

Lesson 21
Colossians 3:4-6

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18-Nov-2023

*** Start Recorder ***



Announcements:

A. Embracing Destiny Foundation:

- Today after Iron Men at 10am – chili cook-off.
- If you wish to volunteer, please see Keith Edwards.
- You must do a background check to work with kids.

B. Building the Ministry: Each of us is here because we were invited.

- Make a *habit* of inviting men to join us.
- Invite your church buddies and other men of the church.
- Invite your dad, adult sons, uncles, cousins, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.
- Invite any adult male believers without a church home.

C. Need a Communications Manager:

- Manage small groups rosters.
- Reminder texts, special communications, etc.
- One-page, bi-weekly newsletter (items posted to website).
- Member of the church in good standing.
- Mature, faithful, and trustworthy individual.
- Time availability: 1-2 hours a week.

D. Small Groups Forming Now:

- Several Small Group Leaders have answered the call.
- Could use 2-3 more men to lead a small group.
- You may be invited to join a group soon, but you can choose your own group.
- Encourage you to bring your Bibles and perhaps a notebook or a prayer journal.

***** START RECORDER *****

Colossians 3:4-6
(18-Nov-2023)

Opening Prayer

Introduction:

- In the first two chapters of Colossians, Paul has been identifying and addressing the heresies of the Gnostics; heresies which, as we have discussed a number of times here, are still around today, both in the church and especially in the Christian cults. Now, Paul gets to his application of these corrections. In this morning's text, Paul makes mention of events at the return of Christ, known collectively as the "Day of the Lord." The big seminary word is Eschatology, the study of "Last Things."
 - 1Th 5:1-10 "2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. 3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief; 5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ... 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep [alive or dead], we will live together with Him."
- There are a number of events that make up the Day of the Lord, which is not a single day, but a period ("in my day). It is variously referred to as the Day of Redemption (Ep 4:30), the Last Day (Jn 11:24), the Day of Christ (Ph 1:10), the Day of God (2Pe 3:12), the Day of His Coming (Ma 3:2-3), etc. A quick review of the primary will help us put Paul's remarks into context. The passages we will be looking at this morning for understanding of these "Last Things" lend themselves well to a pretribulation view of the rapture of the Church These are the main events:

- The resurrection of the Dead in Christ (the Church).
 - 1Th 4:13-16 "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [Resurrection]
 - Is 26:19-21 "Your dead will live; Their corpses will rise. You who lie in the dust, awake and shout for joy, For your dew is as the dew of the dawn, And the earth will give birth to the departed spirits. [Resurrection] 20 Come, my people, enter your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course. [Paradise - I go to prepare a place for you (Jn 14:2)] 21 For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their wrongdoing; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain." [Tribulation]
- The transformation of each believer's flesh into a glorified body.
 - 1Co 15:50-53 "Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. 53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality."
- The secret Rapture of the Church (meet Christ in the air).
 - 1Th 4:17-18 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words."

- Mt 24:36-42 “36 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone. 37 For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. 38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be. 40 Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left. 42 “Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming.”

- The Church enters Paradise:
 - Lk 23:43 “And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”

 - Jn 14:2-6 “2 In My Father’s house are many rooms; if that were not so, I would have told you, because I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will take you to Myself, so that where I am, there you also will be. 4 And you know the way where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going; how do we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me.”

 - Is 26:20 “Come, my people, enter your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs its course.”

- The Great Tribulation in which God brings His wrath upon the people of the earth. Also referred to as the 70th Week of Daniel (Da 9:24-27), the Time of Jacob’s Trouble (Je 30:7), etc.
 - Is 26:21 “For behold, the Lord is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their wrongdoing; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.”

 - Mt 24:21-22 “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again. And if those days had not been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.”

- The public Return of Christ with the Church.
 - Re 1:7 “BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.”
- Christ’s 1,000-year Millennial Reign - Come to the Pastor’s Revelation study.

