

**“Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy —
The Great Transition, The Glorious Sweep of God’s Abundant Grace — Part 27
Blessings Untold for the Colossians Too Under Grace, Chapter 2**

Review: Paul’s teaching gives us the Word and the Enabling for a Life of Joy:

- ***Paul’s Teaching is Clear: He Fulfilled the Sufferings of Christ in His Body***
- ***Paul’s Teaching is Complete: The Mystery Was Delivered to Him for Us***
- ***Paul’s Teaching is Powerful: We are Enabled to Suffer as Paul Did***

- ***Paul’s Teaching is Clear: He Fulfilled the Sufferings of Christ in His Body (1:21-24)***

Col. 1:24. Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

- ***We must draw some conclusions from this:***
 - ***This was fact, it was history, and in his letters we have the record of that history. But Paul writes that his suffering “fulfilled” the sufferings of Christ that remained, and, additionally, that his sufferings were “for us”. If so, the question must be: “how?” In what way were the sufferings of Paul the sufferings of Christ? Verse 27 is the key: “To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” This is what was demonstrated so clearly in Paul’s many references to his suffering which was to be our example or “type” (as he calls it in 1 Tim. 1:16).***
 - ***Christ is “in us” so our sufferings are his as well, a powerful and unique teaching indeed! We saw how The Head and Body Analogy gives us a key of understanding. CHRIST HAS SO SHARED HIMSELF WITH US ALL (1 COR. 15:45!!) AND HAS BROUGHT INTO BEING THE BODY OF CHRIST WITH HIMSELF AS ITS HEAD. Therefore, when one member or part suffers so do all the other members. Paul writes that this analogy teaches truth that was revealed to him by Christ and that is transforming to all that will believe it and take it to heart as 1 Cor. 12:27 indicates: “Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.”***

- ***So because of such an intimate connection with his Lord and the Head of the Body Church Paul could also suffer with Christ and this was his privilege indeed, as he writes so often. His sufferings with Christ on behalf of the great message he was given for us (the Mystery) is that teaching that completes the chapter and introduces the next.***

Col. 1:28-29

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

- ***Paul is the administrator of the new dispensation (like Moses was of the Legal or Peter of the Pentecostal dispensations). So therefore we must take heed to the Pauline teaching. So we indeed need to know this teaching or we will not know what God is doing today under grace. It is that simple. And, if we do not know what God is doing today we cannot know what our place is in his working. Right?***
- ***The blessing of it all: Yes, that is what Paul is writing about here. “. . . to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus”. This is all about therefore the full knowledge of and recognition or acknowledgment of our completed position in the Lord Jesus Christ and the full working of God today under grace in each of us believers. AND THIS INVOLVES AT ITS VERY HEART THE RECOGNITION THAT CHRIST IS IN US AND THAT IS OUR HOPE OF GLORY. THERE ARE MANY IMPLICATION OF THAT TRUTH SOME OF WHICH WE SHALL CONSIDER IN DETAIN THIS MORNING. Paul provides through his teaching the spiritual food we need to grow and prosper as believers.***
- ***Paul's Teaching is Powerful: We are Enabled to Suffer as Paul Did (2:1-7):***

Col. 2:1-7

1 For I would that ye knew what great conflict [agony] I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh;

2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

- *Paul's commission and work WAS EFFECTIVE: Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. This was to prove the effectiveness of God's working in the saints under grace. God was changing the plan in raising up Paul and he needed to know that. He writes so clearly of that in 2 Cor. 4 & 12. The Lord had ordained that Paul's suffering was for Christ's sake AND for us! These are such important proclamations. So Christ himself suffered in the atonement for our sins and now we see that Paul also suffered for our sakes. This may seem to conflict with the infinite sacrifice that Christ and only Christ could make. But this is clearly stated here and we must take God at his word, don't we?*
- *Our simple faith in our Lord Jesus and his completed work and then taking him at his word regarding his work today under his unlimited grace is enough. INDEED, HIS GRACE IS ITSELF SUFFICIENT even without all of those other things we might want and desire to possess. His grace meets all of our needs.*

Our Outline Today: The Teaching on Submission to Jewish Rituals, Chapter 2

- *Take Heed, the Enemy is Everywhere But Truth is Our Defense (Verses 8-9)*
- *Our Circumcision and Baptism Are Not with Human Hands (Verses 10-13)*
- *The Law Has Been Cancelled and We Are Set Free (Verses 13-15)*
- *Compliance with Jewish Regulations Short-Circuits Grace (Verses 16-23)*

I. Take Heed, the Enemy is Everywhere But Truth is Our Defense (Verses 8-9):

[READ] Col. 2:8-9

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

- *Verses 8, 16 and 18 contain a very strong exhortation. The enemies of the believer truly are everywhere and they operate by targeting the mind with worldliness and use human traditions. These attacks are often "spiritual" in the thoroughly evil and satanic sense. But there is a defense provided against these attacks.*

- ***The truth that we are complete in Him is the summation of our defense against every attack the enemy might use against us. The knowledge of his sufficiency is the foundation truth that the apostle is noting here. But there are then the details that go with this foundation.***

II. Our Circumcision and Baptism Are Not with Human Hands (Verses 10-13):

[READ] Col. 2:10-13

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:
 11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:
 12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.
 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

- ***Verse 10 - complete (made fullness) in Christ who is victorious by that death, burial and resurrection over every enemy on earth or in the heavens!***
- ***Verse 11 - Fleshly circumcision has been replaced with spiritual circumcision, not made with human hands!***
- ***Verse 12 - Baptism, also made with hands, has been replaced with the death of our Lord Jesus with whom we have been identified fully. We have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into Christ and his Body church. That is the only “real” baptism valid and operational today. Water baptism is Jewish and is no longer for the church the Body of Christ. When it was practiced in the Church which is his Body it was “for the sake of” the Jews. But Paul’s teaching here supplants that with a more relevant truth. Baptism spiritually into Christ is our privilege and joy. Amen.***
- ***Verse 13 - Take note of the implied past tense here. This has already occurred. We are alive with him spiritually by being identified with his death, burial, and resurrection. Praise God. Such a full and complete salvation is our today under the fullness of God’s mighty grace.***

But that is not all, for in the same sentence the apostle now

goes even further to state the general principle behind all of this, that God has further changed the program in those last years before Paul's final ministry. Now, under the fullness of grace as revealed to and through the apostle Paul POST ACTS 28, God is no longer reaching out to Israel and the Jews as before and therefore no longer requiring the previous respect for Israel's Law.

