

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Colossians Bible Study – Colossians 2:18-23 & 3:1-3

Lesson #12

**INSTRUCTIONS: Read the entire section of Scripture in Colossians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word.
(Most Scriptures used are from the New King James Version)

18-19 **Let no one DEFRAUD 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 which all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase which is from God.

• **Revelation 3:11** “Behold, I come quickly! _____ fast what you _____, that _____ may _____ your _____ (reward).”

Definition: “Let no one DEFRAUD you of your REWARD” – Defraud means to **take away or hold back your rights; to cheat you of something that is rightfully yours**. This is so sad, because it is exactly what Satan tries to do to some Christians. If he can't get a Christian to fall into some flagrant sin, then he tries to get them involved in legalism and works of the flesh. **What Is the BASIS for REWARDS in HEAVEN for Believers? The BASIS for REWARDS is obedience to God's commands**, and what He considers “good works,” but **God sees what MOTIVE is behind the works we do**, and that inner motive and attitude of the heart is as important as the outward deed. Deuteronomy 28:47 says the Israelites were under the curse not only because of their disobedience, but **because they “did not serve God with joy and a glad heart”** and their attitude was wrong. Any “good works” done with wrong motives, or “in the flesh” and NOT by the power of the Holy Spirit, are “wood, hay, and straw” - no rewards!

• **I Corinthians 3:12-15** “Now if anyone _____ on this _____ with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's _____ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be _____ by _____; and the fire will _____ each one's _____, of what _____ it is. If anyone's _____ which he has _____ on it (*on the foundation of Christ*) endures, he will _____ a _____. If anyone's _____ is burned, he will suffer _____; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through fire.”

Definition: “False humility and WORSHIP of ANGELS” – False humility is pretty much self-explanatory: these people are hypocrites, and are **pretending to be humble before God**, but they are really prideful and focusing on their own agenda. As for “worship of angels”, the word of God is very clear that **ANGELS SHOULD NOT BE WORSHIPED! Angels are CREATED beings**, not gods, and they are either serving God, or the fallen angels are serving their master, Satan. We are **NOT to worship or be caught up in GIVING TOO MUCH ATTENTION to angels** of any kind.

• **Revelation 22:8-9** “...I fell down to _____ at the feet of the _____ who showed me these things. Then he said to me, 'See that you do _____ do _____'; For I am your _____ servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who _____ the words of this book. _____.”

Definition: “VAINLY PUFFED UP by his FLESHLY MIND” – The Bible tells us that there will be a falling away from the True Faith in the end times, and indicates that **false prophets and prophetesses** are IN the CHURCH, as well as outside the church in false cults and religions. We must be very careful NOT to get caught up in running to this or that “prophet” or “prophetess” for advice and answers. These people are **“VAINLY PUFFED UP by their FLESHLY MINDS”** and they are NOT getting their messages from

God. God has given us His word, and **He has told us to PRAY and not “lose heart”** or give up too soon. Because **many Christians want a “QUICK FIX” answer to their situations, they are not willing to study God’s word, and to pray and wait upon the Lord for the answer.** They go instead to people within the church who will **give them “a word”** about their particular situation. This becomes no better than going to psychics and fortunetellers! These **false prophets and prophetesses** give “flattering words” to “deceive the hearts of the simple,” they put “stumbling blocks” before God’s people, **cause divisions in the church,** and eventually cause God’s people to commit acts of immorality.”

•**Romans 16:17-18** “Now I urge you brethren, note those who cause _____ and _____, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and _____ them. For those who are such do _____ serve our _____, but their _____ fleshly _____, and by smooth words and flattering speech _____ the hearts of the simple.”

•**II Timothy 3:1-5** “But realize this, that in the _____ difficult times will come. For _____ will be _____ of _____, lovers of money, _____, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self control, brutal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, _____, lovers of pleasure _____ than _____ of _____, holding to a form of godliness (false Christianity), although they have _____ its power; and _____ such men as these.”

•**Jude 16-19** “These are grumblers, complainers, _____ according to their own _____, they speak _____, flattering people for the sake of gaining an advantage. But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; that they were saying to you, ‘In the last days there shall be _____, following after their _____ ungodly _____.’ These are the _____ who cause _____, worldly-minded, _____ of the _____....”

•**Revelation 2:20** “Nevertheless, I have a few things _____ you, because you allow that woman, _____, who _____ a _____, to teach and beguile My servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed to idols.”

20-22 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?**

•**Titus 1:13-14** “This testimony is true. Therefore _____ them _____, that they may be _____ in the _____, _____ giving heed (paying attention to) to Jewish _____ and _____ of _____ who _____ from the _____.”

•**Galatians 4:9-19** “But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God, how is it that you turn _____ to the _____ and _____ elements, to which you desire again to be in _____? You _____ days and _____ and _____ and years.”

Definition: “Things which PERISH with the USING – according to the COMMANDMENTS and DOCTRINES of MEN?” – But wait a minute! I thought these false teachers were trying to impose the Law of Moses on the Christians, and wasn’t that God’s Law? Yes, for the time that God set up the Law through Moses, it was His Law, but **now God Himself has changed His order of dealing with mankind,** and we are under the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. That means whoever NOW tries to follow the Law

of Moses is doing it as if it were **“COMMANDMENTS and DOCTRINES of MEN.”** **God is NO LONGER endorsing the Mosaic Law,** He has set it aside in order to deal with men through His Son Jesus Christ. We are NO LONGER UNDER the LAW! As for **“basic principles of the world,”** in Colossians 2:8 & 20, it means the basic, worldly rituals of man-made religion - people trying to reach God through a human system of works. Jewish believers, **BEFORE they were SAVED, were like SLAVES** under the Hebrew rituals. Gentile believers were **“slaves” to their HEATHEN GODS and goddesses,** and every false religious system out there in the world puts people in BONDAGE. **Paul WARNS Christian Believers NOT to put themselves back under that kind of BONDAGE of RELIGIOUS RITUALS** and regulations (commandments), whether Jewish or Gentile religion.

