

Remnant Life Church
December 6, 2015
Colossians 1 – Part 6
“Right Thinking”
Colossians 1:18-23

READ SCRIPTURE

- Paul writes this letter proclaiming the deity and preeminence of Jesus as Savior – WHY?
 - The Gnostics were a group who believed that special knowledge was the only way to God and it was restricted to only a select few
 - Paul countered this by proclaiming that is not human knowledge but redemption and the forgiveness of sins that saves us and brings us into close fellowship with God (1:20; 1 Cor. 15:2)
 - It is Jesus alone who saves (John 14:6)
 - Paul also writes in 1:28 that God’s love is for everyone (he says it twice)
 - This is important to us today because the core elements of the Gnostic beliefs are still present today in the false teachings of the New Age religions that are dominating more and more of people’s beliefs even within the church
 - How the New Age teaching will impact you -
 1. Distance God from us
 - + They claim the goal is to get closer to God but it actually does just the opposite
 - + Emanations – progressively descending likenesses who grew more and more distant from God’s nature the further out they went
 - + Removing God from the day to day elements of our lives leads to the belief that our own feelings and thinking are the guide for our lives, how we live and act
 - + Psalm 14:1 – *The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”*
 2. Elevate the mind and capabilities of man apart and even above God
 - + The vacuum of removing God from His rightful place must be filled and our selfish flesh nature proclaims we are the answer
 3. Sow division among people (select few will understand) in order to keep them continually striving for the unobtainable
 - + Divisions within the church allow for the infestation of many non-biblical lines of thinking that are geared to stimulating the physical senses not the relationship of God to our hearts
 - + Kundalini spirit
- (Paul then sets his focus on the relationship of Jesus with the church)
- In verse 18 he writes that Jesus is also preeminent over His new creation – the Church
 - Paul describes the church like the physical body – (anthropomorphic)
 - Jesus Christ is the head of that body
 - Without Jesus at the head there is no body, no church

- The problem at Colossae was that they had lost their focus and connection to Jesus through the false teachings and beliefs that had made their way in – also true today
- Jesus must be head of the church
- I tell you again that Jesus is the head of RLC – not me, not the BOD, no one but Jesus

(Paul then goes on to proclaim God's preeminence over all creation in Jesus)

- Verse 19 – the preeminence of Jesus over all things is given by God the Father
 1. The fullness of God dwells in Jesus
 - + The word dwell means to permanently inhabit; not near, over, or under but within
 2. Dwell also means – “take up residence” – your residence helps to identify you to others
 3. “All His fullness” – the Gnostics used the word fullness to mean the sum total of all the divine powers and attributes of all creation which they believed man should aspire to achieve
 - + Paul uses it 5 different times in Colossians to show that Jesus, and nothing else, is the fullness of God
- Finally in verses 20-23 – **We are reconciled to Him**
- 1:20 says, *“and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross”*
 - The Gnostics taught that people could get closer to God through the worship of angels and by observing specific rules and regulations but even that was no guarantee
 - DEF: Reconciliation – the restoration of friendship and fellowship after estrangement. It also means to change thoroughly from one position to another.
 - For us this happens when we are completely altered and adjusted so that our right relationship with God is restored that was once broken by sin
 - This verse gives us the focus, the scope, the means, and the result of our redemption
 1. The Focus – “reconcile to Himself” – the focus and initiative for reconciliation is from God
 2. The Scope – “all things” – nothing and no one is omitted from the scope of God's love
 3. The Means – “through His blood shed on the cross” – one way to salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ
 4. The Result – “peace” – the absence of the hostility of sin which separated us

(Paul then moves to the very specific of our lives)

- 1:21 - *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*
 - Alienate – estranged; to withdraw; to make indifferent or adverse
 - The word “alien” means a stranger or outsider
 - We were not just alienated however we were enemies
 - + To be an enemy means to be actively hostile
 - + Our very flesh nature is an enemy of God

+ **Rom 8:7** - *The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.*

+ **Rom 12:2** - *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

- He goes on to say in **1:22** - *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*
 - Paul again refutes the Gnostic belief that Jesus did not really have a human body
 - **I Peter 2:24** - *"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."*
- What is the result of His gift of reconciliation? What happens to us? Paul states it in verse **22**
 1. Holy in His sight – He declares us holy; we do not declare ourselves to be righteous as many are teaching today
 2. Without blemish – the words used are the same used in the temple sacrifice requirements
 3. Free from accusation – a legal term meaning “not to be called in” – our penalty for sin is wiped away
- HOW? - **1:23** - *"if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel..."*
 - Paul uses words that would have additional meaning to the original reader
 - The region around Colossae in that time was prone to earthquakes
 - “Moved” is also used to mean “earthquake stricken”
 - Do not move was a word picture of a dwelling with a strong foundation in spite of the shaking going on around
 - Jesus said in **Matt 7:24-26** - *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.*
- What is your house built on this morning?
- Only a committed personal relationship with Jesus Christ is going to give you a life of stability when all around us the ground is shaking