

THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS COLOSSIANS 2:1-7

INTRODUCTION:

1. Are you making it harder for others to go to heaven by binding things the Bible never commanded? (Matt. 23.4)
2. Four times, the Holy Spirit warns the brethren about those who were teaching things that were not true. (Col. 2.4,8,16,18)
3. Colossians 2.8-10 directs our attention to those who are binding traditions on their brethren. [Read Colossians 2.8-10]

I. EXAMINING THE TEXT

- A. The teachings of man.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.8:** *“philosophies and empty deceit.”* Literally, the love of wisdom.
 2. **COLOSSIANS 2.8:** *“traditions of men.”* Traditions were treated as commandments. (Mark 7.4,8)
 3. **COLOSSIANS 2.8:** *“basic principles of the world.”* Thinking the way the world thinks. (1 John 2.16)
- B. Our emphasis is to be placed on our relationship with Christ.
 1. **COLOSSIANS 2.9:** *“in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”* He is the authority!
 2. **COLOSSIANS 2.10:** *“you are complete in Him.”*

II. TWO EXTREME POSITIONS

- A. Some are resistance to change.
 1. They resist any kind of change even if it is good for fear that it might lead to error.
 2. Jesus had some strong words for those who hold to the traditions of men. (Mark 7.8,9,13)
 3. We cannot condemn those who do not keep our traditions. (Col. 2.16)
- B. Some are insistent on change.
 1. They insist that there is always a better way, even if that way is contrary to scripture.
 2. The Bible warns us about straying away from the traditions of scripture. (1 Cor. 11.2; 2 Thess. 2.15; 3.6)

CONCLUSION: READ COLOSSIANS 2.8-10: All that we do must be *“according to Christ”*

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

May 29, 20122

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

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR IN A CHURCH?

According to a website titled “About Christianity”, writer and editor Mary Fairchild listed fourteen questions to ask when searching for a church that fits one’s personal preferences. Those questions included what kind of worship do you prefer? What are your beliefs? What kind of attire would you be expected to wear? What kind of ministries does a church have? For example, if you are single you would want a church which has a singles ministry.

This kind of approach to finding a church illustrates why there is such a religious divide. Too many are looking for a church that matches a set of personal preferences instead of seeking a church that conforms to what God desires (John 4.23,24). As a result, churches, aware of this mindset, are beginning to tailor their method of worship, develop programs, and even alter their doctrinal positions to appeal to the widest audience and attract as many members as they can.

Jesus warned that *“every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted”* (Matt. 15.13). We hope that you are looking for a church that strives to be the kind of church that works and worships according to the pattern that God revealed within His word (Heb. 8.5). Please let us know if you would like discuss with open Bibles what kind of church God desires. CLP

THE GOD WHO CARES

EXODUS 3:7,8

INTRODUCTION:

1. The character of individuals is sometimes captured in the name that they were given. (Ex. 2.10; 3.13,14)
2. In Exodus 3, the children of Israel were experiencing hardship.
 - a) **EXODUS 3.7:** “*oppression.*” It is the idea of affliction.
 - b) **EXODUS 3.7:** “*their cry*” Literally, cries for help.
 - c) **EXODUS 3.7:** “*sorrows.*”
3. All of their hardship was caused by the oppressive Egyptians who enslaved them. (Ex. 1.8,13,14)

I. GOD SEES OUR OPPRESSION

- A. **EXODUS 3.7:** “*I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt.*”
- B. Consider the church in Smyrna as an example.
 1. The church in Smyrna suffered from tribulation, poverty, and blasphemy. (Rev. 2.9)
 2. Jesus told them that “*I know.*”
- C. It is comforting to know that when I am distressed and suffering, God sees my sorrows. (Prov. 5.21; Heb. 4.13)

II. GOD HEARS OUR CRY

- A. **EXODUS 3.7:** “*...and have heard their cry*”
- B. Consider Hagar as an example.
 1. Sarah resented Hagar. (Gen. 16.1-4)
 2. God heard her cries. (Gen. 16.11-13)
- C. When I am troubled by life, I can go to God and know that He will hear me. (1 Pet. 3.12; Phil. 4.6)

III. GOD KNOWS OUR SORROWS

- A. **EXODUS 3.7:** “*for I know their sorrows.*”
- B. Consider King Ahab as an example.
 1. Ahab went to war with Syria, but disguised himself as a foot soldier to avoid harm. (1 Kings 22.29,30)
 2. Ahab was killed by a random arrow. (1 Kings 22.31-35)
- C. Though I may feel as if no one knows and understands my sorrows, God knows. (Ps. 147.3-5)

CONCLUSION: Not only is God aware of our troubles, but He delivers us from them. (Ex. 3.8; Heb. 13.5,6; John 8.34-36)

YOU ARE THE REASON WHY

Seven times Jesus broke the silence before He died. Three of those times, Jesus prayed to God. In Luke 23.34, Jesus prayed to God saying, “*Father forgive them, for they know not what they do.*” In Luke 23.46, Jesus prayed to God saying, “*Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.*” Then on one occasion, Jesus asked a question. In Matthew 27.46, Jesus cried out asking, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” It was a question that God never answered.

God spoke on several occasions during the life of Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the Jordan River having been baptized by John, the Holy Spirit fell on Him in the form of a dove. It was then that the voice of God announced, “*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased*” (Matt. 3.17). Later, Jesus was transfigured on the mount, and there appeared with Him two historical figures, Moses and Elijah. The three disciples who were with Jesus were suddenly immersed in a brilliant cloud, and from this cloud, the voice of God was heard saying, “*This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*” (Matt. 17.5). But when Jesus faced His darkest hour and cried out to ask the question, “*Why have You forsaken Me?*” Jesus was met with silence.

Actually, I can answer that question. I do not claim to be inspired (2 Tim. 3.16). I have not been baptized by the Holy Spirit and am able to speak as the Holy Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2.4). Nevertheless, I can answer this question, because Jesus Himself has already answered it. When He instituted the Lord’s Supper, twice He repeated two words. Jesus said that His body was given “*for you.*” (Luke 22.19). Jesus also said that His blood was shed “*for you*” (Luke 22.20).

Jesus suffered the most vicious, brutal execution that man has ever known. God never came down and rescued His Son from the cross. God never allowed the cup of suffering to pass from Him (Matt. 20.22; 26.39). That led Jesus to ask, “*Why have You forsaken Me?*” The reason why is me. If you like to mark in the margin of your Bible, next to the question, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” found in Matt. 27.46, you might want to write the words, “*I am the reason*” Jesus’ body was abused. His blood was shed. God never stopped it from happening...and I am the reason why.

CLP