Paul's many statements in his early letters and in the Acts account written by Luke have now been superseded! This is such an important principle to know and its applications to our daily living are so many. He goes on now to state that even more powerfully in the following verses.

III. The Law Has Been Cancelled and We Are Set Free (Verses 14-15):

[READ] Col. 2:14-15

14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

- ***These are the boldest statements in scripture about the Law and the legalists attempts to impose some form of the Jewish law on the Gentile believers. This was a constant thorn in Paul's side and he writes of it often, but here most boldly.***
- ***His statement of fact here regarding what Christ accomplished in his work on Calvary's cross is detailed and specific.***
 - ***Verse 14 - Such concrete and powerful imagery here is so very Pauline and demonstrates his total and unconditional rejection of what the Judizers were promoting, namely, that applicability of the Law to Gentiles. Those demands of the Law were "nailed" to his cross and taken away from us in one fell swoop, as it were. It was the written demands that always condemned that were expunged once and for all.***

See also Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

- ***Verse 15 - And, additionally, as if that wasn't enough, he mentions that by that cross he also defeated the heavenly and demonic powers that were imposing this burden on the Gentiles using their satanically motivated human emissaries, the Jews opposing the Pauline teaching and doctrine concerning God's unlined grace independently of his people Israel and its covenants.***
- ***Conclusions must be drawn, we are so blessed, aren't we? We must never forget what the Cross has accomplished and be bold to share that with others as Paul is doing here. Paul is the apostle of the Gentiles and the doctrines of grace were given to him. Israel has at this point been set aside for a time opening wide the door for all peoples to come, if they would, with NO STRINGS ATTACHED! None.***

IV. Compliance with Jewish Regulations Short-Circuits Grace (Verses 16-23):

- ***The exhortation here now begins with these words: "Let no man therefore judge you" and continues with "Let no man beguile you". The exhortation is followed in the same breath with the details so that no one can claim ignorance of the apostle's point here. He will write here that compliance with Jewish spiritual tradition will not enhance but rather short-circuit God's working under grace in the believer:***

[READ] Col. 2:16-19

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

- ***Verses 16 - 17 - We are now, under the fullness of grace, to avoid all conditioned responses based on Jewish legal regulations regarding foods, drinks, special holidays, or even the Jewish Sabbath. Those things were merely shadows but the body casting the shadows is the Christ himself who has now come into the world for the salvation***

of sinners, even sinners of the Gentiles! We have him as our living head and he alone can supply all the needs of the heart! Amen!

- ***Verse 18 - Don't let anyone steal away your reward by a "human will-based" and even angel-worshipping, and often mystical, fake spirituality that does not and cannot really deliver a godly benefit, whatever the false teachers or practitioners may report.***
- ***Verse 19 - Paul writes here that a true and authentic spiritual growth requires only that one is "holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together". If that is the case, the Body will grow, indeed, it will "increase with the increase of God." No "new age religion" (not really so new after all we see here) is needed".***
- ***This is so wonderful, such a simple faith is all that is required. But so many are captured with the apparently "spiritual" allure of satanic teachings.***

[READ] Col. 2:20-23

20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

- ***Now we have reached Paul's concluding exhortation here in this chapter. It starts with a question that is rhetorical beginning with "wherefore" or "why then". Taking full account of all he had just written and the truths proclaimed there as we have just reviewed them, to avoid any misunderstandings, he now adds some specific acts to be avoided, lest the grace of God be short-circuited, as it were. Note that he reinforces those truths with "if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world" (a first class conditional here indicating the assumption of the truth he has stated). This is so blessed, to stand on God's revealed truth through Paul.***
- ***Paul lists now the very things the false teachers who were promoting Jewish practices were requiring of the Gentile believers. That included the Jewish and Mosaic ordinances of "touch not; taste not; handle not", covering a wide spectrum of requirements and***

prohibition found in Moses Law, and you can be sure, also found in the first century Judaism with its many sects and divisions. There were probably additional ones added as well by these deceiving spirits. But the apostle states ever so boldly that all of these should be avoided and in doing so explains why this is so critically important. His argument is simple: since we have been delivered from these demonic forces through Christ Jesus, we should not have anything to do with what they were promoting. Those things were of men and did not relate to the spiritual world in which we as believers under grace are living. His words “the rudiments of the world” (see Gal. 4:3, 9 and Col. 2:8 also) are all about the satanic world order by which satan rules here. We have been delivered from it and his lying messengers and message.

- ***Contrast this boldest of teachings Paul’s Transition message earlier in the Acts, the Romans, Corinthians, etc., all written with the ministry to Israel during the Transition in mind. Now he writes Post-Acts 28!! What a difference!!***

Conclusions & Application:

- ***Today satan’s counterfeits abound, religiously, spiritually and worldly. Beware! Avoid them at all costs. As the apostle wrote here a little earlier in this chapter:***

Col. 2:5-7

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the stedfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

- ***This message is so needed today. Will we receive it and LIVE!***