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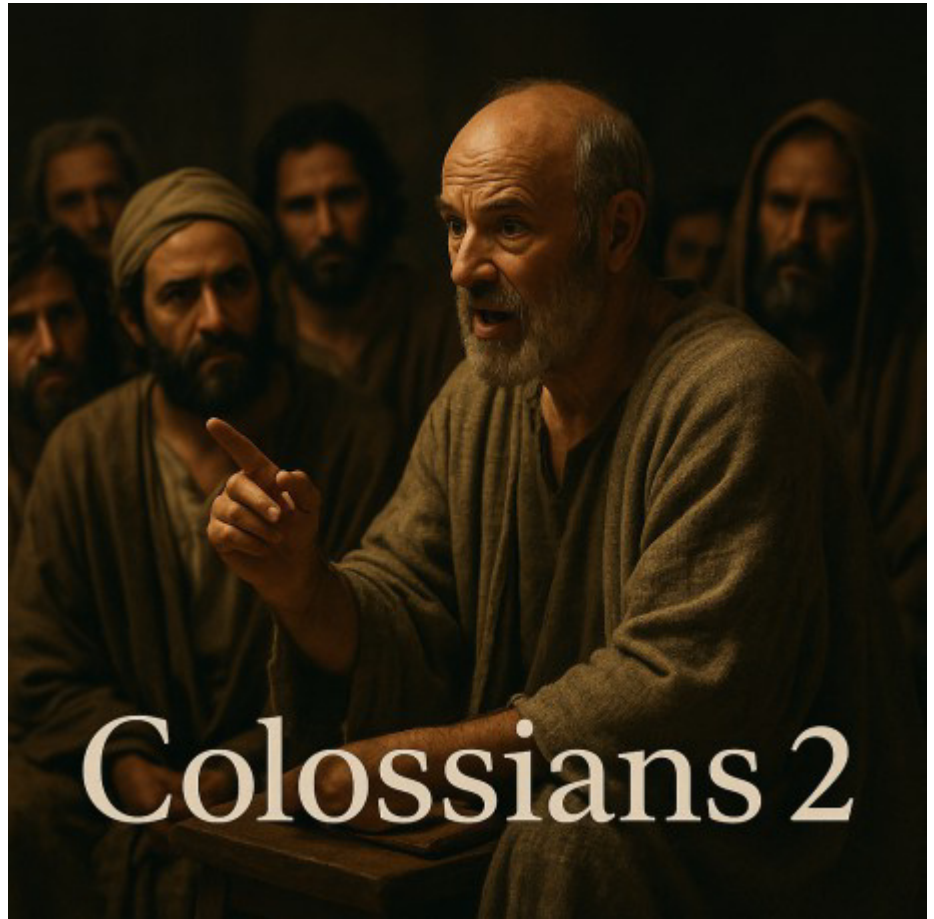
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Colossians 2 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Colossians 2

Colossians 2:1-2

For I want you to know how great a struggle I have in your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and all those who have not personally seen my face, that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and that they would attain to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, resulting in a true knowledge of God's mystery, that is, Christ Himself.

† Paul's struggle was for the unity and encouragement of believers, even those he had not seen in person.

† The mystery revealed is Christ, the source of true knowledge and assurance.

† Ignatius (Letter to the Ephesians 3) likewise emphasized unity in love as the strength of the church.

Colossians 2:3

In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

† All wisdom is found in Christ, not in human philosophy or speculation.

† Philo (On Dreams 1.21) sought wisdom in allegory, but Paul declares the treasures of wisdom are only in Christ.

Colossians 2:4-5

I say this so that no one will deceive you with persuasive arguments. For even though I am absent in body, I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

† Paul warns against deception through persuasive but empty arguments.

† Their stability in Christ brought Paul joy, even from afar.

† Josephus (Against Apion 2.190) noted how clever words deceived the simple, reflecting Paul's concern for the church.

Colossians 2:6-7

Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him, and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

† The Christian walk is rooted, built up, and established in Christ.

† Gratitude marks the life of faith.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 2) commended the early church

for being firmly rooted in faith and abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:8

See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ.

† Paul warns against false philosophy and human traditions that enslave.

† True freedom and wisdom are only in Christ.

† Tertullian (Prescription Against Heretics 7) also warned against philosophy corrupting the simplicity of the gospel.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over every ruler and authority.

† Christ embodies the fullness of Deity in bodily form.

† Believers are made complete in Him, lacking nothing.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.19.2) used this passage to refute heresies that denied Christ's divinity.

Colossians 2:11-12

And in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision performed without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

† Spiritual circumcision replaces physical circumcision.

† Baptism unites believers with Christ in death and resurrection.

† Justin Martyr (Dialogue with Trypho 43) argued that Christian baptism replaced circumcision as the true covenant sign.

Colossians 2:13-14

And when you were dead in your wrongdoings and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our wrongdoings, having canceled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us, and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

† The law that condemned was canceled at the cross.

† In Christ, forgiveness and life replace death and condemnation.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (Community Rule 1QS 11.11-15) longed for release from guilt, which is fulfilled in Christ.

Colossians 2:15

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

† Christ's cross was not defeat but triumph over powers and authorities.

† The victory was public and decisive.

† Origen (Against Celsus 2.15) spoke of Christ's triumph over demonic powers at the cross.

Colossians 2:16-17

Therefore, no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink, or in respect to a festival or a new moon, or a Sabbath day, things which are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

† Old covenant rituals were shadows pointing to Christ.

† The reality and substance are now fulfilled in Him.

† Eusebius (Proof of the Gospel 1.6) affirmed that Mosaic observances were temporary shadows fulfilled in Christ.

Colossians 2:18-19

Take care that no one keeps defrauding you of your prize by delighting in humility and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding firmly to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

† False humility and angel worship threatened the Colossians.

† True growth comes only by holding fast to Christ the Head.

† The Book of Enoch (1 Enoch 19) records angel veneration, showing how such practices could mislead.

Colossians 2:20-22

If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" which all refer to things destined to perish with use, in accordance with the commandments and teachings of man?

† Believers who died with Christ are not bound by man-made rules.

† Legalism has no power to sanctify.

Colossians 2:23

These are matters which do have the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and humility and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

† Ascetic practices appear wise but lack true power.

† Only Christ provides real victory over the flesh.

† Tertullian (On Baptism 16) noted that man-made practices lacked the power of the gospel.

How it applies to us today

† Colossians 2 warns us against being deceived by empty traditions, false humility, or man-made rules.

† Our completeness is found only in Christ, who canceled the law's condemnation and triumphed over all powers at the cross.
† In the fulfilled kingdom, we hold fast to Christ the Head, living in His victory and freedom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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