

## **UNION BETHEL AME CHURCH BIBLE STUDY**

**Dial - Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#**

**Zoom Meeting ID 863-1188 9288, Passcode 782781**

**Facebook Live @unionbethelameccary**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30 PM**

**An Exposition of the Epistle of St Paul to**

### **THE COLOSSIANS**

#### **Introduction**

**Apostle Paul expresses concern for the Colossians, and reiterates his concern; He cautions them against false teachers among the Jews, and against Gentile philosophy. He emphasizes the privileges of Christians, and concludes the letter by cautioning the Colossians against teachers who would introduce them to worshipping angels.**

#### **Chapter 2**

#### **Verses 1-3**

**Paul's Concern for the Colossians. A.D. 62**

- 1) For I would that ye knew what great concern I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; 2) That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God the Father, and of Christ; 3) In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Paul's care of the church was such as amounted to a conflict. He was in sort of agony, and had a constant fear about what would become of this church. He knew he had to teach them to keep up a communion by faith, hope, and holy love, with this church and fellow-Christians of whom he had no personal knowledge, and with whom he had no conversation.**

**What did Apostle Paul desire for the Colossian church?**

2-3 Paul's desire was for their spiritual welfare, about which he was responsible. His heart's desire was that their hearts were comforted. He desired that their souls prosper and that they be united in love, so that they had a complete understanding of the mystery of God, that is, Christ in them, the hope of glory. 3) That they understood that in Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Paul wanted the Colossian church's soul to prosper. He explained that their soul prospers when it is filled with joy and peace, and has a satisfaction within, which all the troubles of this world could not disturb. He taught that they should have joy in the Lord, when all other comforts fail. He wanted this church to live by Christian principles only, and for their souls to prosper in love, peace and joy.

#### Verses 4-12

4) And this I say, lest any man should deceive you with enticing words. 5) For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ. 6) As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him; 7) Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. The great concern of those who have received Christ should be to walk in Him, to make their practices conformable to Christian principles, and their conversation also agreeable to these principles. As we have received Christ, or consented to be His, we must walk with Him in our daily life and keep up our communion with Him. The more closely we walk with Christ the more we are rooted and established in the faith. If we walk in Him, we shall be rooted in Him, and the more firmly we are rooted in Him, the more closely we shall walk in Him. We cannot be built up in Christ, unless we be first are rooted in Him. We must be united in Him by a lively faith, and consent to His covenant, then we shall grow up in Him in all things. We must grow in faith more and more, and this growth through thanksgiving. We must add thanksgiving to all our improvements and growth.

*Why was Paul so concerned about what would happen to the Colossians church in his absence?*

8) Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ. The Jews governed themselves by the traditions of their elders and teachings learned in the world. They had infiltrated the Colossian church with these Jewish doctrines and laws. Paul had to insure that this church clearly understood that they should only live by Christian principles. The Gentiles in the church mixed their philosophy with Christian principles, thus the Jews and the Gentiles in the church alienated their minds from Christ. 9) For in Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. 10) And you are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power; 11) In Christ, are you circumcised with the circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12) Buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who raised Christ from the dead. The thing that is signified by our baptism is the seal of the covenant and obligation to our dying to sin and being raised with Christ, as ya seal of our living in righteousness, or newness of life. God in our baptism engages to us to be our God, and we become engaged to God to be His people, and by grace we die to sin and are alive to righteousness. We put off the old man and put on the new.

**What is meant by putting off the old man and putting on the new?**

**Why was it very important that Paul made it clear that the Colossian church should disregard all the false teachings?**

### **Verses 13-15**

**13) When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. 14) He forgave all your sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness; which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it all away, nailing it to the cross. 15) Christ has disarmed the powers and authorities of satan, and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by His death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead.**

**Jesus the Christ has obtained a glorious victory for us over the powers of darkness. As the curse of the law was against us, so were the powers of satan against us. Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law, and shamed satan in the process. Jesus triumphed over satan when He died on the cross and redeemed us from the curse of the law.**

### **Verses 16-23**

**16) Here is a caution by Paul to take heed of Judaizing teachers, or those who would impose upon Christians the yoke of the ceremonial law: Let no man therefore judge you in meat nor drink, or with regard to religious festivals, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. Paul taught that now that Jesus has come, the ceremonial law has been canceled. 17) Because these were a shadow of things to come, but they are now done away with by what Jesus did on the cross. 18) Paul cautions the Colossian church to take heed of those who would introduce the worship of angels as mediators between God and them. By choosing angels as mediators, they were disclaiming Christ, who is the only mediator, between God and men. Jesus is the only Head of the church. By believing these false teachings, they had lost connection with the Head, the body which is held together and grows as God causes it to grow. 20) Since you died with Christ to the spiritual forces of this world, why are you acting as though you still belonged to the world, submitting to its rules: 21) Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch! 22) These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23) Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship and their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.**