, patience, longsuffering, joy...
obey
- walking in God the Spirit (in His power and strength)
- endless thanksgiving to God the Father for His grace

Now...about Jesus Christ...

Paul now presents the superiority...the pre-eminence...of Jesus Christ

v14-20 in whom we have:

God the Son:

1. our redemption by His blood (v14)
2. our forgiveness for sin (v14)
3. the image of God the Father (v15, 1 John 5:20)
4. the firstborn (= "firstbegotten" = "first in time or importance, foremost, before") (v15, 18)
5. the Creator (Source and Recipient) (v16)
6. is eternal, self-sustaining i.e outside the space and time dimensions, "above" His creation (v17)
7. Sustainer of the universe (v17)
8. the Head of the Church (v18)
9. pre-eminent in everything (v18)
10. the dwelling of all fullness (completion of everything dwells in Him) (v19)
11. the Peace of God...Prince of Peace (v20)
12. will reconcile all things unto Himself...will make all things right as they were when He created them (v20-21)
13. presents us holy, blameless, and beyond reproach (v22)
We were once enemies, now we are reconciled with God
by the blood of Jesus...blameless in His sight!

v14 we have redemption thru His blood:
God the Father has done all that He has done (v12-13) because a price was
paid by God the Son...His own blood in lieu of ours
1 Peter 1:19-20

the forgiveness of sins:
man's greatest need...because our sins had separated us from God
ONLY because God the Son paid with His blood can God the Father justly
forgive sins
therefore the reconciliation of a severed relationship (Is 59:1-2) is
possible
with the price willingly paid by the Son, we are purchased out of Satan's
kingdom of death and darkness and into His kingdom of Light and
Life...His children and no longer children of wrath
Eph 2:1-5

v15 image of the invisible God:
Jesus Christ, by taking on our form, became the physical representation of
the invisible God (John 4:24)
Phil 2:5-8 God Himself revealed in our form
John 1:14, 18
John 14:4-9

Essential truth that cannot be compromised: the deity of Jesus Christ

the key to testing and refuting heresy:

- the Person of Jesus Christ
- the work of Jesus Christ

He is the

- Object of our faith
- Source of our love
- Reason for our hope

firstborn:

every cult or heresy that denies the deity of Jesus Christ misinterprets this phrase...which is distinctly Jewish

Mormons...JWs...hang their doctrine about Jesus on a misinterpretation... and depend on writings other than the Bible

Their interpretation: Jesus is the first of God's creation i.e. the first thing created

such an interpretation is incorrect and demeaning of the Person of God the Son...and is used to attack the deity of Jesus Christ

In (Jewish) Scripture, firstborn does not mean the first one born, "oldest" ...it means the position of pre-eminence and of inheritance

- Isaac vs Ishmael
- Jacob vs Esau
- Joseph vs Reuben
- Ephraim vs Manasseh
- Moses vs Aaron (Ex 32:22)

"firstborn" is not an indication of timing or sequence but an indication of value...quality...importance...preeminence

it is the Lord's position relative to creation...not His order within creation

John 1:1-4

Heb 1:1-3

Phil 2:9-11

Note: Jesus is the only person

- to live before He was born
- born alive

Adam and Eve were created and given life

All the rest of us have been born dead

v16 by Him were all things created...and for Him:

Jesus is the Creator of...everything...seen and unseen

This should go a long way in clearing up the issue of ownership!

He is the Creator...and the object of the creation

You and I were created

- By Jesus
- For Jesus

We are His...for His pleasure

He is interested in me...more than in what I do for Him

He wants an intimate relationship with me...and nothing created can separate us from His love

Rom 8:35-39

v17 by Him all things consist:

before: “superior”...a comparative value, not a sequential position
10 Commandments: not to have any graven image...of a created
thing...because Jesus Christ, Creator is “before”
Rom 1:20-25

consist: “held together”, sustained

He holds the galaxies, stars, planets together and in their place...as well as
the protons, neutrons, and electrons of every atom in the universe!
A work far bigger and far smaller than our eyes can see
Mathematics reveals the size of the universe and the atomic particles
Do you have faith in the math?
Then have faith in the Author of math, the language of creation

How are atoms possible?
two simple magnets teach us that force is requires to hold like
charges that repel and to separate unlike charges that are
attracted
every atom should both implode and explode...chaos!
Jesus holds EVERY atom in the universe together...keeping order!
God is a God of order

He held together the crown of thorns jammed on His head
The fists of His enemies that beat Him
spit on His face
whip on His back
nails in His hands and feet
Cross upon which He died the most horrible death
truly, Jesus is supreme

man has loosed the atom, which releases awesome power
Imagine the magnitude of the power constraining the pent up power in all
the atoms in the entire universe!
that power to keep all things in order must be greater than the power of the
atom when it is released!

if Jesus took a vacation or went to sleep, the cosmos would explode!
One day Jesus is going to let go! (2 Peter 3:3-15a)
The Big Bang is not the beginning of the universe...it is the end

So...should we fear Saddam Hussein...or...snipers...or...Jesus Christ?
(Matt 10:28)

And...given the job Jesus is doing, how can we say we don't have time or
interest in serving Him? In seeking Him?

v18 head of the church:

the Church is the Body of Christ...He is the Head
this Church belongs to Jesus...not to me or you
at staff meetings, we seek the Lord to see what He wants to do
we take our orders from Him

tragically, Jesus is NOT the Head of the Church in many churches in USA
today

- does not consult the Head as to what He wants to do
- does not rely on the Head to accomplish His work on earth
- has made himself the head...and plans someday to give the Church to Jesus

beginning:

not in time...for He is self-existent and He created time...but in rank

firstborn:

Jesus was not the first to die and rise from the dead...
He raised some Himself...

- Lazarus
- Jairus' daughter
- The woman of Nun's son

Jesus is the first out from the dead...the first to die and rise again to never
die again

He is the Firstfruits of the (First) Resurrection

1st Resurrection: unto Life

2nd Resurrection: unto death and damnation

categories of resurrections...not a sequence

pre-eminence:

“to be first”

foundational truth: Jesus is First...always...above everything

is Jesus pre-eminent in your life? Ranked #1 in ALL things?

v19 fulness:

“completion, filled up”

Jesus is not only the First, He is also the Last...the completion of all things is in Him
everything starts with Jesus and ends with Jesus...He is greater than the sum total of everything
nothing...no one...can be complete apart from Jesus...ever
if complete, cannot be separated from Jesus...ever

man's special place in God's creation: given the free will to choose to be complete or incomplete
does Jesus dwell (taken up “permanent residence”) in you?
If not, you could not be more empty
If yes...if you've got Jesus...you've got it all!

v20 made peace:

Eph 2:1-5

The war ends and peace follows...which means one of the combatants surrendered...but on what terms?

