

Seven Bible Studies 2017

Epistles

July 9: Colossians 1-2 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, July 9 ~ Colossians 1 - 2

I am going to post links to the VBR (Video Bible Recordings) YouTube site for Colossians that John Lee presented over his study. He really went into detail explaining Colossians very well. These videos are somewhat lengthy so they could very much be broken up throughout your day or even week.

<https://youtu.be/ZBYuyCNGo8w?list=PLfKbn0ITtcpZ9m4uK-WGgVanMjisseVOt>

Purpose of Colossians:

- [] Ch 1 & 2 cover the preeminence of Christ.
- [] Ch 3 & 4 show what a Christian should do.
- [] To combat errors (Jewish and Greek) creeping into the church

Paul was in Rome in prison when he wrote this letter to the believers at Colossae. Paul had never met with them face to face but communicated through Epaphras to the Colossians people. They were having the same issues as most other churches where false teachings were creeping into the church. The Colossians people were being pressured to follow the Jewish law and extra rules.

Ch 1

“the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.” (5-6)

Paul speaks to them regarding Christ and the love Christ showed to all man kind through His teachings and ultimately His death on the cross.

Paul is encouraged seeing their faith they have and how it has grown.

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” (1:18)

Paul here is helping them to understand the importance of Christ and that He is the supreme being. Do away with the old law as when Christ came to earth to establish the church, and then die on the cross for all mankind, it did away with the old law.

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—” (21-22)

Paul make the point of sin having dominion over mankind but through Christ's death, it has been taken away. No more sacrifices were required of man.

Ch 2

“My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.” (2-4)

Paul shows his love for all who are trying to follow Christ's teachings and his desire for them to be successful in fighting against evil.

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” (6-7)

We should all continue to live for Christ as Paul instructs here. Let us never forget what took place for us to have our sins so easily forgiven.

“When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (13-15)

“Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:” (2:20)

The remainder of the chapter Paul is asking them why they are reverting and struggling with the old law and its teachings. There were some who were not letting go of the old law and trying to incorporate it with Christ's church. Paul was instructing them to do away with it.

I would strongly encourage you to follow the YouTube link and listen to John's lessons. I did not go into as much detail as normal to allow more time for the videos.

Comment:

Steven Wright:
Thanks Ryan!

Comment:

Butch O'Neal:
Thank you, Ryan!

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:
Thanks, Ryan! Glad you referenced this! I am grateful for Dwain Stoop's zeal and vision for this good work. John too. I got goosebumps while reading 1:6. "All over the world!"... the rapid spread of the gospel into every quarter of the Roman Empire within 3 decades of Pentecost is remarkable!

Replies:

Ryan Ingle:
Just to think how miraculous that had to be at that time. We have such instant communication now we don't realize the difference and difficulty this would be.

Ginger Hermon:
Providential that's for sure!

Comment:

Denise Waits:

Thank you for the video links!

July 16: Colossians 3-4 (Ryan Ingle)

Sunday, July 16 ~ Colossians 3 & 4

Link for VBR if you want to use this as an additional study aide.

<https://youtu.be/ZBYuyCNGo8w?list=PLfKbn0ITecpZ9m4uK-WGgVanMjsseVOt>

*I am so sorry I posted so late!! I have been having some family issues and have regretfully not been able to post until now.

Ch 3

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” (1-4)

What a awesome way to start a fresh new week out by reading this passage here. It helps remind us of the importance of keeping a proper mindset and focus on our end goal of heaven!! It's difficult to sometime think of such things when you are surrounded by the world and have to be in the world, as with the case here with the Colossians. Paul reminds them to keep their focus on things above, not on earthly things.

Paul continues in vs 5 - 10 to tell them to "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your early nature..." Be done with your former life. Don't continue to live as you once did but take on the new body of Christ. God's wrath is coming because of the sins he lists in vs 5.

“You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.” (7-8)

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” (3:12-14)
In all these things, we are to have love. Hate can so easily creep in to our emotions and thought, we have to on constant guard of it.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”
(16-17)

Some of the most quoted verses! If you meditate on those two verses and truly take in Paul's message, how could you not praise God and have the love of Christ in you?

Ch 4

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” (4:5-6)

Make the most of every opportunity...I think a lot of us get too comfortable with those in the world and don't help them and influence them the way we should. It is so important for us to watch our conversations in the world as Paul states here. We can so easily turn people completely off by what we say and how we act. If they don't see a difference between others and ourselves, then what would make them desire to have what we have and are trying to attain?

Paul finishes the letter by asking them to remember him in chains, that he is thinking of them and praying they stand firm in the truth of God.

Comment:

Ginger Hermon:

It was good to commune and worship with you and your family today, Ryan! Thanks for these links. I watched a few while I snapped and canned green beans tonight. John provided a lot of good thoughts and illustrations for these 2 chapters. As a whole the book of Colossians is one we could definitely recommend to a new Christian and retention for an existing Christian. It's filled with reverence to our Lord and rules for holy living. Chapter 3 has many of my most beloved verses. 3:2; 3:12; 3:16; 3:18-9; 3:23.