

**THE ANTIDOTE FOR SIN**

Colossians 2:6-9

**Intro:** My subject for this morning's message is, "The Antidote for Sin."

Since *antidote* is not a word which most of use every day, let me take a moment to define what an antidote is.

Antidote is a word which has come into the English language from two Greek words. Most all will recognize *anti-* as a prefix, a word placed at the beginning of another word meaning *against*. And the *-dote* is from the Greek word *to give*. So *an antidote* is something that is given against something else. If you are allergic to something, and you go to your doctor, if there is an antidote available, he will give that to you to nullify the effect of your allergy. If you have a strep infection in your throat, your doctor will probably give you penicillin. If you have a headache, you probably will take an aspirin. Aspirin is an antidote against headaches.

The dictionary definition of an antidote is "anything that tends to counteract an evil." I am sure that the word "evil" is used here to include anything like a disease, or any problem for which we may be seeking help. But I am using it in our dealing with sin.

Now the biggest problem that we all have is sin. We were born in sin which means that we were born sinners. Nobody ever has to teach anyone else how to sin. People are always devising certain means from being caught in their sin. But from a human standpoint there is no real, permanent antidote for sin. The law is effective in some cases because people don't want to suffer the penalty of sin. But the only real antidote for sin has been provided by God in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. All of us have sinned and are under the judgment of God. God sent His Son into the world to die for sinners. God charged Him with the sins of all people who would ever be saved. As a result, when we trust Christ, believing that He took the penalty for our sins by His death on Calvary's Cross, we are forgiven of all of our sins and declared to be justified before God. So the antidote for the penalty of our sins is in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The antidote for eternal judgment is to be found in the Gospel, *and only in the Gospel. There is no other antidote.*

But that is not all! By His death on the Cross the Lord did another marvelous thing for those who are trusting Him for the forgiveness of

their sins: by His death He has delivered us from the power, the dominion, the authority that sin had over us before we were saved. You see, when we are saved, God does not take away our ability to sin. He changes our attitude toward sin. As God's people we don't like sin, but we can still be tempted to sin, and we have to confess that we do sin. But there is an antidote for this too. It is not in addition to the Gospel, but it is a part of the Gospel. And this is what Paul was writing about in the first words of our text, which are, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him."

As you read through this letter of the Apostle Paul to the saints at Colosse (which is what he called them), you can easily see that he was concerned about two things: first, he was concerned about the false teaching that they were receiving, and secondly, he was concerned about how that false teaching would affect their lives.

Now there were false teachers in Colosse. Fortunately it had not taken hold among the Lord's people. Paul recognized this in the verse immediately before my text for today. You will notice what he wrote in verse 5 of chapter 2. Follow in your Bible as I read it to you again. (Read Col. 2:5.)

As Paul wrote these words he was in Rome, a prisoner. He was unable to go to them, but his words indicate that from what he had heard about the church in Colosse, it was just like he had actually seen, and could visualize how well things were going in the church. This brings us to verse 6, and you will notice the word "therefore." Always remember the little statement which some Bible teacher made to the effect that when you come to the word "therefore" in the Bible, remember that it is there for a purpose.

The point is that Paul was indicating in verse 6 that he wanted to see the condition in the church in Colosse, not only to remain the same, but to continue along the same path, and actually to get better! This was his antidote for the preservation of the spiritual condition of the church. In physical matters it is always better to do what we can to prevent sickness than it is to keep going until we get sick, and then be faced with the problem of trying to get over a sickness after it gets started. We have seen in the last verses of chapter 1 (vv. 28-29) that Paul felt that his task as a preacher was not only teaching the truth, but warning against error and its effect in the lives of people. Paul had been working up to the point that

we come to in Colossians 2:6, and he is telling the church what they need to do in order to maintain strong healthy lives both personally and as a church. In the first part of verse 6 Paul was looking back; in the second part he was looking at both the present and the future. In verses 6 and 7 we have Paul's godly counsel; in verses 8 and 9 his warning.

