

Lesson 15
Colossians 2:8-12

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*** Start Recorder ***



Announcements: Iron Men Ministry is Cranking Up!

A. Building the Ministry:

1. Make a *habit* of inviting:
 - i. Each of us is here because we were invited.
 - ii. Your church buddies and other men of the church.
 - iii. Your Christian dad and adult sons, uncles, cousins, etc.
 - iv. Your Christian friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
 - v. Any adult male believers without a church home.
 - vi. Who comes to mind in your life to pray for and commit to invite?
2. Discipleship vs. Evangelism:
 - i. Iron Men is not an evangelistic ministry for the unsaved.
 - a. Unbelievers are welcome to attend the Bible Study.
 - b. Small groups are for born-again believers.
 - c. Unbelievers should not be in a prayer and accountability group.
 - ii. Iron Men is a discipling ministry for the Christian men of our church to:
 - a. Grow and mature in our walk with Christ.
 - b. Strengthen us as men of God, celebrate our biblical manhood.
 - c. Raise up the next generation of leaders for the church.
 - d. Study the Bible in a different, open environment, where comments and questions are welcome and encouraged, to promote learning.
 - e. Train us to guard against false doctrines and heresy.
 - f. Develop trust, openness, and intimacy to build lasting friendships.
 - g. Knit Fellowship men together to protect our families and church.

B. Web Page Manager:

1. Need a web page manager.
2. Manage the page, keep it fresh and updated.
3. Experienced in creating web design and content.
4. Able to generate video and photographic media.
5. Samples of other site work, graphics, etc.
6. Member of the church in good standing.
7. Mature, faithful, and trustworthy individual.
8. Time availability: 2-3 hours a week.

C. **Communications Manager:**

1. Keep contact list up to date.
2. Manage roster and attendance records.
3. Reminder texts, special communications, etc.
4. One-page, bi-weekly newsletter (items posted to website).
5. Member of the church in good standing.
6. Mature, faithful, and trustworthy individual.
7. Time availability: 1-2 hours a week.

D. **Embracing Destiny Foundation (EDF):** a neighborhood boys foster home.

1. EDF is an Iron Men ministry – passing on all we've learned and become in Christ.
 - i. In 2Ti 2:2, the Apostle Paul wrote *"The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*
 - ii. You are those "faithful men [entrusted] to teach others also." Iron Men is about becoming better MEN, and making better MEN for Christ. Our ministry to these boys is a natural application of our Iron Men tradition.
2. Today will be our inaugural event. (last Iron Men Saturday of each mo.)
 - i. Boys should arrive at 10am at The Shack.
 - ii. All leaders should be outside The Shack at 9:50 waiting to greet them.
 - iii. Activity: Gaga Soccer
 - iv. Meal: Pizza, Gatorade, and Ice Cream
 - v. Lesson: God's Grand Story

E. **Iron Men Schedule & Format:**

1. Modified Schedule 8-9:30am:
 - i. 45-minutes Bible study and discussion.
 - ii. 45-minutes small groups:
 - a. 15-minutes discuss Bible reading assignment.
 - b. 30-minutes prayer:
 1. Matters of praise.
 2. Matters of accountability.
 3. Matters of need.
 - iii. Please wrap-up on time at 9:30am.
 - iv. Move about and speak quietly while other groups finish.

2. Small Group Format:

- i. Forming up small groups of about 4 men each.
- ii. Find and sit with each other at your own table when you arrive.
- iii. Small Group Leaders:
 - a. Need 6 Volunteers:
 - 1. Jasper Shaer
 - 2. John Tornatore
 - 3. _____
 - 4. _____
 - 5. _____
 - 6. _____
 - b. Build your own small group.
 - c. Keep up with your members with calls and texts.
- iv. New groups will form as attendance increases.

Read: Colossians 2:8-12

Colossians 2:8 (NOTES)

- "See to it" - Paul now gives a direct warning to the believers at Colossae and confronts head-on the gnostic heretics. The basis upon which Paul gives these warnings is the complete sufficiency of Christ, as he will explain.
- "no one takes you captive" - (Gr. - sylagogon) used regularly of taking captives in war and leading them away as slaves. These false teachers want to ensnare and enslave the Colossian believers. Christian cults are the worst, it seems, those groups that claim Christianity, but diverge from Scripture and orthodox into fantasy, and for some eventually, hell.
- Think about the 1993 51-day U.S. Government siege against the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas. On April 19, after more than seven weeks of siege, the FBI, ATF, Texas Rangers, Texas Military Force, and the Alabama National Guard conducted a final attack in hopes of bringing the siege to an end. Fire broke out, and combined with the reaction to the attack within the group, David Koresh, 49 Branch Davidians, 25 children, and 2 pregnant women died, bringing the total losses to 86 human lives over the 51-day siege: 4 federal agents, 54 Branch Davidians, and 28 children.
- It all began with the introduction of false philosophies into the study of the Bible. David Koresh was a Bible teacher, who veered away from the truth, became puffed up with pride, and was consumed by it. He was always attempting to bring in new ideas to wow people. 1Co 8:1 " ... knowledge makes one conceited", KJV - "puffs up".
- "philosophy and empty deception" - (Gr. - philosophia) philo = love + sophia = wisdom. Philosophy = love of wisdom. [This is the only occurrence of the word in the NT.] Any so-called wisdom that is not biblical wisdom, that is not "rooted" in Christ (the Root of Jesse), is empty deception and ultimately destructive. It is empty because it offers nothing; it has no basis in fact.
- "tradition of men" – The oral Jewish law – commentaries on the Torah created by ancient Jewish scholars to “apply” the law, such as how many steps one could take on a Sabbath before it was considered work, and thus a violation of the actual law to avoid work on the Sabbath.

