

## **The Book of Colossians, Part 4**

by Bishop Keith A. Butler | Bible Study Notes | Wednesday, June 8, 2022

### **Opening Summary**

In this study we will review key take-aways from Colossians chapters one and two. Then as we study chapter 3, we find that Christians should have a biblical world view about all matters of life. Jesus is coming soon. Don't let natural things dictate your decisions and actions. We will see how Paul, who was considered a traitor to his people, teaches clearly that God makes no distinction between human beings. When it came to the Word, Paul chose the Word over people's opinions. And Christians ought to do the same.

- I. These are key take-aways from Colossians chapters one and two.
  - A. There are seven take-aways to highlight from Colossians chapter one.
    1. Faith and love work together.
    2. We have been made partakers of the saints' inheritance.
    3. We have been delivered from the authority of darkness.
    4. We are members of the kingdom of God now.
    5. We have been redeemed.
    6. Jesus made peace between God and us.
    7. The mystery is revealed – God is in the Gentiles.
  - B. There are five take-aways to highlight from Colossians chapter two.
    1. Don't be ruined by the philosophy or tradition of men.
    2. We are buried in baptism in Christ.
    3. The law has no power over us, so every day is the sabbath day for us.
    4. We are dead with Christ from the world's principles.
    5. Paul was considered a traitor to his people.
- II. Col. 3:1: Key word in this verse is "risen." Seek godly things.
  - A. Rom. 6:5: Christ was raised; we were raised with Him.
  - B. In a kingdom, the right hand is the place of authority.
  - C. We sit in Christ. We have authority to do God's business on earth.
- III. Col. 3:2: Affection means mind or thinking. Christians should have a biblical world view about all matters of life.
- IV. Col. 3:3: Your life is in a secure place.
  - A. Rom. 6:2: We are dead to sin
  - B. Gal. 2:20: Christians who live by faith stimulate the life of God.
- V. Col. 3:4: Jesus is coming soon.
  - A. 1 Thes. 4:16-18: The Christians who have passed on before us shall rise first.
  - B. 1 John 3:2: The one on earth will get a glorified body, just like Jesus.

- VI. Col. 3:5: Don't let your body dictate your decisions and actions.
- A. In U.S. culture, we don't worship statues.
  - B. The idols people worship today are fancy cars, fine houses, designer clothes, etc.
  - C. Rom. 8:13: The person who prays in tongues a lot and meditates the Word gets the strength to live according to Scripture.
- VII. Col. 3:6-7: *Wrath* means *punishments*.
- A. Rom. 1:17-18: In the U.S., there is a major cultural change where people are turning away from God.
  - B. In the Old Testament you'll see what happened to the children of Israel when they turned from God.
- VIII. Col. 3:8: Stop doing these things.
- A. Anger is violent passion, indignation, and vengeance.
  - B. Wrath is fierceness.
  - C. Malice is wickedness.
  - D. Blasphemy is railing, evil speaking.
  - E. Filthy communication is vile conversation, talking about things that are unholy, even if it's joking.
- IX. Col. 3:9: A lie is a deliberate attempt to deceive.
- X. Col. 3:10: Think like Jesus (Php. 2:5-11).
- XI. Col. 3:11: There is no race in Christ.
- A. Neither Jew nor Greek: Non-Jewish pagan.
    1. The Jews worshipped the Almighty God only. Pagans worshipped many gods. They hated Jews. Pagans considered Jews to be bigots. They called Jews narrow minded. Today, the world considers Christians to be bigots.
    2. Pagans felt they were open minded and progressive.
      - a. They believed in many gods.
      - b. The division was severe.
      - c. The hatred was extreme.
    3. Jews felt Greek pagans were disgusting.
      - a. Jews considered the gentiles as unclean.
      - b. Jews considered the gentiles as foul.
    4. When Paul says there is no difference between people, his brethren were outraged.
  - B. There is neither circumcision nor uncircumcision.
    1. There are strict religious Jews (orthodox) and non-religious Jews.
    2. Some were circumcised and some not. The non-circumcised were considered inferior.
    3. The key is what you do with the Word of God.
    4. In the church some follow the Word, some do not and some are in between.

- C. Gal. 3:28: *Bond* means (Gk.: *doulos*) a *slave* (Php. 2:5).
  1. A bond person is one born and sold into slavery.
  2. Slavery in the U.S. isn't new.
  3. A free person is one born free.
  4. If a slave was granted freedom, he/she was still considered inferior to one born free.
  
- D. There is neither male nor female.
  1. In Bible times, women weren't allowed to be in public.
  2. There was a big difference made between male and female.
  3. In Christ there are no distinctions made between male and female.
  
- E. There is neither Barbarian nor Scythian.
  1. A Barbarian is anyone who didn't speak Greek or Latin.
  2. Jews viewed Barbarians as uncultured.
  3. Scythians were considered to be scum.

- XII. Paul was considered to be a traitor to his people.
  4. Gal. 3:28: The things Paul said were opposite traditional Jewish culture.
  5. 1 Cor. 12:13: Paul is saying there are no distinctions in the body of Christ.
  6. That is what outraged the Jewish leaders.

- XIII. When it came to the Word, Paul chose the Word.
  - A. The only two races according to God are the saved and the unsaved.
    1. That's why I downplay race.
    2. Magnifying race leads to the flesh which leads to anger.
    3. Magnifying race lowers your focus (Gal. 3:1).
    4. God created the differences. In God's sight we are all beautiful.
  - B. Satan looked for the easiest ways to get people in strife: gender and race. Instead of race, I lift God up.
  - C. I was asked to speak in a large church convention. My wife is with me. We entered the meeting area and sat in our assigned seats. The pastor's wife came to me and said, "Is she white?" It was obvious *she saw* that as a bad thing. I said, "Does it matter?" To that group, it was an evil thing and they wanted nothing more to do with me.

- XIV. The time has come for God's Word to be that which forms our opinion.
  - A. When considering who to bring to speak to my congregation, I base my decision on the anointing.
  - B. Refuse to be tricked by the enemy.

### **Closing Summary**

You have seen how vital it is that Christians have a biblical world view about all matters of life. Jesus is coming soon. You mustn't let natural things dictate your decisions and actions. Knowing there is no distinction in races, according to Scripture, it is time to elevate the Word above man's opinion. Just as the Scripture says, choose the Word over people's opinions. Refuse to be tricked by the enemy. And God will open more doors for you in areas you would have never imagined.