

A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLLOSSIANS

# Understanding Jesus



## WEEK 5 STUDY GUIDE

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# Monday, February 6, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 2:8-23

**Scripture Verse:** *"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8*

## Today's Thought:

God created us to live in perfect relationship and communion with him. Man should serve him freely; but Satan who was displeased with this relationship, used all possible and even unimaginable means to deceive man and separate him from God. He used all kinds of wrong philosophies to move man away from his creator. His philosophy was based on lies, deceit, trickery and denigration to capture the spirit of man and direct it towards evil and cause him to disobey his creator. Dragged into this philosophy, man had turned away from God to live according to the thoughts of the devil. We read: "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience." Ephesians 2:1-2.

The prince of this world uses his philosophy to try to deceive and seduce the children of God. It was this vain and deceptive philosophy based on curious speculations about things above us, or which did not concern us, that the false teachers used to lead Christians of Colossae astray from sound doctrine. Paul encouraged Christians to avoid any philosophy, any teaching that diminishes or denies the supremacy of Jesus Christ over creation, visible and invisible, thrones and dignities.

Instead of clinging to this human philosophy based on deceit, tradition and human rudiments, let us instead cling to a philosophy that presents Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God, the supreme judge of men, the Savior of believers, the giver of eternal life; believe in a study of the works of God which leads us to his knowledge and confirms our faith in him. Paul asks the Christians in Colossae to turn away from all who walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Those who walk in the direction of the world are turned away from Christ. They cannot model our faith and thought. We must not let them violate our conscience and spoil our relationship with Christ our Savior. Christ has set us free by his blood. We need to be vigilant, for the devil seeks to

sneak in and creep in among us every day, to undermine the freedom we have in Jesus Christ, with intent to enslave us. According to the eternal purpose of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, through faith in him, we have the freedom to approach God with confidence. Since Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, we must be rooted and grounded in his love, to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge, so that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. From there, the devil will no longer be able to delight us with his vain and deceptive philosophy. We must watch over our soul more than anything we have, for Christ bought us with a price. At the cost of his Blood shed on the cross.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your world today. I realize that human philosophy cannot bring me closer to you. Help me to cling to the philosophy of the Bible which presents Jesus Christ as your only begotten Son, the supreme judge of men, the Savior of believers and the giver of eternal life. Fill me with all your goodness. Help me watch over my soul more than anything else.

- Why did God create us?
- What is Satan's plan?
- What did the false teachers do to deceive the Christians of Colossae?
- What was Paul's advice to the Christians?
- As Christians, what kind of study should we believe in?

**Further Reading:** Acts 20:28-30

## Tuesday, February 7, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 2:8-23

**Scripture Verse:** *“In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead” Colossians 2:11-12*

### Today's Thought:

We have seen that the enemy's plan is to undermine our freedom by using a false philosophy, by using evil thoughts, vain deceptions, the rudiments of the world to snatch us from the hands of God. Fortunately, the one who called us is faithful; he will not let us fall into the traps of the devil.

In this new study, we will consider verses 11-12 which tell us about circumcision and baptism. Let's talk a bit about circumcision. Circumcision is a surgical act consisting of the removal of the foreskin. The term circumcise literally means "to cut around". Circumcision was a religious rite required for all of Abraham's male offspring, as a sign of God's covenant with his people (Genesis 17:9-14). Circumcision is a bloody act. Besides the religious ritual, in a divine setting, Paul said that Christ had a circumcision done by God himself. Instead of removing part of him, it was his whole body that passed to death, it was all his blood that was shed on the cross. Christ, by his death on the cross, established a new covenant in his blood. This covenant is completely different from the old covenant because the old covenant only involved the people of Israel.

Now, with the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, the covenant is inclusive for all who trust in Jesus Christ by faith. God established in the death and resurrection of Jesus a new covenant. By analogy, this bloody sacrifice on the cross is a total, definitive and inclusive circumcision. It was this bloody sacrifice that paved the way for our salvation. This circumcision reflects on all Christians who are immersed in the waters of baptism. By accepting Jesus Christ, by being baptized, we are buried in the death and resurrection of Christ. By being baptized, the Christian has entered a new covenant with God in Jesus Christ. Its spiritual meaning is linked to the death of Christ. Being immersed in the waters, we are buried with Christ in his death. It is normally the end of the old life when we were in the world. Coming out of the waters of baptism, we are brought

into a new position of life, in a new relationship with God our creator. We are resurrected with Christ.

