

COLOSSIANS 2 vs 1

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¹ For I want you all to know what great conflict I have for you / what great agony... and struggle I have for you,

and for them at Laodicea / **those self-confident folks who are neither hot nor cold.** So this letter to the Colossians is prophetically written also for the benefit of the lost church in the last generation,

and for as many as have not seen my face;

² That their hearts be comforted / be **paraclete**... the same word for the Holy Spirit who was going to be coming... our Advocate; the One called alongside us,

being knit together in love / being stitched and held together and rising in **agape**; the love of God; Paul is talking about... being comforted... and being kept together,

and to all riches of the fullness of understanding,

to the costly full knowledge of the mystery of God the Father / he wants us to understand the whole knowledge of this mystery of God in Christ the Messiah our Good Pastor. How it started with Christ; and how it will finish with Christ... in His glorious return. So don't let go of this glorious hope. Paul talks about this this mystery...that no longer is a mystery; and God our Father likes surprises... the mystery of the Messiah -- of Christ Jesus to all the Gentiles; all the nations.

and of **Christ** -- the **Messiah** / remember: He is the Centerpiece;

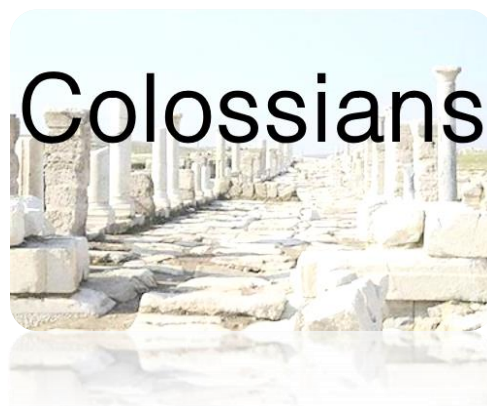
³ in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge / all the riches of heaven; John wrote about **the One full of grace and truth.**

⁴ And this I say, lest anyone should beguile you / lest anyone trick; deceive... or mislead any of you. Jesus, John, Peter... and here Paul... they all warned us... deceivers would come. Well, they have arrived!

with enticing words / with seductive, persuasive arguments... causing us to err like sheep gone astray.

⁵ For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, joying and beholding / as Paul writes this letter to the Colossians, he sees in his mind and heart;

observing your order / in Greek: **taxis**, meaning, arrangement; Paul is talking about: **orderliness**; used 10 times in the New Testament... **never once suggesting some prescribed ritual or format of order.** And the question arises: When the church gathers, does everything have to be written down? When to stand? When to sit? What to say? That was not the Colossians; they were already orderly. Luke speaks of God in the order of His course -- same word, and though He is sort of busy, I doubt God needs to write things down. Some things are just written on His heart.



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Paul, to the Corinthians who gathered... said, Do all decently and in order -- and, you know, what little Paul wrote down wasn't always followed!

It is interesting... 6 of 7 times in the book of Hebrews we read... **forever after the order of Melchizedek** -- someone we know very little about... but obviously we do know, he was decent and orderly. Then once in Hebrews, we read: **and not after the order of Aaron** -- what we know in great detail, page after page. What's that all about?!

Here, the Colossians remind Paul of Melchizedek and the Lord God, as he reflects on their orderliness, Paul speaks with joy:

observing your orderliness,

and the steadfastness / this word is: **stereoma**; used once in Scripture... **here**. Paul is talking about strength, and rock-solid firmness. It's a military word for... **a fortified place**; a solid front against the enemy. He's talking about enhancing our spiritual performance; he's talking about the strength of the Colossians; he's talking about their faith... in action.

and the steadfastness of your faith / your rock-solid confident trusting... in Christ -- the Messiah.

⁶ So, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord,

so walk in Him / in other words: since we received Him by faith, keep walking in faith, step... by step... by step, oh yeah! With a little joy... as we're steppin'!

⁷ rooted and built up and established in the faith,

as you have been taught / and Paul, like the others... only taught the words, and sayings, and lessons that they received from the risen Lord Jesus, the Good Pastor,

abounding in eucharistia / literally: **eu = good + charistia = grace, favor**. Paul is talking about the ability of the Colossians to be filled with actions of grace and gratitude to God, and to one another; the 3rd time he uses this word. Paul wants us to be overflowing... **in thanksgiving** to God the Father.

⁸ Beware / be warned, **lest any spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit** / through seductive, twisted thinking and viewpoints unfounded in truth; things that sound good, and logical, and wise which intend to cause decay and rot; and empty misleading... and deception.

Philips translated this verse:

Beware, so you are not captured and ruined...

through intellectualism and high-sounding nonsense,

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after the tradition of men / tradition... invented, fabricated by men... always intended to substitute for the Word of God; and continues for the last 2,000 years, and some, longer. Jesus says, You make void the word of God by your traditions. But they're so nice; they're so fun to celebrate. Jesus says, We make void the word of God by our traditions; but is anyone listening to Him? The wasted words of Jesus,

Paul warns us about the deceit and misleading of man's artificial traditions,

or after the rudiments with this world / the elementary rules; the keeping lock-step... like a bunch of Nazis or roman soldiers, and **not** keeping pace with... **Christ** / the **Messiah**;

9 for in Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead in bodily form;

10 and you all are complete in Him / He is the head of the body; He is the head of the church.