•**Colossians 2:8** “Beware lest anyone _____ you through _____ and empty _____, according to the _____ of _____, according to the basic principles of the _____, and _____ according to Christ.”

•**Matthew 7:15** “_____ of _____, who come to you in _____ clothing, but _____ are ravenous _____.”

•**Ephesians 5:6** ““Let no one _____ you with _____ words, for because of these things the _____ of _____ comes upon the sons of disobedience.”

•**Galatians 4:3** “Even so we, when we were children, were in _____ under the _____ of the _____.”

Definition: “Beware lest anyone CHEAT you through PHILOSOPHY” – Paul is continuing his warning against false teachers that began in the previous verses. The word here for “philosophy” is the same word for “religion” in the Greek. These would be **religious ideas NOT depending on Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross. These would be MAN-MADE RELIGIONS and traditions.** Most of the religious cults today try to tell you that you’re missing out on something by not following their religious “philosophies” and ideas. They try to tell you Jesus Christ is not enough, or the Bible is not enough.

•**Hebrews 3:12-13** “_____, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil _____ of _____ in _____ from the living _____; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today’, lest any of you be hardened through the _____ of sin.”

•**I Timothy 6:20** “Oh, Timothy! _____ what was committed to your trust, avoiding the _____ and _____ babblings of what is falsely called _____ – by professing it, some have _____ concerning the _____. Grace be with you. Amen.”

Definition: “Empty DECEIT” and “According to the TRADITION of MEN” – Jesus had a lot to say about the Pharisees and others who followed man-made religious traditions instead of following the word of God. This is still a problem in the world today, and many churches have been infiltrated and ruined by false teachers who have come in, and no one stopped them. **The words “empty deceit” are also translated as VANITY in some Bible translations, and Paul calls them “vain babblings”** in I Timothy 6:20. Vanity is something **VAIN and worthless, EMPTY.**

•**Mark 7:6-7, 9 & 13** “He answered and said to them (the Pharisees), ‘Well did Isaiah prophesy of you _____, as it is written: “This people _____ Me with their _____, but their _____ is _____ from Me. And in _____ they worship Me, _____ as doctrines the _____ of _____.”’”

(Verse 9) “And He said to them, ‘All too well you _____ the commandment of _____, that you may keep your _____.” (Verse 13) “Making the _____ of _____ of _____ effect through your _____ which you have

handed down. And many such things you do.”

23 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**.

• **I Corinthians 2:4-5** “And my speech and my _____ were _____ with persuasive words of _____, but in demonstration of the _____ and of power, that your faith should _____ be in the _____ of _____ but in the _____ of God.”

Definition: “NO VALUE against the INDULGENCE of the FLESH” – These MAN-MADE or “self-imposed RELIGIONS” are of “NO VALUE against the INDULGENCE of the FLESH.” Our sinful flesh cannot be changed permanently by outwardly imposed rules and regulations. Yes, we need laws and rules in our society to help keep sinful man under control, but in the sense of controlling our passions and lusts in a godly fashion, and **for Christians to become more like Jesus Christ, we need MORE than just rules and regulations. We need the TRANSFORMING POWER of the Holy Spirit** to discipline our flesh and make us holy.

Chapter 3

1-3 If then you were **RAISED with CHRIST, SEEK those things which are ABOVE** [*heavenly things*], 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.**”

• **Romans 6:3-5** “Or do you not know that as many of us as were _____ into _____ were baptized into His _____? Therefore we were _____ with Him through _____ into _____, that just as Christ was _____ from the _____ by the glory of the Father, even so _____ also should walk in _____ of _____. For if _____ have been _____ together in the likeness of His _____, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His _____.”

• **Colossians 2:12** “_____ with Him in _____, in which you also were _____ with Him through faith in the working of God, who _____ Him from the _____.”

• **Ephesians 1:20** “Which He wrought in Christ when He _____ Him from the _____, and set Him at His own _____ in the heavenly places.”

• **Matthew 6:33** “But _____ first (make it your priority) the _____ of God, and His _____, and _____ these things shall be added to you.”

Definition: “BAPTIZED into Christ Jesus” “BAPTIZED into His DEATH” — The word “baptized” in the Greek means IMMERSED, PLACED INTO, IDENTIFIED WITH. **We are PLACED INTO CHRIST** the moment we believe, by the Holy Spirit, as well as the Holy Spirit coming to live in us. Because **we are IN CHRIST**, and **CHRIST ALREADY DIED to sin**, then **WE HAVE DIED to sin**, too.

Definition: “Your LIFE is HIDDEN with CHRIST in GOD” – What a precious promise! We are not left on our own to struggle with living the Christian life. We are **PLACED IN CHRIST**, and **His Holy Spirit dwells in us to give us His power to live for him**.

• **Galatians 2:20** “I have been _____ with _____; it is no longer I who live, but Christ _____ in _____; and the _____ which I now _____ in the

flesh I _____ by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

• **I John 4:13 & 15** “By this we _____ that we _____ in _____, and He _____ us, because He has given us of His _____. (Verse 15) “Whoever confesses that _____ is the _____ of _____, God _____ in _____, and _____ in _____.”