### **I. Paul's Godly Counsel (Col. 2:6-7).**

He addressed the church as those who had "received Christ Jesus the Lord." A Christian is a person who has "received Christ Jesus the Lord." Spurgeon told his people when speaking on this text that whatever else they may have done, if they were Christians, they had "received Christ Jesus the Lord." Nobody can truly claim to be a Christian who has not "received Christ Jesus the Lord." We weren't born into this world as Christians. Salvation is not something that we worked for. We can't earn salvation, nor can we purchase it with money. Isaiah said long before the Lord Jesus was born that salvation is "without price." We simply received salvation as a gift. But let me state it the way Paul stated it. We were saved by receiving a Person. And that Person was "Christ Jesus the Lord." And it is significant that the Apostle Paul used the full Name of our Lord, the Lord Jesus Christ, or as we have it here, "Christ Jesus the Lord."

As "Christ," or its OT equivalent, the Messiah, He is the One God anointed to come to earth to complete the revelation of God which began in Genesis 1 and continued right through the OT and was fulfilled in the Gospels where we read of the birth of Christ and follow His mission on earth as the Son of God.

In the name "Jesus" we see His humanity, His perfect humanity, and yet still the Son of God, Who came "to save His people from their sins." This was His mission on earth, and He did a perfect, finished work. He did not leave anything out that was essential for our salvation. We have received Him as our Savior.

As "the Lord" we see His sovereignty in the lives of the people He has redeemed. We have received Him as our Lord. No one is to have greater authority in our lives than He does. His will is to be the guidance that we need for our daily lives. Salvation is a Person. We worship Him. We love Him. We trust Him. We have no hesitation at all in calling Him our Lord Jesus Christ.

The longer we live, and the more intimately we know Him, the more we are humbled in realizing that we are totally unworthy of all that He is and of all that He has done in our lives, all that He continues to do, and all that we will be when His work in us is completed. By God's grace we have received Him. He is our Lord Jesus Christ. We can never lose Him, and He will never lose us. How wonderful, how amazing, that we can say along with the Apostle Paul, and the saints of Colosse, that we have "received Christ Jesus the Lord." If we can't say that, we can't do what the rest of the verse tells us to do: "So walk ye in Him."

Notice that Paul did not say, "Walk with Him," although we have that privilege also. But we are to "walk in Him." We are to walk in dependence upon Him. We are to walk in fellowship with Him. We are to walk in obedience to Him. We are to know that our ability to live for Him comes from Him. When we were saved we were joined eternally to Him. He is not only our Savior, but He is our Life. We are never separated from Him. Our thoughts are to be continually upon Him.

The reason that the Apostle Paul gave this counsel to the Colossian believers was because this is the antidote to sin. The more we know of our Lord, the less possibility there is that we will be drawn into doctrinal error. And the more we walk in fellowship with Him, the safer we are from sin and the temptation to sin. Our defense against sin and false teaching is greatly weakened when we fail to walk in Him.

Now a great part of walking in Him has to do with our reading and meditating on the Bible, and the importance we place upon our fellowship with the Lord in prayer. The writer of Psalm 119, probably King David, wrote over 3,000 years ago, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Our reception of Christ has to do with the past; our walking with Him has to do with the present. Our reception of Christ has to do, as one writer has said, with our inner life; our walking in Christ is the manifestation of that inner relationship. Remember that in chapter 1 Paul indicated that he was praying about their walk. In chapter 3, verse 7, he not only began to talk about how they used to walk, but also he indicates that that their walk is the way they live.

But in verse 7 Paul added to what he said in verse about our walk. When we first received Christ, we all knew very little about Him. The strength

of our walk will increase as we learn more about Him. And so Paul spoke of our being “rooted and grounded in Him.” “Rooted” may speak of the way we have been transplanted from the old life of sin into the new life in Christ. Paul had said in chapter 1, verse 13, that we have been delivered from “the power of darkness, and . . . translated . . . into the kingdom of His dear Son.” But now in the kingdom of Christ we need to be “built up in Him,” in Christ, and so that means spiritual growth. How does that happen? It is by being “stablished,” or established, “in the faith.”