He is the head of all / here, Paul questions: Are you going to follow someone other than Him? Are you really going to listen to someone other than Him? Not necessary. Paul says...

He is even head of all the archies and powers / the spiritual rulers; where comes the word: monarch; and the administrative powers:

Paul next tells us how this Mystery of the Messiah worked itself out in a 3-part... **the operation of God**, like a military action on the stage of history,

PHASE 1:

1. The EXECUTION:

11 In whom... in Christ, **you also are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands** / in other words, the old traditions may sound spiritual... but they are no longer needed, **in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh** / in stripping off... and throwing down our sin,

by the circumcision of Christ / and we're not learning about the 8th day after the birth of Jesus. Daniel says, when Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself -- Daniel 9:26.

2. The BURIAL:

12 buried with Him in baptism / John the Baptist said, Messiah will baptize with **spirit and with fire**: Paul is not talking about a little sprinkling or dunking!

buried with Him in His baptism... wherein with Him... also you are risen...

through the faith of the operation of God

When this Circumcision of the Christ, the Messiah; the Son of mankind who willingly took on a fleshly body... who came the first time in humility; so, cautiously sounding crude: when the Vine -- the conduit of life, this Most vital part of God our Father... was cut off... there is no pain on earth comparable to what our Father God in heaven felt that day; when the Christ was cut off; think about it: the heavenly environment has never been the same,

3. The RESURRECTION:

God... who has raised Him from the dead.

Notice, the first 3 DAYS of the LORD are in focus – His crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Paul says... and now Father GOD gets on with His plans,

Phase 2:

¹³ And you, **being dead in your sins** and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has enlivened together with Him / God working through His Spirit; notice: Day 4 of the LORD is in these words,

having forgiven us all our trespasses / having graciously released us, and let our sins go;

¹⁴ **blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** / He did what? The Greek word is: **exaleipho**; it means... **to obliterate**, to erase, to annihilate. It's used 5 times in the New Testament... only identified with the work of the Lord... who will even one day... obliterate all tears from our eyes. He's a gracious God; He's a loving Father. We were dead in our sins... and God our Father, He obliterated... He erased fully;

blotting out the handwriting of ordinances / this word is: **dogma**; you know, the handwritten, human generated... pages and pages of dogmatic civil, and ceremonial, and ecclesiastical **laws**, and **rulings** and **edicts** and **proclamations** and **regulations**, and **declarations** and **requirements**... and **judgments** and **decrees**. And He did what? He obliterated all of them.

blotting out the handwriting of ordinances / He did it! **We were dead**. He wiped out the handwritten dogma. You know most people really don't believe that is what Jesus accomplished... because they are too busy... adding their little rules... their little checklists. Huh?! What's that all about? Hosea says, the Lord could have added **10,000 more laws, but they would have been ignored** – **Hosea 8:12**; Ezekiel said, they were given statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live – **Ezekiel 20:25**.

what was against us / He obliterated... He did: **we were dead!**

what was opposed to us / He wiped out... He did: **we were dead!**

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and took it / the word is: **airo**; they yelled, **Take Him away**... same word. And they took Him away and crucified Him. John the Baptist says, Behold the Lamb who takes away... same word; that's what He did; **He took away our sin**. Here, Paul is telling us: In addition to our sin, Jesus... took the handwritten *dogma*...

He took it out of the way / this word is: **menos**; it means **among them**... **between them**; it is the **middle**, the midst. In Acts 1, Peter stood up **among** them; Luke 10 says they were sent like sheep **among** wolves. Revelation 1 says... the Son of man stands... **among** the 7 candle stands. So what is the point? Paul says... HE... **Jesus took away the handwritten dogma... from among us**. And that is something we could not do, because we were dead. Jesus not only could do it... HE did it... it is finished.

nailing it to His cross / not to my cross... and **not to your cross**; though some pharisaical folk would like to take the little rules and regulations... off His cross and nail them to ours.

Think about it: Jesus, by himself... forever obliterated the dogmas... the rules and regulations

nailing it to His cross / leaving us 2 rules: **Love God**... and **love our neighbor as our self**. That's it!

Everything else... EVERYTHING else... was nailed to His cross; and yet... the only thing nailed to His cross was Himself. You and I could die on 1,000 Calvary's... and it wouldn't save a gnat's ass. It took **His life... to blot out the ordinances...** and save one messed up world;

¹⁵ **and having spoiled principalities and powers; He made a spectacle of them openly** / boldly, having stripped off and discarded, archies and exousias; Christ Jesus... exposed them publicly.

Now if you don't quite know what is going on in this verse, that's okay! We weren't there. But this verse always reminds me of **Psalms 82**. It says, **elohim... stand in the congregation of the El -- the mighty GOD**. And He judges those **elohim**. It seems as if one mighty Guy, walked into the middle of a gang of thugs in South Central... un-intimidated, and putting them all in their place.

Paul writes of Christ / the Messiah, He exposed those rebellious administrative powers in the heavenlies.

He made a show of them, openly / boldly, **triumphing over them in it** / on the cross. Just hearing it makes you want **to shout: Glory!** Doesn't it?!

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The Resurrection of Jesus Christ or; **Jesus Christ and Nanotechnology**