

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

INTRODUCTION:

- Colossians 3 teaches us about living a Christ-centered life.
 - COLOSSIANS 3.1-4:** Life is all about Jesus.
 - COLOSSIANS 3.5-11:** What is a Christ-Centered life?
 - COLOSSIANS 5.12FF:** Putting on a Christlike mindset.
- COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“Therefore.”* Since we are baptized believers, we need to have the heart of Jesus.

I. THE HEART OF LOVE

- COLOSSIANS 3.12:** *“Therefore, as the elect of God...”*
 - We are to put on *“tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering”* (cf. Rom. 5.7)
 - We are to forgive *“even as Christ forgave you.”* (v. 13)
- COLOSSIANS 3.14:** *“But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.”*
 - Love (agape): Wanting what is best is what ties everything together. (Rom. 13.8-10)
 - A heart of love dictates how we treat each other.

II. THE HEART OF TOGETHERNESS

- COLOSSIANS 3.15:** *“let the peace of God rule in your hearts”*
 - What is to be in control of our hearts? (cf. 2 Tim. 3.16,17)
 - COLOSSIANS 3.15:** *“to which also you were called in one body.”* It is the peace we have with each other.
- The peace of God is what governs our lives and determines how we treat each other. (Col. 3.14)

III. THE HEART OF THANKFULNESS

- COLOSSIANS 3.16:** *“...with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* Grace refers to being thankful. (cf. Matt. 15.36)
- In context, we are to live by the word of Christ. How? By the way that we worship.
 - Teaching by example. (Col. 3.16; cf. Matt. 5.16)
 - Admonishing. (Co 3.16; John 3.19,20)
 - Singing. How do you sing? (Col. 3.16)
- All this is done with an attitude of thankfulness. (vs. 16,17)

CONCLUSION: Does your heart beat with the rhythm of Christ?

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

July 24, 2022

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

SHOW YOUR WORK

I remember being in math class many years ago and the teacher demanding to always show my work. It was not enough to merely supply the answer. The teacher wanted to see how I arrived at the answer. It seemed unimportant and tedious at the time, but with a more mature perspective, I understand why I had to show my work.

Too many Christians are looking for answers. They have a question regarding some spiritual issue. Is it wrong to use musical instruments? Is it wrong to drink alcohol? While questions are asked, many are not interested in how one came up with the answer. They just want the bottom line.

The result is a church filled with people who have very strong views regarding doctrine and conduct. But they do not know why they believe what they do. Because they have no solid biblical reason for what they do but merely accept the answer as it was told to them, they hold to views that may not be biblically sound. Therefore, brethren begin to condemn others for things the Bible doesn't condemn or loose things that the Bible does not loose only because they were given an answer and never demanded the teacher to show their work.

If we are going to hold to a belief, let us always be willing to show our work. And let us demand no less from those who teach us. Paul said, *“Test all things, hold fast what is true.”* (1 Thes. 5.21). CLP

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JULY 24, 2022

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THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION

ROMANS 3:23,24

INTRODUCTION:

1. In life, some things are easy and some things are hard to complicated and hard to understand.
2. Several times in scripture, the question of how to be saved was asked. (Matt. 19.16; Acts 2.37; 16.30).
3. Such a simple question has been overly complicated by the different ways the religious world has answered it. [READ TEXT]

I. AVAILABLE

- A. Salvation has been made available to everyone.
 1. **ROMANS 3.23:** *“for all have sinned...”*
 2. God was never obligated to offer salvation to man as a debt that we were owed. (Rom. 11.33-35)
 3. **ROMANS 3.24:** *“being justified freely by His grace.”*
- B. Why did God make salvation available to us? Because of how He feels about us. (Titus 3.4,5; John 3.16)

II. BENEFICIAL

- A. Salvation carries the benefit of justification.
 1. **ROMANS 3.24:** *“being justified freely by His grace.”*
 2. It is a judicial term. (Ps. 50.6; Rev. 12.10; 1 John 2.1)
 3. With Christ as our defense attorney, every accusation of Satan falls on deaf ears. (Rom. 8.33,34)
- B. Salvation carries the benefit of redemption.
 1. **ROMANS 3.24:** *“redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”*
 2. It is a financial term. (Matt. 20.28; 1 Pet. 1.18,19)
 3. God provided the currency. (Eph. 1.7)
- C. Salvation carries the benefit of propitiation.
 1. **ROMANS 3.25:** *“whom God set forth as a propitiation”*
 2. A place of atonement. (Heb. 9.5; Lev. 16.16)
 3. God’s anger has been appeased. (Rom. 5.9)

III. CONDITIONAL

- A. Are there conditions connected to salvation?
 1. Calvinism teaches that salvation is unconditional.
 2. **ROMANS 3.25:** *“through faith”*
- B. What is faith? (Heb. 11.6,8)

CONCLUSION: Do you see the simplicity of salvation?

JUDGE NOT?

Judging is a word that has become a negative word in our current culture. The modern culture is all about all-inclusiveness. Anyone who judges a different behavior or lifestyle is considered intolerant and hateful and viewed as ignorant and closed-minded.

The word “judge” is defined “properly to distinguish, that is decide (mentally or judicially); by implication, to try, condemn, punish” [STRONG]. In essence, to judge is to make a determination as to whether something or someone is right or wrong. But why does it carry such a stigma?

In our self-gratifying culture, what is right and wrong is only limited by what is desirable and enjoyable. Therefore, if one finds homosexuality an enjoyable practice then it is right for them and no one has the right to condemn it. One might suggest that if someone enjoys going to the bar and getting drunk then who are we to judge them? It is furthermore advocated that if one adheres to the doctrine of Islam, he is no more to be judged than someone who follows the edicts of Christianity. Unfortunately, the policy of “no judging” adopted by society is in contradiction with the revealed will of God contained within the Bible.

Are there instructions where we are not to judge? Absolutely! Jesus condemned judging when it was done hypocritically. Indeed, one has no right to judge another pointing out a speck in their eye, when he has a plank in his own. In this circumstance, Jesus said, *“Judge not, that you be not judged”* (Matt. 7.1-5).

Additionally, one ought never to judge based solely on appearance. We cannot judge by race, by gender, or by any other exterior characteristic. When Samuel was to appoint the new king of Israel, he saw the strong stature of Eliab and proclaimed that this must be the Lord’s anointed (1 Sam. 16.6). However, God reminded Samuel that he was making the mistake of judging by appearance. The LORD looks at the heart (1 Sam. 16.7; John 7.24).

However, we justified in judging what is right and wrong, and even commanded to do so (Eph. 5.11). Yet our judgment is not based on personal preferences but on the standard of righteousness revealed within the pages of the Bible (John 17.17; Heb. 5.14).

If I do not condemn sin, but by inaction, show my approval, then I am just as wrong as the one who is engaged in the sin that I do not judge (Rom. 1.31).
CLP