

An Urgent Warning, Insidious Threat, and Matchless Standard: Brad Klassen
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Colossians 2:1-8

>Quintus Tertullianus lived in Carthage in North Africa. He lived 155AD to ~240AD. He helped define many Christian terms that we use today. "Trinitas" or "trinity" is one such term. He also founded Western Theology, which is established upon the doctrine of the Trinity which was confirmed by church fathers in 325 AD at the First Council of Nicaea.

>Paul deals with **syncretism** which occurred because false teachers in the early church (and today for that matter) tried to blend Christianity with worldly wisdom and practice.

>Paul confronts this gnosticism in his epistles and takes direct aim at this heresy in Colossians.

>It is likely that Epaphras (Col. 1:7) is the founder of the church in Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis (Col. 4:13). Paul is with Epaphras in Rome while under house arrest in ~60-62 AD.

>Churches all over Asia (present day Turkey) were established while Paul was teaching in the school of Tyrannus on his third missionary journey referenced in Acts 19:9-10.

>In Colossians 2:1-10, Paul provides an **urgent warning**, speaks of an **insidious threat**, and declares a **matchless standard** to the believers in Colosse, Laodicea, and Hierapolis.

- **Urgent Warning:** V8, "Beware," (see also Phil. 3:2) this warning is to alert them to danger of false teachers trying to "plunder" or "take them captive."
 - Paul has affirmed their salvation in Christ, Col. 1:13, "delivered us from the power of darkness, and transferred into the kingdom of the Son." And again in Col. 2:6, "as you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."
 - These false teachers were trying to bring them into bondage related to food, drink, festivals, moons, sabbaths, angels, visions, and false humility, Col. 2:16-18.
 - But the warning to the believers there was to hold fast to Christ, the Head, because God gives the increase and strength to those attached to the body, Col. 2:19.
- **Insidious Threat:** V8, "through philosophy and empty deceit." Philosophy is the wisdom of the world and time. "Empty deceit" are useless, vain lies.
 - V8, the threat of the "traditions of men" were rules and laws that men impose to show others that they are religious. Sin makes man very religious to mask the horror of wickedness and sin they partake in.
 - V8, the threat of "basic principles of the world" is exposed by Paul. In Eph. 6:12, Paul exposes the spiritual forces at work in the world. Peter exposes Satan in 1 Pet. 5:8. The believer is not subject to the powers of the world as Paul told the Colossians in Col. 2:20.
 - In Col. 2:23, Paul calls those philosophies an "appearance of wisdom." Self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body seem right and wise, but they are no use against the nature and indulgence of sin.
- **Matchless Standard:** V8, "rather than according to Christ." Christ is supreme over all philosophy. Jesus' wisdom is heavenly, godly, eternal and truth.
 - Col. 1:13-18, Christ has delivered us, transferred us, redeemed us, and forgiven us. He has created all things including powers, the invisible, visible, thrones, dominions, & principalities. He holds all things together. All things were made for Him, by Him, and through Him.

- Col. 1:19-21, in Christ all the fullness of God dwelt. He reconciled all things to Himself and gave peace with God through His blood.
- Col. 1:22, the work of Christ is evident as He prepares us to be presented holy, blameless, and above reproach in His sight. Made like Him!

Further Discussion and Application

As we have been taught about the authority of Scripture. What are the problems of mixing the philosophy of the world with the wisdom of God? Why does Paul warn the believers in Colosse about these heresies? Should the believer take the word of God and makes lists of commandments that Christ has given? Why is love for Christ equated with keeping His commandments? How does obedience to Christ demonstrate a changed heart? Col. 2:10, states that we are complete in Him. What does Christ possess that make all that He gives His church complete?

What does it mean in Colossians 1:13, that we have been delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of the Son of His love? What is the power of darkness?

Colossians 1:28-29 now comes into focus in this sermon. Looking at verse 29, what is Paul's motivation and concern for all the churches established in Asia? Why does he labor and agonize over their spiritual health? Why did Paul confront Peter as recorded in Gal. 2:11-16 and the resulting decree of the apostles and elders in Acts 15?

Looking now at Colossians 1:28, what is the warning that Paul gives? What is the admonishment that Paul gives? Who is the Christ that must be proclaimed from Col. 1:13-18? How is salvation received from Christ in Col. 1:19-23? According to Col. 1:22, what is needed for men to be acceptable in the sight of God?

Paul gives the Gospel in Colossians 1 and 2. As a response to the salvation we have received in Christ, outline in bullet form the qualities and characteristics of those saved by Christ in Chapter 3 and 4.