“Peace terms” are not customized nor proposed by the one who surrendered.

The Victor holds all the cards and all the power, so He dictates the terms of surrender.

The enemy: death...separation from God

Enemy agent: Satan, the Destroyer (it is a spiritual war)

The Victory: an acceptable payment for the transgression that resulted in death

Pure, holy, uncorrupted blood is the only acceptable payment for peace

all men are corrupted and fallen short of the glory of God...so only God could pay the price needed by man to have victory over death

Heb 2:14-18

1 Cor 15:55-57

1 Cor 2:7-8

Jesus not only provided for the forgiveness of sins...He also made it possible for us to live at peace with God

His terms: Complete and unconditional surrender
ala USA to Empire of Japan in May 1945.

We dictated to them the terms in a “take it or the war continues”
offer.

And the “it” was complete and unconditional surrender, the laying
down of all arms

His enemies are made His sons by His Blood

because Jesus is greater than the sum of all things (including all life),
His Life on the Cross is sufficient payment for all lives of all time

reconcile:

Webster’s = “to restore harmony or friendship between, to settle
differences, to make compatible or consistent”

“reconcile fully”, nothing else required to complete the transaction, to
make peace

we have “victory thru surrender” to the Prince of Peace by His shed blood
on the cross and are now fully reconciled with God

not reconciled: things under the earth...those in the pit
a place made for Satan and his followers...and men who also
chose to follow Satan

v21-22 alienated and enemies:

before accepting the Victor's Peace Terms, we were

- estranged (a stressed, broken relationship)
- enemies (active and hostile adversaries, allies with Satan)

in your mind:

Sin is the cause of death...separation and alienation.

Sin starts with our thoughts and motives, NOT with our actions

Therefore, "Let this mind be in you" and "think on these things"

yet now has he reconciled:

Eph 2:1-5 were dead in our sin...fulfilling the desires of the flesh and the mind...But God...quickened us together with Christ

1 Cor 6:9-11 know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?...And such were some of you, but ye are washed...sanctified...justified

the body of his flesh through death:

Our God personally took on our enemy...sin and death!

Why?

- to make all things right...
- to reconcile us (restore the loving relationship broken by us)...
- to present us corruption-free before The Father

present:

"to stand beside"

"Father, let me introduce you to my espoused..."

standing beside, holding hand or arm wrapped around

Eph 5:27

1. holy ("pure and blameless")
2. unblamable ("unblemished, blameless, faultless")
3. unprovable ("unaccused, beyond reproachable, blameless")

e.g. we are lie Teflon!

The continual accusations of Satan do not stick...

since they are covered by the Blood

Rev 12:10-11

“blameless “ is stated 3 ways...a trinity of declarations
ala “Holy, holy, holy...” in Is 6:1-3
because He is Holy, we are blameless...holy
“Be holy for I am holy” (appears 5 times in Bible) is possible only by
complete and unconditional surrender to Jesus Christ
Lev 11:44, 11:45, 19:2, 20:7
1 Peter 1:16

in his sight:
“directly in front of”

This is not a long distant glance, this is an up-close, detailed examination

Christianity is perfection...of relationship with God...not of performance
by man

v23 If ye continue

I am made holy by the blood of Jesus...but only as long as I maintain it?
Is my presentation before the Father conditional upon my performance?

If = “seeing that”
continue: “remain, abide”

our salvation, reconciliation and presentation is not conditional...
it is established by the Blood of Jesus
Jude 24-25

but we have a role to fulfill

to make your faith real and living...

- be a doer of the Word
- submit to the LORDship of Jesus
- respond to His Word with immediate and on-going obedience and repentance of disobedience

We abide...make ourselves at home in Jesus...
and give Him free reign to make Himself at home in our heart...
by getting grounded and settled

grounded:
“foundation”
Matt 7:24-27
1 Cor 3:9-11

settled:
“immovable”
1 K 8:10-13

be not moved away:
“removed”

Be not deceived...or distracted...or pressured
by...the flesh...the world...Satan

Pray for the gift of discernment like Neh in Ch 6, to see all things
thru the lens of the word of God

Don't let your faith in the promises of God

- wilt in the heat of enemy attack
- waver under the pressures of physical life

Ps 119:89 forever O Lord thy word is settled in heaven
We are grounded on something absolutely, forever stable
more so than the very ground upon which we stand in this physical
world (earthquakes shatter that deception)

from the hope of the gospel:
expectation...the hope laid up for us in heaven (v5)

Our salvation and presentation is not hanging on a “maybe”! It is done!

The blood of Jesus Christ is sufficient for that

Our walk...our witness...hangs on our obedience

Hope requires patience...so run with single-mindedness to finish the race
Do not corrupt the love and the grace of God by taking this as a
license to sin and use it to cover your wickedness and
lasciviousness!

Rom 6:1

If you profess to be a Christian and are living in sin...my prayer is
that you are miserable and get increasingly miserable until
you confess your sin and repent

So, to summarize the last 3 verses, by the work of Jesus Christ and by my submission to
His Lordship, I am:

1. a former alienated enemy of God
2. reconciled to God by His Son's death
3. presented holy and blameless (Eph 5:25-27)
4. grounded and settled in the promises of God

v24 rejoice in my sufferings...for His body's sake:
Paul suffered for his faith in Jesus Christ...for the sake of the Church...
and rejoices in those sufferings

his temporary afflictions have had eternal consequences for billions of
Gentiles, for thru them we received the Gospel of Grace

v25 according to the dispensation of God:
Paul was sent to the Gentiles according to God's plan in him and thru
him...to us

Paul obediently walked a path no natural man would walk...because his
faith in the promises of God was unmoveable

v26-27 mystery:
something not known by man (not revealed to the prophets) now being
revealed by the all-knowing God

which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
what is being revealed to those who by faith surrender to His Peace
Terms?

- The Church...Christ in you corporately
the Body of Christ
the Bride of Christ (Eph 5:32)
the Temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20, 1 Cor 3:16,
Rev 21:3)
- The holy, redeemed saint...Christ in you personally
- God sharing His Glory with men saved by grace thru faith...
His Son in us, sharing in His inheritance
John 17:20-26
Rom 8:17 the Spirit testifies we are children and joint
heirs with Christ

Truly the greatest mystery is that God the Son is so pleased with me that
He has chosen to live in me!
Available by simply surrendering and submitting and accepting the Terms
of God

v28 warning every man...in all wisdom:
Would you not warn a blind man walking near the edge of a cliff?
Every unbeliever is that blind man.
Would you not warn an unsuspecting person being aimed at by a sniper?
Every unbeliever is clueless and in the cross hairs of Satan
Would you not warn a child playing in Chandler Blvd?
Every unbeliever will get run over by the flesh, the world, and
Satan
Would you not warn your children about playing with fire?
Every unbeliever is playing with fire and is going to get burned
Would you not warn your kids about drugs?
Every unbeliever...left alone...self-destructs

Warn all men by

- sharing the Gospel of God's love and grace
- live the Gospel for all to see
- sharing spiritual truth by sowing the Seed of the Word

v29 I also labor...His working which worketh in me:
a combination of the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man at
play in the work of God

- God working mightily in man
- man doing God's work

labor:

“work to the point of exhaustion”

when empowered by the Holy Spirit, when does this ever happen?

