

Have you ever...

- Received a gift you didn't want?
- Received a gift you didn't understand?
- Given a gift that was not well-received?
- Given a gift that was not appreciated?

Paul's Letter to the

Colossians



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Paul and the Colossian Church

- Why did Paul write?
 - Spur believers on to maturity
 - Counter false teachers/teaching
 - Positive, affirming tone
 - 'Remember what is true'



The Theme of Colossians

2:6-7 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.



Reasons for Giving Thanks (12)

1. The Work of the Father (13)
2. The Person of the Son (14-20)
3. The Change in the Colossians (21-23)



The Work of the Father (13)



DOMAIN OF
DARKNESS

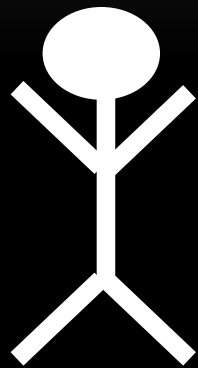


- Absence of Light
- Opposition to the Light
 - John 1:5; 3:19-21
 - Eph. 4:17-19; 6:12

The Work of the Father (13)



DOMAIN OF
DARKNESS



KINGDOM
OF HIS SON



The Person of the Son (14-20)

- “In Whom (Christ)”
 - *Set free from sin*
 - *Sins sent away*
 - Thru His blood
(Eph. 1:7)



KINGDOM
OF HIS SON



The Son Poem

- ‘who is ..., the firstborn ...’ (15)
 - ‘for in Him’ ‘through’ ‘to’ (16)
 - ‘and He is’ (17) **Creation**
 - ‘and He is’ (18a) **New-Creation**
- ‘who is ..., the firstborn ...’ (18b)
 - ‘for in Him’ ‘through’ ‘to’ (19-20)



The Son Poem

- 'in Him all things' (16a)
 - 'all things through Him' (16b)
 - 'all things in Him' (17)
- 'through Him all things' (20)



The Person of the Son (14-20)

- 'Image of the invisible God' (15)
 - Man *was made in* the image of God
 - Intended to be God's self-expression
 - Jesus *is* the image of God
 - God's full & complete self-expression
 - He fills both God's and man's roles



The Person of the Son (14-20)

- 'the firstborn of all creation' (15)
 - *First born* but not nec. *born first*
 - Rank/position, supremacy, authority
 - Israel (Ex. 4:22); David('s Heir) (Ps. 89:27)



The Person of the Son (14-20)

- 'in' 'through' 'to' Christ (16)
 - Mediator of creation (John 1:3; Heb. 1:2)
 - Cf. Prov. 8:22-36
 - Sustainer of creation (Heb. 1:3)
 - Purpose of creation (1 Cor. 15:20-28; Eph. 1:22-23; Rev. 1:8; Phil. 2:9-11)



The Person of the Son (14-20)

- 'the firstborn from the dead' (18)
 - Not the first to be raised from the dead
 - The first to have a resurrection body
 - Immortal, incorruptible (1 Cor. 15)
 - He has authority over life and death
 - Rev. 1:17-18; John 5:28-29; Heb. 2:14



The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)

- Their Past
 - ‘You were formerly alienated’
 - Estranged, separate
 - Eph. 2:12; 4:18



The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)

- Their Past

- 'You were formerly hostile in mind'

- *Antagonistic in your intentions*

- Gen. 6:5; Rom. 1:21-32; 8:1-17; Eph. 4:17-19



The Change in the Colossians (2:1-23)



- Their Past
 - ‘engaged in evil deeds’
 - Outward expressions of the intentions
 - Mirrors the spiral of 1:9-10
 - Wrong thinking leads to sin, which leads to further wrong thinking...

The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)

- Their Present

- 'He has now reconciled you'

- Enemies brought together

- 'in His fleshly body through death'

- Substitute offering (v 20; Rom. 8:3)

- Attacking the heresy...



The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)



- False Teaching
 - “Physical / material is bad”
 - “Spiritual / immaterial is good”
- Paul
 - You were hostile in thoughts – bad!
 - Jesus had a physical body – good!

The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)

- Their Future

- 'Holy, blameless and beyond reproach'

- These things are true of Christ, and they are 'in Christ' (Eph. 1:4)

- In the mean time, sanctification (from *position* to *practice*)



The Change in the Colossians (2:15-23)



- How they get there
 - ‘if indeed you continue in the faith’
 - Better: *since* you continue (see 3:1)
 - Holding to sound doctrine indicates true spiritual condition (2 John 7-11)

The Change in the Colossians (2:1-23)



- How they get there
 - Holding to sound doctrine
 - 1 Tim. 1:3-11; 4:1-16; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; Titus 1:9; 2:1
 - Heresy is deceptive
 - Eph. 4:14-16; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; Jude

The Change in the Colossians (2:1-23)

- How they get there
 - 'not moved away from the hope of the gospel'
 - 'firmly established and steadfast'
 - Evidenced by their faith and love (4-5)



So What?

- How important is giving thanks?
- How well do you understand who Jesus is?
- How well do you understand what God has done for you?
- Are you willing to grow in knowledge?

