

# **Knowing Christ**

*A Study of Colossians*

## **Distractions from Christ**

**Lesson 12**

**Colossians 2**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*

*April 6, 2020*

# When Did Christianity Begin?

- ▶ Twelve major religions – 1500 B.C. to 1863 A.D.
- ▶ “Christianity is a monotheistic religion centered around the personage of Jesus of Nazareth, or Jesus Christ. Christianity arose in the 30-50's A.D. as a religious offshoot of Judaism based on the teachings of Jesus, who was himself Jewish. Early Christianity rejected many of the social, cultural, and religious institutions of Judaism and pursued radically different strains of spiritual thought. Within a century a recognizable Church was founded. The texts of the faith and its most important creeds were codified in the 300s A.D.” – Infoplease.com
- ▶ Christianity began at creation
- ▶ It is not an offshoot of Judaism (which began in Babylon)
- ▶ It is a continuation of the true religion revealed in the Old Testament

# A New Age Begins at Pentecost

- ▶ A mystery revealed – “The summing up of all things in Christ”
- ▶ A new administration suitable to the fullness of the times
- ▶ Paul and the 12 disciples were the Apostles charged with introducing this new era
- ▶ Paul’s message emphasizes Christ (Acts 9:20, 22; 11:25-26)
- ▶ Ephesians and Colossians are critical epistles in understanding this new era
- ▶ Ephesians:
  - The mystery: All things summed up in Christ (Eph 1:10)
  - An administration suitable to the fullness of the times
- ▶ Colossians:
  - We are complete in Christ (Col 1:28)
  - See that you are not re-captured or defrauded (Col 2:8, 18)
  - Distractions from Christ are of no value against fleshly indulgence (Col 2:23)

# The Format of Ephesians and Colossians

- ▶ The theme – Christ is all and in all (Col 3:11)
- ▶ A description of Christian faith
  - The work of salvation in the Ephesians and Colossians
  - Paul’s prayer for their progress in the faith
  - The grace of God (Ephesians); the Person of Christ (Colossians)
- ▶ The core message
  - The mystery revealed - God’s eternal purpose (Eph 3:11)
  - The mystery preserved - Christ or the wisdom of man (Col 2:8)
- ▶ A display of Christ in the daily life of the believer
  - Eph 5:1 - “Be imitators of God, as beloved children”
  - Col 3:1 - “Keep seeking the things above where Christ is”

# Colossians

Christ, our exalted Savior		prison epistle 60-62	
①	②	③	④
the supremacy of Christ		the sufficiency of Christ	
foundation in Christ	faithfulness to Christ	fullness in Christ	
1-2 salutation in Christ 3-8 thanksgiving to God 9-12 intercession to God  15-23 the preeminence of Christ  24-29 the Gentile mystery: <u><i>“Christ in you, the hope of glory”</i></u>	1-5 stability of faith in Christ  6-7 <u><i>“walk in Christ!”</i></u>  8-15 standing firm in the victory in Christ  16-19 holding firm to the substance of Christ  20-23 submitting only to the person of Christ	1-4 <u><i>“set your mind on Christ!”</i></u>  5-11 attend to personal holiness in Christ <u><i>“Christ is all, and in all.”</i></u>  12-17 attend to corporate harmony in Christ  18-4:1 attend to outward behavior in Christ	2-6 devotion to prayer, conduct with wisdom, speech with grace  7-9 coming information  10-15 sent greetings  16-18 final words

# Distractions from Christ - Colossians 2

- ▶ Paul's apostolic concern for the Colossians (2:1-7)
- ▶ The distractions from Christ in the work of salvation (2:8-15)
- ▶ The distractions from Christ in Christian living (2:16-23)

# Paul's Apostolic Concern (2:1-7)

- ▶ Paul the apostle --authority from God (1:24-29)
- ▶ The apostle's ministry
- ▶ The apostle's method – proclaim., admonish, teach
- ▶ The apostle's concerns for the Colossians (2:1-5)
  - A true knowledge of Christ
  - No delusions by persuasive arguments
- ▶ The apostle's Gospel (2:6-7)
  - Received by faith
  - Walk by faith
  - Rooted and built up in Christ – firmly rooted
  - Instructed and thankful

# Distractions from Christ (2:8-15)

- ▶ An unknown heresy
  - A common approach to all false teachings
  - Peter approves (1 Peter 3:18)
- ▶ Do not be taken captive (2:8)
  - Philosophy and empty deception
  - Elementary principles of the world
  - Not based upon Christ
- ▶ The truth in Christ – the fullness of God (2:9-12)
  - He is the head over every rule and authority
  - The figure of circumcision (Deut 10:16; 30:6; Rom 2:29)
  - The figure of baptism
- ▶ The summary statement (2:13-15)
  - Resurrection with Christ
  - Forgiveness
  - Disarmed rulers and authorities

# Distractions from Christ (2:16-23)

- ▶ How to continue? (Gal 3:3-5)
- ▶ The shadows, or the substance which is in Christ
- ▶ Do not be defrauded of your prize by human wisdom
- ▶ Hold fast to the head
- ▶ Death with Christ brings new life in the world
- ▶ The futility of the elementary principles of the world (Eph 4:17)

# Complete in Christ

- ▶ Do not be taken captive
- ▶ Do not be defrauded
- ▶ Christ alone is necessary and sufficient
- ▶ Know Christ