- If you are burned out, you are working in your own strength
- If you are empowered by the Holy Spirit, you will never tire

Is 40:28-31

Labor with His energy...for His glory (John 15:5 with Phil 4:13)

Colossians Chapter 2

v1 conflict:

anxiety...concern
we get the English word "agony"
Paul was agonizing over them

Laodicea:

Within 30 years, Jesus Himself would write a letter to this church!
Rev 3:14-22

have not seen my face:

they have not seen his face, but they hear the heart of the Apostle
Paul feels a great burden for the Body of Christ, not just the fellowships he
planted but for those he didn't as well.
I think Paul was also being led in the Spirit to think of us, many
generations of Gentiles removed from his day

v2 That their hearts be comforted:

Why is Paul so burdened for us, the churches he has not visited
personally?

- our hearts would be comforted, called near to the Lord and unified in the Body of Christ in His unconditional, sacrificial love...not divided over silly issues
- we would personally experience God's love and grace... and be wide-open funnels of God's love and grace
- we would know...that we know...what we know... the certain inheritance of all riches in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

Paul really knew about the riches of Christ!

1 Tim 1:9-17

"If Jesus can save me, any man can be saved!"

Paul yearns that all believers be spiritually discerned to “connect the dots” in God’s Word to see and know the glorious truth revealed in Jesus Christ, that he paints for the church in Rom 8

1. Not condemned in Christ Jesus
2. Free from the penalty of sin and death
3. Live a Spirit-led life of peace with God having the peace of God
4. Free from the bondage of fear (a tool of Satan) and corruption
5. Children of Abba Father (God is “Daddy!”)
6. Joint heirs with Christ
7. Eagerly, expectantly awaiting the redemption of our bodies
8. All things are working for their good
9. God is for them!
10. Cannot be accused because God has justified
11. Cannot be separated from the love of Christ
12. The centrality and supremacy of Jesus Christ
13. All these with full assurance – Paul could not have done the things he did without full assurance!

v3 in whom are hid

Paul was burdened that the Gentiles would be able to “put it together” to understand “what happened”

“what happened” is the mystery of God,
Jesus, Immanuel, the all-knowing God with us...
and

Christ in us (Ch 1:26-27)...the all-powerful God in us

the wisdom and knowledge necessary to put it together can be found only in Jesus Christ...which means a vibrant, personal relationship with Him

all wisdom and knowledge are hid in Jesus...not from us...but for us!
To look elsewhere is futile

v4 this I say, lest any man should beguile you
Paul agonized over the fellowship he had not visited because his fervent
desire was that they would be fortified against words that tickle
men's ears...and wreck their lives
Acts 20:27-31
2 Tim 4:1-4
Acts 17:11

When you know what you know, you cannot be deceived by the
persuasive words of false teachers

v5 yet I am with you in Spirit:
"I cannot look you in the eye, but we share (Eph 4:3-7) the same

- Spirit
- Hope
- Faith
- Lord
- God
- Grace

And that cause me to rejoice We are related!."

Paul also rejoices in the fact that that church is

- orderly
- steady, consistent

v6-7 walk ye in him...rooted and built up:
If: you have truly received Jesus as Lord and Savior,
Then: your life looks like a cross:

1. walk in Him vs in the world (horizontal)
2. be rooted/grounded in Him (down)
3. be built up in Him (up)

When we die to self and enter into Jesus

This command should be our daily M.O.

John 12:24 Verily, verily I say unto you, except a corn of wheat
fall into the ground and die, it lives alone. But if it
die, it brings forth much fruit

Having begun in the Spirit, are you made complete in the flesh? (Gal 3:3)
No! Rom 8:3-9a, 13-14

the Christian walk is based on faith (Heb11:1) and grace (Heb 13:9),
truths believed and discerned by spirits made alive by grace thru
faith

v8 Beware lest any man spoil you:
1st of 3 warnings: v8, v16, v18

spoil: Not how Matthew is...but “ransacked and looted” ala spoils of war

What are the words that tickle men’s ears and ransack their lives?

1. Philosophy
2. Religion (traditions of men)
3. Ways of the world

philosophy – a world view...the lens thru which everything is seen and the premise for action

- hedonism – the pursuit of pleasure...if it feels good, do it
- stoicism – the denial of pleasure
- relativism – everything is relative, nothing is absolute (e.g. truth)...situational ethics
- humanism – man at the very center of everything

Religious traditions

- Rituals of worship
- Works to attain acceptability of a “higher power”
- Legalism
- etc

Ways of the world

- Wealth – money is the grease...he who dies with the most toys wins
- Power – being the boss...getting our way...politics

At the root of all of that...is self-centeredness

vs

“after Christ”...is denial of self and others-centeredness...the Cross

the philosophies of man, religious traditions of men, and the ways of the world are very clever and convincing...and empty and deadly.

They are contrary to the Word of God

All are false teachings (lies) from the father of lies meant to deny or twist the Word of God

Mark 7:1-13

we need to have a solid foundation on Christ and a faith established on the Word of God in order to withstand the subtle winds and storms of false doctrine that are always swirling around God’s children.

The more we study the Word of God, the easier it is to see the traditions of men and the philosophies of men for what they are

v9 in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead:
Jesus – the complete fullness of God living permanently in bodily form
God incarnate!
• Immanuel, God with us (Is 7:14, Matt 1:18-23)
• The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace
(Is 9:6)
• The True God (1 John 5:20)
plain and simple, Jesus is God Almighty

v10 ye are complete in Him:
Jesus is God incarnate...wholly God and wholly man.
He is the Head of the Church and the Head of the spiritual realm also.
He is Lord of ALL

Additionally, we are complete in Him...when we abide in Christ, we are
complete...absolutely finished

Man is born incomplete...made complete only by faith in Jesus Christ

- our salvation is complete...it's not an 80/20 thing
- our righteousness...His righteousness given to us...is complete
Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for those who
believe (Rom 10:4)
anything less than Jesus is unacceptable (Matt 5:48)

by His work on the Cross, we are complete in Him
Nothing can improve upon "Complete"

v11 circumcision made without hands:
circumcision is of the heart...by God (relationship)
vs
of the hands...by man (a religious tradition)

Deut 10:16 cir. the foreskin of your heart and be no more stiff-necked
Deut 30:6 to love the Lord that you may live
Jer 4:4
Rom 2:28-29

circumcision of the heart cuts away:

- self-will
- self-centeredness
- self-reliance
- self-confidence...pride
- power and penalty of sin

v12 Buried with Him in baptism...risen with Him:
baptism is symbolic of Jesus' death and resurrection and the public
confession that by faith in Him you enter into His death and
receive His resurrection, thereby being delivered from the world
Rom 6:3-7

In Jesus Christ we are

- complete
- circumcised of the heart
- buried, risen, and delivered from the power of sin
symbolized through the waters of baptism

v13-15 what did Jesus accomplish on the Cross?

