

COLOSSIANS PART 7 – SPIRITUAL WEALTH IN CHRIST

Colossians chapter 2, select passages (2:2, 3, 14)

Tuesday Night Bible Study, February 28, 2012

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.**

SPIRITUAL WEALTH IN CHRIST

--Colossians 2: 2: "be encouraged... attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding... of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge..."

--we have reason to be greatly encouraged because of the spiritual wealth that we have in Christ! *The full assurance of understanding... we gain a greater assurance as we grow in our understanding.*

--the good news of spiritual wealth wasn't anything new in Paul's teaching; it had the weight of millenia behind it...

--one of the clearest early announcements of this good news was in the life of Abraham around 2000 BC. "And in you [Abraham's descendants] all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
([Genesis 12:3, 22:18](#))

--[Acts 13:32-33](#): "...And we declare to you glad tidings -- that promise which was made to the fathers. God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus..."

--[Luke 2:10](#): "...good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

--"good tidings..."

--"I bring good tidings" translated from Greek word **euangelizomai** and can also be translated "to announce good news"

--the common New Testament word "gospel" is translated from a similar Greek word **euangelion** which simply means "good news"

--the overarching theme of the Bible is GOOD NEWS and the many warnings and negatives are about that which would keep us from experiencing benefits of the good news.

--**Luke 2:25-35** records the account of the Jewish elder Simeon holding baby Jesus with great joy and appreciation for how Jesus was the long awaited fulfillment of the promise God made to the forefathers of Israel.

--Colossians 2:13b-14: "...having forgiven you all trespasses, 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."

--in the words of **Colossians 1:12** "...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light."

--"...having nailed it to the cross" -- when people were crucified in the Roman Empire the list of crimes they committed were nailed to the cross that they were crucified on (**Matthew 27:37**). Our sins were "nailed to the cross of Jesus." He literally paid the penalty for our sins and died in our place.

--one way to summarize the "good news" would be like this: God left eternity and became a man to die in a moment of time to save us from "the second death" in eternity!

--saved from "the second death..."

--**Hebrews 2:9** "...that He might taste death for everyone"

--**Revelation 2:11** protected from "the second death." (see also **1 John 5:4-5** for explanation of meaning of term "overcome" in Revelation passage)

--amazing symbolism in the annual Passover ceremony of ancient Israel... "Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us." (**1 Corinthians 5:7**)

--God gave the moral law not to make us perfect but to make us aware that we are imperfect and have a sin nature, and that the consequence of our sin nature is death. The moral law was given to help us become aware of our need for Christ.

--**Galatians 3:24**: "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ..."

--**Romans 6:23**: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

--**Hebrews 12:18-24** contrasts the picture of being separated from God by our sin with the picture of being able to approach God with our sins being covered.

--**Matthew 18:23-27** records a parable of Jesus about the free gift of heaven compared to a king cancelling the debt of someone who is unable to pay their debt.

--**Romans 5:20**: "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound, but where sin abounded grace abounded much more."

--**Romans 3:21-24**: "the righteousness of God apart from the law..."

--**Ephesians 2:12-13**: "...you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."