

COLOSSIANS CH. 2

*For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, **being knit together in love**, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of **the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. 5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. 6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him**, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 **Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.** 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ. 18 **Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head**, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. 20 Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations — 21 "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," 22 which all concern things which perish with the using — according to the commandments and doctrines of men? 23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

THE PURPOSE OF TRUTH

--in one word, the purpose of truth is love... to know God's love for us and walk in love towards others.

--walking in love...

--Paul's exhortation about the battle between spiritual truth and deception is motivated by His love for the Colossians and his desire for them to walk in love. ([Colossians 2:2,5,6](#))

--truth isn't an end in-and-of itself, but rather truth leads people to love, while spiritual deception often leads people to not walk in love.

--[John 13:35](#): "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

--[1 Timothy 1:5](#): "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart..."

--[Galatians 5:6](#): "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything but **faith working through love.**"

--[Philippians 2:3](#): "Let nothing be done out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself..."

--Jesus said the entire Mosaic Law could be summed up by two commandments – **love God and love each other.** ([Mark 12:28-34](#))

--God's love for us...

--**1 John 4:17**: "We love Him because He first loved us."

--in the book of Ephesians Paul recorded his prayer that people would know what is "the width and length and depth and height" of God's love (**Ephesians 3:18-19**)

--The greatest sacrifice that God made wasn't the visible suffering on the cross or the humiliation of living in this world for 33 years, but rather it was the separation that God the Father and God the Son experienced – when Christ bore our sins He was separated from the Father for the first time after being connected to the Father in perfect love through eternity past. (**John 3:16, Mark 15:33-39, John 17:24-26**)

--on the subject of God's love, from the perspective of an abstract dimension, God's creation of the world and humanity could be seen as the romance of God the Father finding a bride for His Son.

--those who trust in and follow Christ are the "bride" of Christ... earthly marriage is only temporary and is meant to be a reflection of Christ's love for His bride (**Ephesians 5:25, Mark 12:24-27**)

--eternity begins with "the marriage supper" of Christ. (**Revelation 19:6-8**)

--both the capital city of heaven, the "New Jerusalem", and the people who live in that city are referred to as "the bride" of Christ (**Revelation 21:9-13, 19:6-8**)

--**Matthew 22:1-14**: speaking in a parable, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son..."

--the apostle Paul spoke of marriage to Christ figuratively in his explanation about replacing religious routine with an intimate relationship with God - "you have become dead to the law through the body of Christ **that you may be married to another** – to Him who was raised from the dead" (**Romans 7:4**)

--how do we lose touch with God's love and drift into religious routine?

--what proactive steps can we take to stay close to God?

--how does self-awareness help us to know and stay in touch with God's love for us? (which in turn leads us to love God and love others.)

--the purpose of God's law isn't to make us perfect but rather to make us aware of how imperfect we are... **Romans 3:19-20, Romans 5:20-21**

--**Luke 7:36-50**: "...therefore I say to you that her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much, but to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little..."

--concluding thought: when looking at the world through eyes of love, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and brokenhearted because of all the suffering in the world, which leads to longing and praying for Christ's return, because when He returns He will bring perfect justice to the entire world.

--**Hebrews 1:8-9**: God the Father said to God the Son, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your Kingdom; You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness..."

--words from the last chapter of the Old Testament... **Malachi 4:1-3**: "For behold the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be like stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,' says the LORD of hosts. 'That will leave them neither root nor branch. But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings..."