- The completion of our being...the resurrection of our dead spirits
- The complete forgiveness of ALL our sin...washed by the Blood of
the Lamb

ALL of my sins are forgiven...regardless of how Satan makes me
feel about my past in his attempt to drive a wedge between
me and my Lord!

- The complete payment of our debt...“paid in full”
All guilt is removed
Rom 8:1
- The complete satisfaction of ALL the requirements of God's Law

Blotting out = “obliterating”...by His perfection
PTL for we are contrary to the Law...if the Law says “Don't” we
just gotta!

- The complete justification...ALL condemning trespasses and
accusations are “just-as-if-it-never-happened”
- The complete reconciliation of fallen man with a just and holy God

- The complete and “public” defeat of Satan

Let no man spoil you...for Satan has been spoiled

Past tense...an accomplished fact

Ps 22:1-13...imagine what happened around the Cross in the spiritual realm!

God’s plan of redemption, the gospel (1 Cor 15:1-4) left His enemies

Unarmed

Defeated

Shamed

Satan has been:

- stripped...humiliated
- shamed
- subdued

soon he will also be silenced

- The completion of our “Triumphal Entry” into New Jerusalem

There was nothing left to be done when He was done

ALL that kept us in bondage was nailed to the Cross

v16-17 Let no man:

after the 1st warning to beware of

- philosophies of men
- religions of men
- ways of the world

Paul has a 2nd warning

Because we are complete in Jesus Christ, don't let any man condemn you for being incomplete (unworthy) because of what you

- eat or drink
- do/do not observe (e.g. holy days of obligation)

meaning...

- eating meat on Friday is OK!
- There are not certain days you must go to church to participate in a certain ritual
- The Sabbath was given to Israel, not to the Church

Rom 14:17-23

This is not a license to get drunk

Context: written to people being condemned by the Judaizers who taught that a Gentile had to get circumcised and observe the Law of Moses in order to be saved

the Jewish Feast Days given to Israel by God thru Moses are shadows, appointments of Jesus Christ

3 in the Spring	fulfilled in 1 st Coming
Pentecost	leaven, Church...until Rapture
3 in the Fall	will be fulfilled at 2 nd Coming

Sabbath

Mark 2:27-28 The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath

Today there is an entire denomination hung up on this shadow

Jesus is the Light of the World and the substance...

the ceremonies and observances are the shadows cast from Him

Honor The Light and The Substance, not the shadows

John 5:39

Heb 8:4-5

v18-19 Let no man:
3rd warning

Don't get ripped off of your rewards in heaven (not salvation!), don't...

- be deceived by religion and the false humility of the self-righteous!
- Listen to any man telling you cannot go directly to God or to Jesus because you are not worthy enough so you must pray to angels or to dead men
Matt 27:51 the veil was torn in two...
Heb 4:16 we can go boldly before the Throne
- follow anyone leading you to worship any creature instead of the Creator

Focus on the revealed Word of God drawing you to Jesus...

not on false humility or high-minded spirituality that directs you away from Jesus.

- JWs believe Jesus Christ is Michael the Archangel...rejecting the deity and Lordship of Jesus Christ
- Mormons believe Jesus is the brother of Satan
- The worship of Mary and her pre-eminence abounds all around us

Only Jesus is the Head of the Church...

He alone is perfect

He alone died for our sins

He alone has defeated death...holds the keys of death and hell

He alone has set us free

He alone accomplished our completion

He alone is coming again for me

He alone is worthy of ALL worship, glory, honor, and praise.

Be careful!

2 Cor 11:1-4, 13-15

1 John 2:22-23

a body without the Head is a corpse...

v20-22 as though living in the world:

“Since you are dead to sin and the flesh with Jesus Christ, new creatures in Christ, why do you subject yourselves to teachings and the traditions of the flesh and the world?”

We are not citizens of Saudi Arabia/Iraq/Iran.

So why live according to the laws of those countries?
why let yourselves be ruled by or influenced by the ways of the world...
of which you are no longer a citizen?

be holy, separate from the world

Phil 3:20 our citizenship is in heaven

John 17:16 they not of the world as I am not of the world

Test all things...search the Scriptures...

reject the traditions and religions of men

Listen to and obey the Word of God...with your whole heart

v23 a show of wisdom:

the trappings of the religions of man

- a form of worship of a “Higher Power” (all roads...all names)
- a show of worship (entertaining goats vs feeding the sheep)
- a show of humility (false as it is)
- good works (but no faith in Jesus)
- strive to become better (vs surrender and be made acceptable)
- self-denial (self-powered vs denial of self that is Spirit-powered)

Religion sounds good...looks good...feels good

but beneath the surface it is deceiving and empty...
because it is filled with “self”

Prov 3:5 lean not on your own understanding, trust in the Lord
with all your heart

James 4:4 religion is of the world...you cannot be friends with
religion

Religion cannot

- Make alive that which is dead
- Change your flesh
- Cannot make me acceptable to God

Putting one’s faith in a religion is irrational

1 Cor 1:18 – 2:7, 10, 14

We have Jesus...we have everything...we are complete!

Philosophies...religions...are traps

Colossians Chapter 3

Paul now gives us practical exhortations to live according to the truths revealed in Ch 1-2

v1-3 think and act accordingly
v4 because Jesus is coming again
v5-9 so cast off these things
v10-14 and put on these things
v15-16 let God work in your life...
v17-22 and govern your relationships
v23-25 because we serve Him

the Center point: the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ
the shadows are long...
knowing He is coming back soon will affect how we live today

v1 If ye then be risen with Christ:
“since you are risen with Christ”
a statement, not a question

seek those things which are above
we have been raised up in a new life in Jesus...a life governed by the
Spirit
therefore, seek spiritual things

“seek continuously”
a lifestyle

above

James 1:17 every good and perfect gift comes from above
John 3:30-31 Jesus came...is coming again...from above
Rev 21-22 New heaven, new earth, all things made new
New Jerusalem
Complete and eternal restoration of all things unto
Jesus

where Christ sitteth at the right hand:

Heb 1:1-4 not a place given to any angel...or created thing
Heb 12:1-2
Rom 8:34 interceding for us

“life” is a spiritual reality...the physical/flesh is just temporary
there is no life apart from Jesus Christ...and in Christ our life is
established!