- Mr 7:7-8 "'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' 8 "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."
- "elementary principles of the world" - Refers to basic instruction, what is earthly, carnal and outward, such as the rituals of these Gnostic philosophers with all their rules of life (Jewish legalism).
 - Ga 4:8-9 "However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?"
 - Co 2:20 If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, Col 2:21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!"
- "rather than according to Christ" - Again, Paul asserts the sufficiency of Christ for all knowledge, wisdom and understanding. Since the heresy of the Gnostics was in stark contrast to God's truth which was revealed in Christ, their teaching must be not only abandoned, but shunned - "See to it!"

Colossians 2:9 (NOTES)

- "For in [Christ] all the fullness of Deity" - That is the essence and the presence of the triune Godhead. See notes on Co 1:19 - we addressed this thoroughly several weeks ago.
 - Co 1:19 "Because in him it did please all the fulness of the godhead to dwell."
- In Christ, "Deity dwells in bodily form" - Deity = God. Bodily form = man. Christ is and forever will be the God-man. Fully God and fully man. If Jesus is God, why go elsewhere? Why buy into anything contrary to His teaching? What can be gained by ignoring Him for something else? Anything that is not God is less than God, not more. The farther one moves away from God the emptier one becomes.

Colossians 2:10 (NOTES)

- "in Him you have been made complete" - Restored to a right relationship with God. There is no need for the Colossians to turn to the false philosophy of the Gnostics, the rituals of the Mosaic law, or the worship of angels (aeons). Christ is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and end. Nothing can be added to Him. He is sufficient and we are complete in Him.
 - He 12:2 "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith ... "
- "He is the head over all rule and authority" - There is no authority above Him. No teaching above Him. No beings above Him (aeons). He is the progenitor of all truth and everything that exists that is not God. He created it all. Above, apart from, and beyond Christ, nothing exists. Whatever powers, authorities or governments there are in the universe, whether earthly or spiritual, they all owe their existence and being to Christ and are under His control and authority.
 - Ac 17:28 "for in Him we live and move and have our being [exist] ... "

Colossians 2:11 (NOTES)

- "a circumcision made without hands" - This is spiritual circumcision of the heart, regeneration, which physical circumcision prefigured. Moses was given circumcision as an outward symbol of one's acceptance/participation in the "Old Covenant," God's covenant with Israel. This circumcision "made without hands," which is manifested outwardly by baptism, is a symbol of one's inward regeneration and acceptance/participation in the "New Covenant," God's covenant with the church.
- "removal of the body of the flesh" - The act of removing the unclean and unnecessary foreskin of the male organ symbolized the future spiritual circumcision of the heart (removal of the old self - the natural, carnal, sinful, rebellious heart for a new one), namely the regeneration performed by the Holy Spirit.
 - De 30:6 "Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.
 - Ez 36:26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

- Tt 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,"
- From the Titus 3:5 passage, "regeneration" (Gr. - palingenesia) is used by classical writers with reference to the changes produced by the return of spring. This is what is meant by being "born again." Through regeneration we are given a new heart, a new principle or disposition of the soul for living and eternal life.
 - "2Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
 - Ro 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. Ro 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

Colossians 2:12 (NOTES)

Discussion: Why as Baptists do we celebrate baptism by immersion rather than sprinkling?

- "buried ... in baptism ... raised ... through faith in the working of God" The act of passing beneath the water in baptism symbolizes death and burial. The act of rising up from the waters symbolizes resurrection. The entire act presupposes "faith in the working of God." True conversion (regeneration, repentance, and faith in Christ) is the prerequisite for baptism. Apart from conscious "faith in the working of God" (specifically Christ's work on the cross unto death, and the Father's work in the resurrection) which is the sole basis for salvation, baptism is an empty and meaningless ceremony.
- Baptism is the new covenant expression of spiritual circumcision. It is a proclamation of the inward change that has occurred through regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, (one of two ordinances, the Lord's Supper being the other) we proclaim and identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Baptism, then, is the ultimate profession of faith in Christ.

- Ro 6:3-6 Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have become united with [Him] in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be [in the likeness] of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with [Him,] in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;
- Moreover, baptism symbolizes burial of the believer's old way of life and the beginning of the believer's new life in Christ.
 - Ga 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the [life] which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Application: Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you have trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

Closing Prayer

Small Groups