Brothers and sisters, we are buried and resurrected with Christ in baptism to become a new person. We are in a new covenant in his blood. Therefore, in his last communion with his disciples, he told them that they had concluded a new covenant in his blood. "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:20. By his death and resurrection, Jesus broke down the barrier that existed between us and God. Now, through Jesus, we enter a new relationship with God, which is sealed by his shed blood. Therefore, we must constantly seek things from above. "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your heart on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." Colossians 3:1-4.

Lord Jesus, thank you very much for this circumcision that you underwent. Your whole body gave itself for me, all your blood was shed on the cross to bring me closer to your Father. Thank you for this bloody sacrifice that paved the way for my salvation. Through baptism I am brought into a new position of life, into a new relationship with God. Again, thank you for redeeming me.

- What is circumcision?
- How did Paul say Jesus was circumcised by God?
- What is the meaning of this circumcision for you?
- How do you understand your baptism by immersion?

**Further Reading:** 1 Corinthians 6:17-20

## Wednesday, February 8, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 2:8-23

**Scripture Verse:** *“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”*  
Colossians 2:13-14

### Today's Thought:

In the previous study we saw that Christ, by his death on the cross, established a new covenant in his blood that includes all nations, Jewish and Gentile. Through baptism, the Christian has entered a new covenant with God in Jesus Christ. In this study, we will see that Christ washed us in his blood, he made us pass from death to life, from condemnation to freedom, from perdition to salvation.

In verses 13 and 14 we see what we deserve as punishment in our flesh for our trespasses and our acts of wickedness, Jesus suffered it for us in his flesh. He died in our place. As we saw in Isaiah 53:5 "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." He offered himself to bring us before God spotless if we remain anchored and steadfast in faith in him, not turning away from the gospel of grace we have received. We read in Titus 3:5-6, "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us by the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, which he generously poured out on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, that, justified by his grace, we might become heirs with the hope of eternal life."

By accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, we are freed from the condemnation of sin. Everything the devil could have accused us of was eliminated on the cross. The apostle Paul said it so well in Romans 8:1-2: "Therefore there is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, for through Jesus Christ the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death." Those who accept Christ and abide in his word are no longer condemned. We have gone from enemy to friend of God, from slavery to freedom, from condemnation to salvation. We are reconciled to God through the death of his Son; being reconciled to God, we have eternal life. Now that we are justified by the blood of Christ, we have indeed escaped the wrath of God.

We find grace and forgiveness of our sins by accepting Jesus Christ. We read: "If you proclaim with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9. In Jesus Christ, God has forgiven us of all our trespasses. We are now the sweet odor of Christ for God. What Grace! What a blessing! We become another citizen, we have another identity and another hope. "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we look forward to a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to put everything under his control, will transform our humble bodies so that they are like his glorious body." Philippians 3:20- 21. If Christ did all this for us, shouldn't we be more attached to him?

Heavenly Father, thank you so much for your great gift of eternal life to me in your Son Jesus Christ. He was pierced for my transgressions, crushed for my iniquities, the chastisement that brought me peace was upon him. Now I am set free and saved. Thank you, Lord, for eliminating on the cross everything the devil could have accused me of. Now I have gone from enemy to friend of God. Help me to experience your love and forgiveness every day.

- What did we deserve in our flesh because of our sins?
- What did Jesus do for us on the cross?
- Why did he die for us on the cross?
- How do you understand our reconciliation with God?