Consider our position:

- With Christ (Rom 8:35-39)
- In God (John 10:27-30)

I feel safe...what about you? Cling only to Jesus!

Life is established in a personal relationship...not in the good
works and the show of religion

v4

Christ who is our life:

“life” is a spiritual reality and there is no life apart from Jesus Christ

John 3:3-8 you must be born-again

John 5:24-29

John 11:25-26

Shall ye also appear with Him:

Jesus Christ is coming back...twice

1. for His Church

2. with His Church

First, for His church...to the clouds

Resurrection and Rapture...

John 14:1-3

1 Cor 15:51-57

1 Thes 4:13-18

our great hope!

Titus 2:13 looking for that blessed hope, the glorious
appearing of the great God and our Savior,
Jesus Christ

1 Cor 13:12 for now we see thru a glass darkly, but then
face to face...and shall I know even as I am
known

1 John 3:2 when he shall appear, we shall be like him
for we shall see him as he is

when is that day? No man knows...but know what?

the Lord is more eager than we are!

Have you ever known a bridegroom that wasn't eager for
the honeymoon?

Then with His Church...to the earth

Is 26:1-2, 19-21

Jude 14-15

Rev 19:11-16

Before with happens, for happens

The truth is that Jesus could come for us at any time

That truth must affect how we live right now!

“Watch therefore...be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not
the Son of man cometh.”

Are you watching? Are you ready?

Jesus is!

v5 Mortify therefore your members:
knowing He is coming back soon will affect how we live today

put to death rebellious body parts and the things the flesh lusts for
outer things

Rom 6:11-14...because Jesus nailed the penalty of the Law to the Cross
Col 2:14

which are upon the earth:
worldly in nature, that follow after the ways of the world
Gal 5:19-21

since I alive in Christ, I must put to death the sin nature
(only the Holy Spirit can do this, I cannot)

1. fornication – sexual immorality

this is a huge issue...the Bible has much to say about
sexual sin
we are created sexual beings (“be fruitful and multiply”)
...but sin has corrupted a beautiful gift from God
and...God hates what sin has done:

- a deception of Satan:
 - a. spiritual people are “above” their sexuality
because it is “soooooo carnal, sooooo
physical” therefore evil...and then they
stumble and fall in their “burning”
 - b. target of lies and deceit to cause tension,
confrontation, division
- a corruption by a self-centered heart
 - a. not a weapon or a bargaining chip to be used to
manipulate and control a spouse
1 Cor 7:2-5
 - b. given over to lust, no longer governed by God –
to be expressed only between man and wife
1 Cor 6:15-20

face your sexuality in the reality of God’s Word...
this aspect of our lives MUST be governed by God
...or you WILL have difficulty in your walk with
Christ and in this race we are running

2. Uncleaness...impurity, physical or moral

3. inordinate affection...homosexuality and other perverse lusts
4. evil concupiscence...worthless desires
5. covetousness...greed and materialism
 "What's mine is mine and what's yours I want."
 Serving mammon, not God...aka idolatry

v6 the wrath of God cometh:

put to death the corrupt and evil desires of the flesh because upon these things shall fall the wrath of God...a fearful promise
 James 4:4

the flesh is proud and arrogant and defiant against God...and will receive His wrath rather than His love and grace

v5 is why Jesus

1. came the first time as the Lamb of God to die....
2. is coming back as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah to judge

if you do not accept the Lamb of God as your Lord and Savior now, then the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is coming back to judge you and to pour out God's wrath on you

Rev 6-19 is the wrath of God

if you reject God's grace, you will receive God's justice

v7 in which ye have also walked:

lest we Christians get self-righteous, remember we were once guilty of v5...but are saved by grace thru faith
 1 Cor 6:9-11

But for the grace of God, there go I.

Eph 2:1-5

v8-9a put off these:

therefore...cast aside these, let go of...inner things:

1. anger – violent passion
2. wrath – indignation, rage...anger in action
3. malice – depravity, evil
4. blasphemy – to revile God
5. filthy language
6. lying

speaking to us for those times when we indulge the flesh and self-centeredness

- simmer in anger and unforgiveness and bitterness
- wallow in self-pity
- stew in misery
- steep in pride
- joke around with the world

What does the Word of God say? (with every issue, ask this question)

Matt 6:11-15

Matt 15:16-20

James 3:3-8, 14-16

v9b-10 put off the old man:

to divest wholly

the opposite of “to invest”

Enron stock collapse as investors divested

Ours is a spiritual divestiture, as we move our investments

- out of the things of the world and the flesh
- into the things of God

Matt 6:33

Put on the new man:

to invest, to put on like clothes

renewed:

renovated...a process of spiritual make-over!

Titus 3:5

The Holy Spirit is renewing me...purifying me...into the image of Jesus

We are being remodeled to resemble our Creator (Col 1:16-17)

A day-by-day process of conforming me into the spiritual image of Jesus

to which we say, “Work hard and fast, Spirit of God!”

v11 there is neither...nor:

The Creator does not play favorites, He loves all His creatures.

There are no physical qualifiers of an acceptable spiritual condition
God makes no distinctions

- Racial
- Religious
- Economic

All distinctions that burden us here on earth are chased away by the Light.

All believers...regardless of the “packaging”...radiate and reflect Jesus.

v12-14 Put on:

the believer is

1. the chosen of God (John 6:44, John 15:16)
2. holy – blameless (Col 1:22)
3. beloved

the believer’s wardrobe...the characteristics God wants us to have...

the image into which we are being conformed...is the nature of
Jesus Christ

1. mercy – tender pity
first and foremost...Matt 9:13 quoting Hosea 6:6
2. kindness
3. humility – lowliness vs upity-ness
4. meekness – gentleness
5. longsuffering – to put up with another...and up with...and
6. forbearing – putting up with...and holding up
7. forgiveness – “I am not qualified to be the Judge.”
8. love – unconditional and sacrificial

bond of perfectness:

the uniting, controlling principle of Christian maturity

- the glue that holds it all together
- the foundation upon which it is all built
- the support without which every thing collapses
- that which is impossible without the Holy Spirit!

v15-16 Put on

additions to the believer's wardrobe:

- the peace of God – to govern what we do, say, and think
(Rom 12:18)
is to rule our lives like an umpire rules a ball game
calling balls and strikes...outs and runs...
“You're outta here!” to the ways of the world
this peace is a very tangible feeling...a calm in times of
trouble...that comes from denying self and trusting
the all-powerful God
- the Word of God – making my heart His home
the “filling” of God's wisdom and instruction inside this
shell
why we are here this morning...that we might become rich
in our understanding and knowledge of God

NEVER take God or His Gift for granted!

v12-16...how the Lord wanted me to be...what he had for me
yet for 34 years I said, “No thank you! Leave me alone!”

