



Colossians #9 Bible Study, Colossians 2:18 through 3:4
Lesson/Study By: Gerald Cumby

Are you going in the wrong direction?

You can be going somewhere and still be off-base!

So...It is imperative to not get off the base path.

Let's Review Some Solid Truths and Facts:

Make sure we are: Not letting the foundational truths of God's salvation message be changed...Not worshipping anyone or anything but the Lord God Jehovah and His Son Jesus the Christ. The Holy Spirit is constantly and consistently pitching the Jesus Aspect of Salvation. He convicts and challenges us to repent and live a life of holiness.

Colossians 2:18-19, "Let no one cheat you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God."

These false teachers ... "Taking delight in false humility and worship of angels."

- The aspects of **false humility** and the **worship of angels** were parts of the false teaching troubling the Colossian Christians.
- Paul initially touches on these themes and brings to mind those things throughout the letter of Colossians.

"If anyone thinks they are something when they are not, they deceive themselves." – Galatians 6:3

"I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." – [Revelation 22:8-9](#) ESV

- **Intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the Head:**

- ✓ This describes the spiritual arrogance of these false teachers and those who believed what they taught.
- ✓ There are few things more dangerous among Christians than spiritual pride and arrogance.

“I would hate to know that my sin of spiritual pride and arrogance are the two characteristics most like Lucifer (Satan). Pride and arrogance were his downfall.”

- **From whom all the body grows with the increase which is from God:** This is God’s plan for church growth. We remain faithful and connected to Jesus (our **Head**), and God gives the increase.

LEGALISM SHOULD NOT RAISE ITS HEAD IN THE CHURCH. HOWEVER, RESPECT FOR THE SANCTUARY, FOR THE WORD OF GOD, FOR THE PASTORAL STAFF IS IMPERATIVE.

Colossians 2:20-23, “Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations—“Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.”

- **Do not... do not... do not:** *This is a perfect description of legalistic religion—defined more by what we don’t do than by what we do.*
- **Don’t be misled...Christianity is a moral religion; it does have clear moral boundaries. But at its foundation, Christianity is a religion of positive action.**

You died with Christ from the basic principles of the world which perish with your using of such...according to the commandments and doctrines of men. These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom... but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh:

- *Remember—This is the key to living above legalism.*
- *Our identification with Jesus in both His death and resurrection becomes the foundation for our Christian life, instead of our “traditions of men.” Traditions of men...meaning, “Men telling us what, why, where, and when to do something.” The Bible is and should always be our guide in life.*

- We need to be careful, be alert and wise with our Bible knowledge...Not letting it lead us into an inappropriate and confrontational relationship with God and man!

Luke 2:52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men."

And we should do likewise!

Chapter 3 is a “Put off...and Put on” Chapter:

Question: One might say, “What is the difference between “putting off and putting on” truth teaching and a “do and do not” method of getting the Truth Factor point across to the church?

Answer: The humility part is the main difference! The “Do and Do Not” Structure of lecturing comes across as just that...a Lecture in lieu of a Learning process. Remember...To obey is better than sacrifice.

Sacrificing the unblemished sheep was not as important as the obedience to what God had said and required.

Today, the same is true. You do what God is asking and offer up to God a “living sacrifice, holy acceptable to Him.” Faith and Obedience to God’s Word is the key to happiness and having a life pleasing to yourself, others, and God.

“Put off the old man.” (Part of Paul’s PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS)

Colossians 3:1-4, “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

Practical Christian living is built on the foundational truth that if we were (are) raised with Christ that we can seek those things which are above.

Because we were raised with Christ, we should act just as Jesus did when He was resurrected.

Think about it!

- After His resurrection, Jesus left the tomb. So should we! The fact is...We don’t live there anymore!

- After His resurrection, Jesus looked forward to heaven, knowing He would soon ascend there (knowing what heaven was like...He could hardly contain himself)... “I’m going to be with my Father and your Father.”
- He knew His citizenship was in heaven... We, therefore, should recognize that our citizenship is in heaven.

If that doesn’t cause you to shout, then your shouter has turned to powder. Don’t ever forget who we are and what we have to look forward to!

Set your mind on things above:

- **The best Christian living comes from minds that are fixed on heaven.**
 - ✓ The believer is to ‘seek the things... above.’
 - ✓ Love heavenly things; study them; let your hearts be entirely engrossed by them.
- **When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory:**
 - ✓ The promise of the return of Jesus is not only that we will see His glory, but so that we also will appear with Him in glory.
 - ✓ Christ who is our life: Sometimes we say, “Music is his life” or “Sports is his life” or “He lives for his work.”

Of the Christian it should be said, “Jesus Christ is his life.”

What will you look like “On that day?”

ALL will recognize the true nature of the saints of God (spiritual state); grace forgiven, mercy protected, loved beyond what human nature could ever experience.

The “Glory State” is much better than our minds can comprehend!

That Will Be Glory for Me! Song by: Charles H. Gabriel (1900)

♪ When all my labors and trials are o'er, And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
 Just to be near the dear Lord I adore Will through the ages be glory for me.

Refrain: O that will be glory for me, Glory for me, glory for me;

When by His grace I shall look on His face, That will be glory, be glory for me. ♪♪♪♪

Materials used for Lesson/Bible Study:

- Past Bible Studies-Gerald Cumby, References available
- Enduring Word - Free Bible Commentary from Pastor David Guzik
- Colossians 3 – William Barclay's Daily Study Bible - Bible Commentaries - StudyLight.org