**Further Reading:** Hebrews 7:24-27



## Thursday, February 9, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 2:8-23

**Scripture Verse:** *"Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind." Colossians 2:18*

### Today's Thought:

In the previous study we saw that Jesus Christ washed us in his blood, he made us pass from death to life, from condemnation to freedom, from perdition to salvation. He took our punishment in his body to set us free. This freedom is acquired at the price of the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 18, Paul warns the Christians in Colossae about false teachers, telling them: "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind." The apostle Paul wanted them to understand that Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. In matters of salvation, angels can do nothing like the false teachers would have tried to make people believe that the world was made by angels. Heretics at that time used angels as mediators because they felt they were not pure enough to approach God directly. They had ignored the supremacy of Jesus Christ over all that exists. They had ignored that only the grace in Jesus Christ can give us confidence and authority to draw near to God.

Thus, the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews tells us: "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." Hebrews 10:19-22.

Thanks to Jesus Christ, we can present ourselves to God without feeling guilty for our past faults. The victory of Jesus on the cross is our victory. He stripped down rulers, authorities, and dark forces, and put them on

public display to give us free access to approach the throne of God's grace. Jesus made the enemy powerless, he put everything under control. Therefore, we must not allow ourselves to be led by the devil and his servants out of the real path. "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14 The plan of the devil and his servants is to make us tend towards what turns us away from Christ, and thus deprives us of the prize of the heavenly calling. As Paul did for the Christians in Colossae, our prayer today is to encourage you to remain attached to your Supreme Leader, Jesus Christ the head of his church.

Lord, thank you for this great privilege you have granted me to present myself personally before your throne without the help of an earthly mediator. So, as I am, I present myself to you. I give myself to you. I bring to your feet my fear, my shame, my worries, my pain, my blame, my anger. I lay at your feet all my anxieties, depressions and all the negative thoughts of today and tomorrow in exchange for your peace, joy, love and happiness which exists in you alone.

- Who is the only mediator between God and man?
- What was the conception of the heretics?
- How should we present ourselves before God?
- What did Jesus do to allow us free access to the throne of God?
- What is the devil's plan?

**Further Reading:** Ephesians 5:6-9

## Friday, February 10, 2023

**Read:** Colossians 2:8–23

**Scripture Verse:** *“If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” Colossians 2:20–21*

### Today’s Thought:

We have just seen that Paul warns the Christians of Colossae against false teachers by telling them: “Let no one who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. The apostle Paul wanted Christians to understand that Jesus is the only mediator between God and man. As far as salvation is concerned, angels cannot do anything, as the false teachers would have tried to make the world look like it was created by angels.

In verse 20, the apostle emphasized the new status Christians have in Jesus Christ. Since they have another status in Christ, they must have Christ as their supreme guide, not the rudiments of men based on a system of falsehood. The Christian should know that he died with Christ, rose again with Christ, and is united with him in heaven. One who is united with Christ in heaven must not be carried away by human philosophy which attempts to diminish Christ as the only Savior of mankind. He must know that he was baptized into Jesus Christ into his death and was buried with Christ by baptism into his death. As Christ rose from the dead, so the Christian also rose with Christ and must walk daily in newness of life. He must live for God in Jesus Christ. He must not live according to the system of thought and the principles of this world. The heretics wanted to impose on the Christians of Colossae human principles and commandments that have nothing to do with the salvation they obtain by grace.

The Gnostics taught human precepts on the pretext that abstaining from eating and drinking certain things that God created would make them holy and pure before God. They have forgotten that Christ is the end of all things, and that he is the end of the law for the justification of all who believe in him. In a nutshell, Paul meant that the Christian should not be troubled by what is happening or what will happen. He must have his eyes fixed on Jesus, the Head of the faith, he who suffered the cross, despised the ignominy and humiliation of men, but now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus is the solution to our problems and he

is the true God in whom we must place our faith and our hope. Brothers and sisters, since you are baptized into Jesus Christ, give yourselves to God as being from the dead, and offer your members to God as instruments of righteousness.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. You reminded me through your word that I have a new status in Christ. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead, and I too, rose with Christ through baptism. Lord, help me to walk each day in newness of life because you are the true God in whom I place my faith and my hope. Help me to live my life fully for your glory.

- What does the Christian have in Jesus Christ?
- What should the Christian know?
- How should the Christian walk?

**Further Reading:** Hebrews 12:1-2

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1*

*Hey! It's Friday! Saturday and Sunday are on the way; do not forget your appointment with your Lord! He loves that!*



## NOTES





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