I was insane! I desperately want these...and I desperately want to be like
Jesus!

Spiritual songs:

A beautiful way to express

- Thanks
- The greatness of God
- Our love for the Lord

Paul's practical exhortations to live according to the truths revealed in Ch 1-2

v1-3 think and act accordingly
v4 because Jesus is coming again
v5-9 so cast off these things
v10-14 and put on these things
v15-16 let God work in your life... [start reading here]
v17-22 and govern your relationships
v23-25 because we serve Him

v17 whatsoever ye do:
written from a Roman prison

after you "get dressed"...

1. with the peace of God to rule you
2. with the Word of God to guide you

then go about your day

1. doing everything for the glory of Jesus Christ
2. being thankful for all He has done for you

a great way to make a miserable task into a pleasant one...

focus on He for Whom you are doing it

It means doing every task without murmuring or complaining...

because I am doing it for Him!

Every task, no matter how mundane or miserable, is an opportunity to serve the Lamb slain for me

as I face an unpleasant or mundane task, I need to let this mind be in me which was in Christ Jesus

- Make myself of no reputation
- Be a servant
- Humble myself
- Be obedient to my Father in heaven

And no where is that more true than in all of my relationships

God's spiritual "make-over" in our lives (v10) should bear fruit in our relationships with Him and with other people

1. wives
2. husbands
3. children
4. fathers
5. employees
6. employers (4:1)

these are the same instructions Paul gave to the Church at Ephesus
review the tapes on Eph 5

v18 submit:

“subordinate” in God’s order in 1 Cor 11:3

fit:

“proper, to be in harmony with” His will

1 Peter 3:1-6

- v1 a woman becomes a godly wife by watching godly wives
not by listening to a lecture from her husband
- v4 the finest garments in a woman’s closet...
- v5 key ingredient – trusting the Lord of this order

God is a God of order, He is not the author of confusion.

A body with two heads is confusing, not orderly...”Who’s in charge?”

- Nation...state...city
- Company...organization...sports team
- Marriage...family
- The Church

Thinking of Thanksgiving this week...

- A marching band with 2 drum majors is divided and chaotic...
- A football team with 2 quarterbacks is “controversy”
- a nation with 2 Presidents is paralyzed and ineffective

Wives, this is

- God’s order, not man’s
- a voluntary attitude...not a forced march, a “Trail of Tears”

Husbands

- don’t make this difficult or impossible...
- don’t corrupt this holy order with your self-centered heart
- do not lord over her...she is “you” not your servant
- love her as Jesus does so she is willing to submit to your
leadership for which you are accountable...

v19 love:

agape...God's love...unconditional, sacrificial, ever-faithful

I understand "why" the Lord loves me when I am walking with Him in
submission, obedience, and faithfulness...

but I do not understand "why" He loves me when I am selfish,
disobedient, and unfaithful

"Why" is a self-centered orientation...makes me the focus

God IS LOVE...His very nature is love...slow to anger, gracious,
merciful, longsuffering, kind, gentle

God loves me because God is love...because God is God

His nature never changes so He loves me whether I am walking in the old
man or walking in the new man...whether I "put off and put on"
(v8-10) or whether I don't

husbands, this is how God commands us to love His daughters...no matter
what

our wives need to know they are loved unconditionally...no matter what
I have told Monica that no matter what happens, I will always love her and
never leave her

My relationship with her is to reflect the security we have in Jesus Christ

Jesus loves me this way and I willingly subordinate my will to His and I
give my life to Him

husbands, if you...with your eyes on Jesus...are a funnel of God's love,
your relationships will flourish...especially your marriage

be not bitter:

with such love there is no place for bitterness

bitterness is the fruit of unforgiveness...contrary to God's love...and it is
poison that kills relationships

instead, 1 Peter 3:7

honor = "value, to consider precious"

weaker vessel...spoil her

hindered: if your marriage is broken, your relationship with God is
broken

the Christian walk...in love, in the Spirit...is

- most needed
- most evident
- most glorious
- most difficult

in our family relationships

v20 Children, obey...in all things:
the only instruction God gives children is “Obey your parents.”
Every 4-year old can understand what God is saying to him/her in
the Bible!
Surely every teenager can too, right?
Oh, for a teenage heart ruled by submission and surrender

God’s order gives parents authority over their children
And God calls the children to obey

This speaks of a child under submission to GODLY parents
If the parents are ungodly, the child is to obey his Heavenly Father
If the parents direct a child to disobey his/her Heavenly Father...
the child is not bound by the authority of the parents

Otherwise, under authority of Godly parents, a child’s obedience is to be

- Complete
- Immediate

when children obey, God blesses them

our understanding of obedience as a child of God blossoms when we
become a parent!

Who in their right mind would not want to be pleasing to the Lord?

v21 Fathers...provoke not:

Now it's going to get a little warm in here...I'm squirming and so are some of you!

I am talking only to myself...this is the relationship where I fail the most...this is the hardest job I have

as with our wives, dads, don't make obedience...respect...honor... difficult or impossible for your children

don't "stimulate, especially to anger"

- Tease
- Set unreasonable expectations
- Impose unreasonable demands
- Nag
- aggravate
- demean ("Use your head for something other than a hat rack!")
- punish vs discipline (vengeance based in anger vs instruction based in love)
- over-control...allow them to learn to make their own choices... and suffer the consequences of those choices

discouraged:

"spiritless"

when we provoke, the kids get angry...and it is not usually a righteous anger but an unrighteous anger.

Therefore, we bear some responsibility for the child sinning

don't take the spirit out of your child.

Instead...guide...redirect...nurture

- Be around – they don't want things, they want you!
- Be encouraging
- Be tender
- Be willing to explain "Why?" vs "Because I said so"
- Be fun
- Love their mother! They are secure when she is secure

Don't always be in my kid's face or on their case.

Rather...edify...hug...kiss...spend time with...teach...play with... pray with...

So, men...

Between v18 and v20, see how much impact we have on the peace in our homes...and how much accountability before the Lord!

Lord, help me and forgive me!

v22 Servants, obey:

be an employee that is

- honest
- hard working
- diligent
- devoted
- loyal
- low-maintenance

that has

- high standards of performance
- uncompromising integrity

that can be

- trusted
- valued

what employer would not want an employee like this?

Every day you go to work, pray!

“Lord, set a witness for yourself in this work place and do a mighty work here to glorify Yourself!”

From 1Q02 issue of *Servant Quarters* (Gayle Erwin):

“We’ve been notified by Building Security that there have been four suspected terrorists working at our office.

