Sunday School Lesson

February 19, 2023

Clothed With Christ

Colossians 3:5-17

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

February 19, 2023

How should we handle it when we are told things that are contradictory to the faith teachings we've received?

Sunday School Lesson Objectives

February 19, 2023

To understand directives issued by the Apostle Paul to the people of Colossae.

To understand how all of this applies to us.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1 February 19, 2023

- 1. Bibliography
- 2. Points of Information: Colossae

3. Points of Information: Colossians

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

February 19, 2023

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember These Things

Colossae (also spelled and pronounced Colosse) was an ancient city in Asia Minor – now modern day Turkey.

False teachers had become prominent in Colossae, spreading teachings of heresy, saying that Christ Jesus was simply just one of many pathways to God. Judaizers were present also, saying that Gentile Christians must first adhere to Jewish practices.

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter while he was imprisoned (under house arrest) in Rome. This is one of the four letters known as the Captivity (Prison) Epistles in the New Testament. The other Prison Letters are Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon.

With this Epistle (letter), the **Apostle Paul disputed false** teachings (especially leading into Gnosticism), which had become prevalent, and to strengthen the understanding and beliefs of the Colossian people in Christ Jesus.

A man from Colossae, Epaphras, visited the Apostle Paul during his Roman imprisonment and told him what was going on in his city. Paul had never visited Colossae. Epaphras – not Paul – is the one who established the Colossian church.

The letter to the Colossian church was delivered by a man named Tychicus. He also took a letter to Ephesus, to the Ephesian church. Ephesians 6:21-22; Colossians 4:7-8

The letter to the Colossian church is where the Apostle Paul tells us that Luke is a physician:

"Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings..."
Colossians 4:14

Paul directed that this letter was to also be read by the people of nearby Laodicea.

Colossians 4:16

Lesson Context - 1 Paul, a Roman prisoner, wrote this letter to address issues brought to him by Epaphras. These matters included a need for the Apostle to counter false teachings, to remind the people to live holy lives, to reemphasize the fact that Christ is wholly sufficient and that He is the image of God and more.

Lesson Context - 2

Although Jewish believers were present in the Colossian church, it was primarily made up of Gentile Christians.

12

Text - UMI Outline #1

Colossians 3:5-9

New Life in Christ

Colossians 3:5 (NLT)

So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshipping the things of this world.

Colossians 3:6-7

Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.

You used to do these things when your life was still part of the world.

Colossians 3:8-9

But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.

Text - UMI Outline #2

Colossians 3:10-11

Renewal Procedures

Colossians 3:10-11

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.

In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us.

Text - UMI Outline #3

Colossians 3:12-17

Walking New

Colossians 3:12-13

Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tender-hearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

Colossians 3:14-15

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.

Colossians 3:16-17

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Remember these things:

It is very important to study – not just to read – God's Holy Word (the Bible), so that you can be well equipped to guard against and counter false teachings.

Africa Bible Commentary. Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

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Bible Handbook, The.

<u>New Testament</u>. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, General Editors.

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Holy Imagination. Judy Fentress-Williams.

In Search of Paul. John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed.

<u>Life Application Bible Commentary – Philippians, Colossians & Philemon.</u>

Life Application Study Bible.

MacArthur Bible Commentary, The. John MacArthur.

<u>Precepts for Living [UMI]</u>. Vince L. Bantu [Editor].

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament, The. Luke Timothy Johnson.