Do you remember what we learned about that expression, “the faith,” in chapter 1, verse 3, where Paul spoke of continuing in the faith, grounded and settled, and not being moved away from the hope of the Gospel.” The Faith is the teaching of Scripture, the doctrine we have in God’s Word. They evidently had had good teaching in Colosse, and Paul was encouraging to keep learning, knowing that if they did, they would also be inclined to abound in thanksgiving to God for the gift of His Word.

If we would all do as Paul taught the Colossians to do, how much stronger we would be in the Lord, and how much more glory the Lord would get out of our lives. Let us remember that Paul’s counsel for the Colossians is just as much for us today as it was for the Colossian believer over 2,000 years ago.

Now we come to

## **II. THE APOSTLE’S URGENT WARNING (Col. 2:8-9).**

The word “beware” is a translation of the Greek verb *to see*. The NASB translates it as, “See to it.” The same word is found in Hebrews 3:12 where it is translated, “Take heed.” That verse is similar to Colossians 2:8. It is a warning:

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God (Heb. 3:12).

Regardless of how well taught we are, how well “rooted and grounded” we are in The Faith, we all need to be constantly upon our guard against false teachers and their teaching. Never accept anything as God’s Word which you can’t find in the Bible, or anything that is in contradiction to the teaching of the Bible. False teachers are often attractive and very convincing people. They are particularly dangerous when they use Scripture because people are inclined to believe if they are right about

some things, they must be right about all that they teach. They often claim to have more light than is given in Scripture. Their philosophies can seem very reasonable. But the word “spoil” means *to lead astray*. Sometimes the false teachers who come to you may be very sincere, but they do not know that they have been led astray. They do their best work with immature, untaught Christians. The professing church today has been greatly weakened by a failure to teach the Word of God. But Paul indicates here that the test to be applied to all who come to us with their teaching is, is it “according to Christ,” or isn’t it? Three times Paul used the word “after” in verse 8, which would be better translated, “according to.” False teachers come with their philosophies and “vain deceit,” but their teaching is “according to the traditions of men, according to the rudiments of the world, and not according to Christ.”

The NIV translates this verse,

See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends upon human tradition and the basic principles of this world, rather than Christ.

The present-day interest in some churches on ritualism, emotionalism, sensationalism, and mysticism, are just some of the dangers facing our churches.

On one occasion the scribes and Pharisees came to the Lord criticizing the disciples because they did not ceremonially wash their hands before they ate. This is how the Lord responded to them:

3 . . . Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (Matt. 15:3-9).

Over the years the Jews had added so many commandments to the Law of

God that not even they knew the difference between the Word of God and the commandments of men. The objections to the scribes and Pharisees to our Lord had to do with their traditions. Their traditions became more important to them than the Word of God. Their charges against our Lord had to do with their traditions, not the Word of God.

But to conclude for now, why should we be so concerned about relating all teaching to Christ, both what the Scriptures teach about Him, and what He taught concerning Himself. Verses 9 and 10 give us the answer. “For in Him [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and ye are complete in Him.” This statement could not be said about any prophet or apostle mentioned in Scripture. It can only be made of Christ Jesus the Lord.

**Concl:** Therefore, let nothing turn us away from Christ. Let nothing be added to Christ. Let us with all of the devotion we have in our hearts, “walk in Him.” And let us be sure that daily we are being built up in Him, as the Scriptures teach us until we are abounding in thanksgiving to God for the gift of His Son.

But there surely are some here who cannot say that they have received Christ Jesus the Lord. You do not know Him as the Son of God, your Savior and your Lord. Then it is impossible for you to build your life upon and around Him. The Apostle John was led of the Holy Spirit to tell us about receiving Christ. And he did it in these words, speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ which are found in John 1:11-14:

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Let me urge you to come to Christ, receive Him as your Savior and as your Lord. If you receive Him, He will never cast you out. Christ is the antidote for the penalty of your sin, and He alone is the antidote for the power that sin holds in your life. Receive Him into your heart today.