Three of the four have been apprehended. Bin Sleepin, Bin Loafin, and Bin Drinkin have been taken into custody.

Security advised that they could find no one in the office fitting the description of the fourth cell member, Bin Workin.

Police are confident that anyone who looks like he is Bin Workin will be very easy to spot.”

Employees, work as Joseph did in Potiphar’s house

- Great industry
- Absolute integrity

Joseph knew v23-24...

v23-24 whatsoever...do as unto the Lord

attitude: My Boss is a Jewish Carpenter.

everything I do and say should glorify Jesus, whether at home or
on the job (v17, 1 Cor 10:31)

How enthusiastically...and how well...do I do jobs I don't like to do?

- Clean the kitchen...the bathroom...
- Paint bedrooms
- Landscape the yard
- Sweep the shop floor
- Dig a ditch
- Making coffee

We are dealing with an attitude of the heart here

Do these attitudes honor the Lord?

- "I'm sick and tired of cleaning and picking up this house!
If I don't do it, it doesn't get done!"
- "I hate cleaning the kitchen!"
- "I don't care what the garage looks like. The kids will just
make a mess of it again tomorrow."
- "I'm not sweeping the hallway! It's not on my chore list."
- "Today is not my day to do that."
- "It's not my job..."
If you see something that needs to be done...it's your job!

Helen Keller: "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my
chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and
noble."

What did John the Baptist say to the Roman soldiers? (Luke 3:14)

"Be fair, be honest, and be content with your wages."

Because we serve the Lord...and He has incomparable compensation and
benefits packages.

do EVERYTHING with this attitude

because that is the bottom line – we serve the Lord

He is our life

v25 he that doeth wrong shall receive:

lazy...complacent...lukewarm servants are in for a rude awakening.

We all reap what we sow

The Lord is impressed with no man...for all have fallen short.

None of us are irreplaceable or indispensable!

He does not need us...we desperately need Him!

Colossians Chapter 4

v1 Masters...servants:

employers to their employees

employers...bosses...owners

- be equitable with your employees
- pay them a fair wage
- recognize contribution, work ethic, teamwork, sacrifice

work forces are like basketball teams – 5 guys, only one has the ball, but what he does with the ball is dictated by what the 4 do without the ball.

All eyes are on the ball but the most important work is being done by those without the ball

Boss, you are not The Boss, even if you “own” the business.

your Boss

- Wants to help you
- Will reward you as you reward others

Very important to know that one day every man is going to answer to the Lord

a shift from the relationships started in Ch 3:17, Paul exhorts the entire church as he wraps up his letter

Exhortations regarding The Word

- Praying to speak it (v2-4)
- Walking (v5)
- Talking (v6)
- Receiving and holding onto (v7-14)
- Sharing (v15-17)

First order of business is prayer...

v2 Continue in prayer:

“to be constantly diligent”

pray without ceasing...the line of communication is to be always open

Watch in prayer:

“to be vigilant, to hold fast with strength”

How many of us properly exercise our body?

Even fewer properly exercise when it comes to spiritual exercise
prayer is an intense spiritual exercise...very hard work the flesh does not like

that is why so few men and women go to the prayer meetings

exercise your spirit thru prayer...don't stop...don't give up...be alert

Also, the thought is that of constantly looking for things about which to pray...using those open lines of communication

Requires the heart of an intercessor, willing to stand in the gap for a brother or sister in need of God's touch

In every situation ask yourself, “Lord, what is it you would like me to pray about? Who needs your touch?”

with thanksgiving:

be continually sensitive to God's hand on our lives.

The sovereign Lord works supernaturally thru the natural.

If you look for His fingerprints, you will see them and you will grow in love with the Lord!

v3-4 praying also for us:

pray for our pastors

pray for me! I covet your prayers, I need them as I go thru my week
and the Word becomes living as never before so I can be useful in
the Lord's hands to be His mouthpiece on Sunday morning and
Thursday evening

God would open a door of utterance to speak:

Pray for open doors for to share Jesus

God must open the doors, we cannot (Rev 3:7-8)

e.g. e-mail-broadcasted testimony with doctrinal error...generational
curses...gift of prophesy...and how not to give a testimony
an open door to respond in love with some antidote to the poison

- not received...yet many confirmations received so PTL
- last word: I'll read it (Is 55:10-11)

e.g. KPXQ opportunity M-F....2x cost for 5x messages
national vs local...\$200 vs \$55...
prayer request: open hearts to help out

Pray to see the doors He has opened for you to speak the Word of God, to
share the Gospel...verbally or electronically...in love and in truth

v5 Walk in wisdom:

when walking thru that door, don't be weird, be supernaturally natural...
...and live according to the Word of God.

Walk the talk...everyone is watching, especially the unbelievers you know
and love!

redeeming the time:

“to rescue from loss”

Time is short! It is slipping away!

This moment is precious. Every moment is precious.

The Lord has chosen to invest this moment in time in us – let's not
squander it by indulging the flesh or the things of the world.

Give yourself completely...buying up every opportunity...to share Jesus
with all the hurting people who need Him!

“Lord what is it you would have me to do or say?

How can You be glorified in this moment?

How do you want to minister to one of your children or to one of these
lost souls?”

Time is our most valuable commodity in this life – be a faithful steward!

v6 Let your speech always with grace, seasoned with salt:
the believer should speak graciously...with everyone with whom we talk

- spouse (most importantly!)
- children
- fellow workers
- other believers
- unbelievers (who, like Moses, will be drawn to the Lord by His love and grace...not His wrath and condemnation)

this involves holding your tongue, not saying what you are feeling those times that are contrary to the Word

witness of Jesus Christ with grace and salt, not with judgment and condemnation.

a flavorful, preserving, healing tongue is a gracious tongue

- Cut people some slack!
- Give them the benefit of the doubt!
- Be forgiving and forgetful!
- Be encouraging and edifying

The Salt Shaker (Matt 5:13) is to speak words of healing and preservation from the Word of God.

That ye may know how ye ought to answer every man:

Walking the talk before the unbelievers (v5) will generate questions from time to time.

