

Paul's Letter to the

Colossians



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The Apostle Paul's Admonition

1. Walk (2:6-7)
2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)



1. Walk (2:6-7)

- Walk: *way of living life*
 - Behavior; ethical conduct
 - Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 4:1, 17; 5:8, 15; Phil. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:6, 11
 - 'Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord' (1:10)



1. Walk (2:6-7)

A. As you have received...

- By responding in faith to the truth they heard from Epaphras (1:6-7)
- Continue to walk in faith according to what is true (cf. 1:9-10)
- No need to 'receive' something new



1. Walk (2:6-7)

- ...Christ Jesus the Lord
 - Includes all of Who He is and all of what He has done (cf. Rom. 10:9-10)
 - Includes all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, based on which we can walk worthy of Him (1:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:3-11)



1. Walk (2:6-7)

B. Having been firmly rooted

- Christ is the solid ground

C. Now being built up in Him

- God is building His church on the foundation laid by the apostles/prophets (Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:10-11)



1. Walk (2:6-7)

D. Established in *your* faith

- Confirmed in the faith, i.e. – the body of Christian truth (e.g. – Acts 16:5)

E. Just as you were instructed (see 1:28)

- Epaphras faithfully taught the truth of Christ and the gospel (Col. 1:7)



1. Walk (2:6-7)

F. Overflowing with gratitude

- When we truly understand what God has done for us, it should result in joyous gratitude and thanks (1:12; 3:16; 4:2)



2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- *no one carries you off as spoil*
 - There is a battle, and you are the prize
- Be on guard against error constantly!
 - Gal. 5:15; 1 Cor. 8:9; 10:12, 18; Phil. 3:2; Acts 20:28-32
 - Not 'closed-minded' but discerning



2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- Captive through “philosophy”
 - Not philosophy in general but this particular brand (*worldview*)
 - Empty (*vain* or *void*) vs. Treasures (2:3)
 - Deceit vs. the Word of Truth (1:5)



2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- Captive through “philosophy”
 - According to the traditions of men
 - Tradition ≠ Truth
 - The source is man (demons)
 - Mark 7:1-13; 1 Tim. 4:1-6; James 3:13-18



2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- Captive through “philosophy”
 - The elementary principles of the world
 - *Earth, air, fire, water?*
 - Heavenly bodies (angels/demons)?
 - National deities (cf. 2:15)?
 - Times & seasons (2:16; Gal. 4:8-10)



2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- Rather than according to Christ
 - *In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (9)*



Father



Godness

Son

Holy
Spirit

Father



Godness



Holy
Spirit

2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- Rather than according to Christ
 - *In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (9)*
 - The fullness has always been in the Son
 - Now the fullness resides bodily
 - Fully and truly the *God-Man* (Mediator)



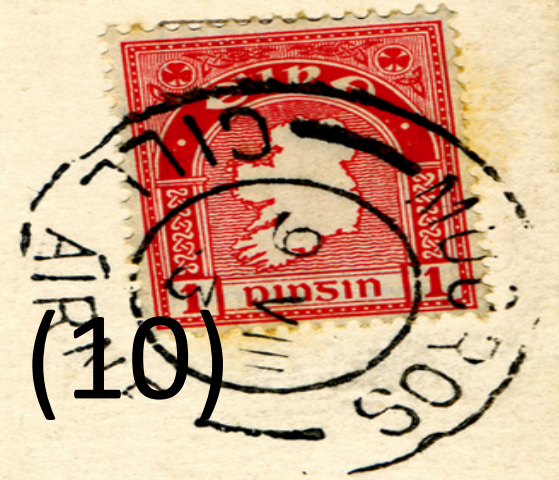
2. Watch Out! (2:8-15)

- To avoid error (8), start with truth and think consistently
 - Example: 1 Cor. 15:12-19
- Vv. 9-15 are a reminder of what true



According to Christ

- In Him you have been made full (10)
 - Christ is all you need
 - There is no need to look to any other source or intermediary (*rule or authority*)



According to Christ

- In Him you were also circumcised (11)
 - Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 17)
 - Misunderstood / abused (Acts 15:1)
 - Removal of the body of the flesh?



Circumcision? Removal?



1. Putting off our sin nature

- Spiritual, not physical: Deut. 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; Rom. 2:25-29; Phil. 3:2-3

2. Christ's crucifixion / death (metaphor)

- 2 Corinthians 5 – clothed/unclothed

3. Our family & extended relationships

According to Christ

- Buried / raised in baptism (12)
 - Baptisms symbolizes our identification with Christ's death, burial, resurrection
 - Rom. 6:3-5 (newness of life)
 - In Christ, we have already been raised
 - Now new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17)



According to Christ

- Through faith in the working of God
 - We must believe in the resurrection
 - Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15
 - Apostles were eye-witnesses (Acts 1:21-22; 2:32; 4:33)
 - Proof of God's claims (Acts 17:31)



According to Christ

- ...The working of God
 - We were dead; He made us alive (13)
 - Forgiven **all** our transgressions
 - Eph. 1:7; 4:32; Rom. 8:1-2



According to Christ

- Cancelled out the cert. of debt
 - Like an IOU (see Phile. 19), the law exposes our debt to God
 - The law confined the Jews and excluded the Gentiles (Gal. 3:19-29)
 - **BUT JESUS PAID IT ALL!** (2 Cor. 5:21)



According to Christ

- 'rulers & authorities'? (15)

1. Fallen angels
2. Good angels (mediators of the law)
3. Gov't & religion (Rome & Judaism)
4. Cosmic forces of evil



According to Christ

- God and the 'rulers & authorities'
 - God showed them to be less than Christ
 - They are all subject to Christ
 - 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21
 - They have been dealt with



So What?

- Walking is based on knowing
 - Do I know what is true?
 - Do I think about what is true? (Phil. 4:8-9)
- Am I on guard against error?
- Do I truly rest in what God has done?
- Am I thankful for what God has done?

