

June 23, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Class Leaders:

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Hearts United in Love Col 2:1-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

Members of the Colossian church came from backgrounds featuring a myriad of religious and philosophical options. On this buffet were Judaism and pagan religions from across the Roman Empire. There were mystery religions that promised spiritual enlightenment through secret knowledge. There were sophisticated systems of philosophical thought and groups that practiced black magic. Each group made its own claims about truth. Some believers at Colossae attempted to augment the gospel with a mixture of elements from this religious-philosophical buffet. The temptation to trust in humanity's knowledge rather than in faith through Christ and knowledge of Him was irresistible to some.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

We must love those for whom Christ died as well as those in whom Christ lives

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Father, we ask You to fill our hearts with Your love for others. Help us to prayerfully dedicate ourselves to the love that aches for those close to us

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved

(Rom 10:1 NIV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 08, 2018)

True Wealth - Discouraged Christians, uncertain about what they now possess as God's children, are easy prey for the enemy to break down. Paul desired for the believers in Colossae to constantly be growing, uplifted, confidently and courageously able to face difficult situations, deeply loving each other, and increasing in their understanding of the truth. Some open their wallets or check the balance in their bank accounts to be confident of their riches. Paul said real wealth resides in knowing and being assured of God's character, being convinced of His goodness and compassion. The Father is no longer a mystery who resides somewhere in the heavens, but the Lord has openly revealed Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. In Paul's day, plenty of teachers and philosophers spoke about the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge. Paul made it crystal clear—to find wisdom and knowledge, seek Jesus and His truth. Don't hunt for secret books or information. Information about Jesus is open to all.

Warnings - Throughout his letters to the New Testament churches, Paul often warned against false teachers and deceivers. The mystics and philosophers mixed things up. Some referred to God as a spirit with no contact with the material world; some pushed dietary restrictions; others enforced angel or spirit worship—all in direct opposition to Christian beliefs.

Everything Is in Christ - Paul wanted the Colossians to know that everything you are looking for exists in Christ. All believers are united with Christ by faith and are complete in Him. Paul also reminded the church that Christ is above any other powers and authorities in the universe. He still is. There is no one above Him or more powerful than Him.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

Series: Covenant in God

UNIT: A Heartfelt Covenant

NEXT WEEK

Right Attitudes

(Matt 5:1-12)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

United in Love through Being Encouraged (2:1-5)

Encouraged through the assurance of God's purposes (1-2)

Assurance in God's purposes because God does according to His Will (Dan 4:35)

Assurance in God's purposes because they accomplish what God intended and what He has planned (Isa 14:24)

Assurance in God's purposes because God's plans stand firm forever (Ps 33:10-11)

Assurance in God's purposes because God determines the outcome (Prov 16:9)

Assurance in God's purposes because God's purposes always prevail (Prov 19:21)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God (3-4)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God because it is beyond description in its depth and richness (Rom 11:33)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God because it was predestined before the ages for our glory (1 Cor 2:7-8)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God because Jesus brought God's wisdom to man (1 Cor 1:30-31)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God concerning the secrets of heaven (Matt 13:11-12)

United in the wisdom and knowledge of God that comes from the mind of the Christ (1 Cor 2:13-16)

United in the steadfastness of faith (5)

United in the steadfastness of faith by relying on God regardless of the circumstances (2 Cor 1:8-9)

United in the steadfastness of faith by throwing off everything that hinders (Heb 12:1)

United in the steadfastness of faith by confirming and proving God's trust (1 Cor 4:2)

United in the steadfastness of faith by contending for the faith (Jude 1:3)

United in the steadfastness of faith through being refined into genuine faith (1 Peter 1:7)

United in Love through Being Committed (2:6-7)

Committed to walking in Christ (6)

By having Jesus live in and through us (Gal 2:20)

By living a steadfast godly lifestyle (1Thess 4:1)

By living as Jesus would live (I John 2:6)

By following the "way" of Jesus (John 14:6)

Committed to being rooted in Christ (7)

By meditating and delighting in God's word (Ps 1:1-3)

By being nourished and fed by the holiness of God (Rom 11:16-17)

By putting God's word into practice (Luke 6:47-48)

By remaining in Jesus (John 15:4-5)

By being a participant in God's spiritual house (1 Pet 2:5)

United in Love through Being Discerning (2:8-10)

Discerning by being cautious of error (8)

By not submitting to the world's evil rules and desires because we must be dead to sin (Col 2:20)

By not forgetting God (Deut 6:12)

By watching out for false prophets (Matt 7:15)

By being careful not to initiate or follow those who cause divisions (Rom 16:17)

By not being fooled by empty and vain words (Eph 5:6)

By not following strange teachings (Heb 13:9)

Discerning by recognizing Christ's Deity and authority (9-10)

Recognize that only God through Jesus could do the miracles Jesus performed (John 10:38)

Recognize that Jesus is the representation of God (John 14:9-10)

Recognize that Jesus is the true God and has eternal life (1 John 5:20)

Recognize that Jesus rules with all authority and power (Eph 1:20-21)

Recognize that God exalted Jesus above all things (Phil 2:9-10)

Recognize that all things are in submission to Jesus (1 Pet 3:21-22)

United in Love through Firm Faith (Col 2:11-15)

Firm because Jesus transforms (11-12)

Jesus transforms us into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

Jesus transforms us through reconciliation (Col 1:21-22)

Jesus transforms us through being born again (John 3:3-8)

Jesus will transform us at the Rapture (1 Thess 4:14-17)

Jesus will transform our bodies into a glorious one (Phil 3:20-21)

Jesus is transforming us into His likeness (2 Cor 3:18)

Firm because Jesus forgives sin (13-15)

Jesus forgives because He is faithful (1 John 1:9)

Jesus forgives because He redeemed us (Titus 2:14)

Jesus forgives and does not remember our sins again (Heb 8:12)

Jesus forgives because of His blood covenant (Matt 26:28)

Jesus forgives because His blood cleanses (Heb 9:14)