If your heart is filled with Salt, the Lord will be able to use you to converse with them in a gracious and loving way

1 Peter 3:15

v7-17 Paul mentions 10 men by name

- 8 in his contingent of support in his ministry and his imprisonment
 1. Tychicus
 2. Onesimus
 3. Aristarchus
 4. Mark
 5. Justus
 6. Epaphras
 7. Luke
 8. Demas
- 2 in the ministry in Laodicea
 9. Nymphas
 10. Archippus

v7-8 Tychicus = “fortunate”

BEFORE:

Acts 20:4

Accompanied Paul on his 3rd missionary journey
After riot in Ephesus started by the Goddess Diana Idol
Makers Local Union #666, Paul goes to Macedonia
After 3 months in Greece, the Jews want to kill Paul so he
and his troop head back to Jerusalem for Pentecost
from Jerusalem he went to Rome...where Tychicus caught
up with him

Eph 6:21

Letter carrier for Paul from a Roman prison to church at
Ephesus

NOW:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|------|
| 1. beloved brother | \ | |
| 2. faithful minister | \ | who |
| 3. fellow servant in the Lord | / | |
| 4. sent | | what |
| 5. to know the situation | \ | |
| 6. to comfort their hearts | / | why |

FUTURE:

Col 4:7-8

he also carried Paul’s letter to Colosse

Titus 3:12

Possibly also carried the letter to Titus

2 Tim 4:12

in Paul’s last days he sends Tychicus to Ephesus

LESSONS:

- Tychicus experienced the cost of being an ambassador for Christ
- Still, his heart said, “Here I am, send me!”
- Dependable and faithful to do any task with the joy of the Lord
- Was in it for the long haul...in spite of the bumps along the way

v9 Onesimus = “profitable”

NOW:

1. faithful brother
2. beloved brother
3. a Colossian
4. news bearer

FUTURE:

we will read more about him in Paul’s personal letter to Philemon...also written from a Roman prison along with (in order) Eph, Col, Phil was a runaway slave who met Paul and accepted Jesus Christ as his Master appears as if Philemon is his physical brother also! (v16)

We don’t know if he was

- An irresponsible party-er
- Sluggard
- Chaser of get-rich-quick schemes
- Gambler

But Paul calls him “my son, begotten in bonds”

He was unprofitable, but now, with his life given to Jesus, is profitable to all...redeemed...rescued from loss

Paul pleads with Philemon to extend the grace of God to Onesimus and to take back not as a slave but a brother...to “receive him as myself”

LESSONS:

- Without Jesus our lives are out-of-control and useless
- With Jesus, we are useful to all...we have a purpose
- Only Jesus can make the transformation in man from useless to useful

v10 Aristarchus = “best ruling”

BEFORE:

Acts 19:29

Also accompanied Paul on his 3rd missionary journey
The Union mob in Ephesus could not find Paul so they
grabbed Gaius and Aristarchus and rushed them
into the Union meeting in the theatre

Acts 20:4

Part of Paul’s travelling troop on his missionary journey to
Macedonia

Acts 27:2

Traveled with Paul on his ill-fated, highly adventurous
journey to Rome

NOW:

Having arrived in Rome, a fellow prisoner...Paul’s cell mate

FUTURE:

Still with Paul in prison when he writes to Philemon (v24)

LESSONS:

- The Lord is the strength of the faithful
1 Cor 10:13
Is 30:15, 18
- When Jesus is your Lord, life is an adventure!
- We are promised persecution in this world...but Jesus has set us free!

Mark, Barnabas' nephew...

BEFORE:

Mark 14:50-52

Many scholars believe him to be the young man/boy that fled naked from those who came to the Garden of Gathsemane to arrest Jesus

Acts 13-15

as a young man, he accompanied Paul and Uncle Barnabas on their 1st missionary journey to the Gentiles
But the journey was difficult...oppressive...resisted fiercely by the Jews...so Mark quit at the 3rd stop and went home to mamma...he fled/forsook again
was a point of division before 2nd missionary journey when Paul and Barnabas were sent out again for their 2nd missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew but Paul steadfastly refused to take an undependable and unfaithful companion on what was certainly going to be another arduous journey so a split happened...and the Lord used it to double His missionary teams

NOW:

he is with Paul in Rome...a reconciliation had happened

FUTURE:

Phm 24

Still with Paul in Rome when he writes to Philemon

2 Tim 4:11

Paul declares that Mark...more mature and wiser in the Lord...is very useful and important to him

Mark authored a Gospel...dictated by Peter according to most scholars...1st Gospel to be written

LESSONS:

- Failure is the fuel of growth and the foundation for success
- Because you have failed in your walk does not mean the Lord has put you on the shelf...with submission, surrender, and obedience you can be useful in His hands
- if you are struggling right now, be encouraged...The Lord is in the business of reconciliation and restoration

v11 Justus...of the circumcision:

Jews...not wanting to be called Jesus! (a popular name)

v12-13 Epaphras

NOW:

1. also a Colossian (Col 1:7)
2. a fellowservant (the highest praise!)
3. faithful minister
4. tireless prayer warrior and intercessor for his brothers and sisters at home
5. zealous for his home church, the church at Laodicea, and the church at Hierapolis

FUTURE:

A fellow prisoner with Paul in Rome when he writes Philemon (v23)

LESSONS:

- A mighty man of God...a model of earnestly contending for the faith...laboring in prayer
- Untold work of great magnitude is done by the behind-the-scenes players...but Jesus knows and He is coming with His rewards!
- The most important work: prayer...the work of strong men

v14 Luke

BEFORE:

physicians in those days were slaves of wealthy people
ala Theophilus...

who released Luke from slavery upon his conversion to allow him
to travel with and treat the sickly Apostle Paul

NOW:

a rare mention of Dr. Luke
called "beloved" !

FUTURE:

Gospel of Luke
Acts of the Apostles
Recognized as a historian without peer...belatedly

LESSONS:

- Faithful servants are called "beloved" by the Master

Demas:

FUTURE:

Phm 24

Still with Paul in Rome when he writes Philemon

2 Tim 4:10

but after that something tragic happens
he forsakes Paul for the world

James 4:4

1 John 2:15-17

In spite of 1 John 4:4

LESSONS:

- Our enemy never gives up
- We can never relax and get complacent
- We must never think we “have arrived”
- We must always be watching and ever-ready
- We must put on the armor of God EVERY day

v15 Salute the brethren:

“Embrace the believers in the outlying churches and home churches
(like ours!), sharing the Word with them.

v16 read the letter from Laodicea:

the Word spread thru the exchange and sharing of letters...since there was
no Christian book store on the corner to go get a NT

the Epistle to the Laodiceans was lost presumable and is not God-breathed
and is not part of the canon i.e not everything Paul wrote was
God-breathed

God’s Word has universal applicability and appeal.

v17 And say to Archippus:
Paul includes instructions for the elders at Colosse to warn this guy to get moving and be faithful to his calling...recorded in the eternal Word of God!

Excellent words for all of us!
We are all part of a Body with a ministry to fulfill

FUTURE:

Phm 1-2

He heeds the exhortation and gets going!
Paul calls him a fellowsoldier...no longer a lukewarm Laodicean!

LESSONS:

- Are you being faithful to your calling?
If not, get off your duff!

v18 by the hand of me Paul:
Remember me in your prayers...and grace to you

- The heart of Paul
- The heart of God

God always has the Last Word...Grace
John 1:17