Read Colossians 3:4-6

Colossians 3:4 (NOTES)

- “When Christ ... is revealed ... you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” - This refers, first, to the glory in which Christ will return at His Second Coming(not the Rapture of the Church) - utterly victorious in all things, visually stunning (Remember the of glimpse of which Peter, James, and John were given on the Mount Transfiguration of Christ Mt 19:1-9?), and in full command of the earth. At Christ’s glorious return, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Him as Lord (Php 2:10-11). This will not be for the world to witness at the unseen Rapture of the Church, but at His Second Coming (the Parousia) when every eye will see.
- “When Christ is revealed you also will be revealed with Him in glory.” - This refers, second, to the glorification of all true believers. We will be glorified with Christ when God reveals to the world that He has finally and permanently eradicated all sin from our lives via the exchange of our sinful, broke-down, fleshly/carnal bodies for our eternal, sinless, holy, glorified bodies. Our glory will be revealed with Christ to the world when we return with Christ at His Second Coming.
- This is known as the final stage of the Ordo Salutis (Latin: Order of Salvation), a doctrine of both soteriology (study of doctrine of salvation) and eschatology (study of the doctrine of last things) in which the final step of redemption is applied to the believer. We who will have been changed into our immortal glorified bodies will return and reign with Jesus in glory. All this assumes a pretribulation rapture of the Church followed by a second event, the Return of Christ to the earth.

Colossians 3:5 (NOTES)

- “therefore” - Since you have died with Christ (positionally) and since you and I will appear with Him in glory at His coming, so live (practically). We cannot simply wait for the Holy Spirit to win all our internal battles, but we must actively participate in the struggle, yielding to Him, but also resisting temptation, sin, and the Evil One, and maintaining our daily dialogue with God the Father by practicing the spiritual disciplines of prayer, and the study and memorization of, and the meditation upon Scripture. This is the conversation of our relationship with Him: He speaks and we listen to His Word. We speak and He hears us in prayer. Dialogue. Co 2:20, 3:3, Ja 4:7, Php 3:19, Ro 12:1-2
- “consider the members of your earthly body as dead” - (Gr. - nekrosate = Lit. - put to death). The instruction is to struggle against and conquer the tendencies of our mortal flesh, which is still present with us, though we now have a new power (the Holy Spirit) also within us, helping us to wage a war against the desires of the flesh. We have an obligation and a command to sacrificially serve our Master, the Lord Jesus. In some areas of life, this will require of us a vigorous and painful act of personal determination. Self-discipline is manifest in self-control and self-sacrifice. Ro 7:21-25, 12:1-2
 - Ro 12:1-2 "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, [which is] your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."
- Dead to “immorality” = Sexual sin (Gr. - porneia), KJV - fornication, homosexuality and sexual deviance, pornography, etc.
- Dead to “impurity” = Uncleaness in thought, word, deed (Gr. - akatharsia).
- Dead to “passion” = Uncontrolled sexual desire (Gr. - pathos). Lust, even for non-sexual things, such as manic interest in hobbies, sports, especially those which might tend to displace Christ in our lives.
- Dead to “evil desire” = General craving, longing for things ungodly (Gr. - epithumia).

- Dead to “greed, which is idolatry” = The pursuit of more than one needs, to the disregard of others; also covetousness (Gr. - pleonexian). This is idolatrous because earthly pursuits become the central focus of life to the neglect of the pursuit of the spiritual life with God. Idolatry is ultimately self-centered. The Christ-centered life pursues an ever increasing relationship with God.

Colossians 3:6 (NOTES)

- “Because of these” - That is, because of the existence of these things in the world, God, who is perfectly righteous and just, must judge them.
- “the sons of disobedience” - Who are these people? They are not children of God, and if not His, then whose? These are the unsaved destined for the eternal fire. These are the children of Satan.
 - Jn 8:44 “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”
 - Co 1:12-14 “giving thanks to the Father For He rescued us from the domain of darkness [as children of the devil], and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son [as children of God], in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
 - 1Pe 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”
- “the wrath of God will come” - This is not a warning to the believers at Colossae, but to whom? The Gnostic heretics, the false teachers, who are themselves unbelievers, and their unsaved followers.

Discussion: God's wrath is evidence of His justice, but how is it evidence of His love?

* God's justice is an expression of His love. He loves his children, and He brings vengeance upon those who harm them. He has compassion on the victim, the down-trodden, and because He loves the world, He must also bring judgment against it. God is just precisely because He is love. Love is an attribute of God's nature (His ontology), and justice is a moral manifestation of His attribute of love. All of God's moral attributes - mercy, grace, justice, compassion, sympathy, forgiveness, long-suffering, benevolence - flow from His heart of love.

Application: Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you're having 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