

Colossians Chapter 2

18. Did you know that you serve an important role in the growth and unity of Jesus' Body (the Church), 1:19?
19. The amount that Jesus' Body (the Church) grows is dictated by God the Father, 1:19.
20. Since we have been forever clothed with Christ's Body and He is no longer subject to the world's dead dogma, we should not do anything the way the world does, not marriage, not addiction, not parenting, not career, not partying, not friendships, not family, not grieving, not depression, not divorce, not celebrating, not retirement, not finance, not fitness, not anything, 2:20.
21. The way the world does things was created by mankind. There are rules for every endeavor in life, rules for eating, drinking, self-improvement, religion, happiness, satisfaction, self-control, and on and on. Some of these rules and ways of living sound brilliant but they fail to address the heart of man's problem: his selfish heart, 2:20-23.

Colossians 2 Summarized

Sentences

2:1-3, for I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and *for* as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and *attaining* to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:4, now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

2:5, for though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your *good* order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

2:6-7, as you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

2:8-10, beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

2:11-12, in Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

2:13-15, and you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

2:16-17, so let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

2:18-19, let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in *false* humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase *that is* from God.

2:20-23, therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as *though* living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations -- "Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle," which all concern things which perish with the using -- according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, *false* humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

Paragraphs

2:1-3, Paul wants the Colossians, the Laodiceans, and others he's never seen to know how hard he's fighting for them to be encouraged, united in love, and fully understand God's mystery concerning Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

2:4-5, even though Paul's not there, he's with them in spirit, happy to see their good order and steadfast faith in Christ. So he begins warning them not to be deceived by persuasive words.

2:6-15, therefore, as the Colossians have been taught how to live in Christ Jesus the Lord, thus they should walk in Him. They must beware of anyone who tries to rob them through the world's empty and deceitful philosophy which is the product of men not Christ. The Colossians have everything they need for a full and complete life in Christ because in His flesh resides everything that God is. In Jesus, the Colossians have been stripped of their old body and given a new one, His. That is, even though they were dead in the world, they have been buried, raised, and made alive together-with Christ. He has forgiven all their sins, freed them from the world's deceitful dogma, and disarmed the spiritual powers behind this dogma.

2:16-19, so they should let no one judge them even with legitimate religious dogma, which is a shadow cast by the real thing: Christ. They must not let anyone rob them of their reward. Such individuals are self-deluded and speak of things they do not know; they fail to hold fast to the Head [Christ, 1:18], the real source of nourishment and growth.

2:20-23, therefore, since the Colossians have died with Christ from the world's dogma, why do they subject themselves to it once again as if the world is their home? All these man-made rules appear wise, but they only address outward behavior; they're of no use against the evil desires within.

Whole Chapter

Paul is fighting hard for the Colossians to fully understand what they have in Christ. So he begins warning them: they have everything they need in Christ to live a full and complete life because He holds all wisdom and knowledge, is God in the flesh, and is over every spiritual power. Thus, they must not let anyone rob them with the world's deceitful dogma. That's where they used to live, but Jesus has stripped them of this dead body and clothed them with His. They no longer owe a debt to the world's dogma or the spiritual powers behind it, in fact, Jesus has disarmed them. Therefore, they should not subject themselves to it as if the world is their home. All these man-made rules sound great, but they only address outward behavior. They can do nothing about the evil desires within.