

MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 306

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder

COLOSSIANS - CHAPTER TWO

THE RESULTANT VERSION

TRUE TO THE GREEK AND TRUE TO THE TRUTH

Otis Q. Sellers, Bible Teacher

Nathan C. Johnson, Editor

- (1) I desire you to understand the deep anxiety I am having on behalf of you, **A** and on behalf of them at Laodicea, and on behalf of as many as have never seen my face in the flesh. **B**
- (2) I want that your hearts shall be encouraged, **A** and that you should be united in love, and that this should be unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding, unto a personal knowledge of the secret of God, namely Christ.
- (3) In Whom all the treasures of wisdom **A** and knowledge are concealed.
- (4) I am saying this in order that none of you would be enticed with persuasive words.
- (5) For even if I am absent in the flesh, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing and beholding your order and the stability of your faith in Christ.
- (6) As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, **A** so also be walking in Him, **B**
- (7) Being rooted and built up in Him, and making yourselves sure in your faith as you have been taught, super-abounding in that faith, and doing it with thanksgiving.
- (8) Beware that no one shall make a spoil **A** of you through philosophy **B** and empty seduction, in accord with human tradition, in accord with the elements of the world, **C** and not in accord with Christ;
- (9) Seeing that in Him the entire complement **A** of the deity is dwelling **B** in essence, **C**

- (10) And you are complete in Him, **A** Who is the head **B** of every sovereignty and every authority. **C**
- (11) In whom you also are cut off **A** with a cutting off not made with hands, **B** in the stripping off of the body **C** of the flesh **D** in the cutting off of Christ,
- (12) Having been buried together with Him in identification, **A** wherein also you have been raised together **B** through faith in the operation of God,^c who raised Him from among the dead.
- (13) You also, being dead in your offenses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made you alive jointly **A** with Him, dealing graciously **B** with all your trespasses,
- (14) Erasing the handwriting **A** of the decrees that was against us, **B** which was contrary to us, and took it out of the very midst, nailing it to the cross. **C**
- (15) Having spoiled sovereignties and authorities, He made a show of them openly, **A** triumphing over them in it.
- (16) Let no one therefore be judging you in food or in drink, **A** or in regard to some particular festival, or the new moon, or the Sabbaths—
- (17) These are a shadow of things to come, but the substance **A** is of Christ.
- (18) Let no one be arbitrating **A** against you willfully in respect to humility **B** and the ritual of angels, upon what things he has seen taking his stand,^c emptily puffed up by his fleshly mind,
- (19) And not holding fast the Head, **A** from which all the body through joints and bonds has nourishment ministered, and united together, grows with the growth of God. **B**
- (20) If then you died together with Christ from the elements of this world, **A** why then, as living in the world, are you subject to decrees— **B**
- (21) "You should not be touching this, nor tasting that, nor having the slightest contact with this,"
- (22) Which things are all corruption by use, in accord with the directives and teachings of men?
- (23) These rules have indeed an appearance of wisdom where self-imposed worship exists, and an affectation of humility, and aesthetic

severity, **A** but not one of them is of any value; they simply pamper the flesh

NOTES ON THE VERSION

2:1 (A) Here Paul becomes quite personal. When Epaphras brought the report of these believers, Paul knew that they were without a God-commissioned man. They had to work out their own salvation very patiently and carefully. Paul had great anxiety for them. (B) The Colossians, the Laodiceans, and quite a few others who had become believers since Acts 28:28 had never met Paul.

2:2 (A) It was one thing to start following Christ, then another thing to go on with it when it did not seem to be advantageous to the Colossians to do so.

2:3 (A) They had to find wisdom in Christ. If wisdom is not found in Christ, it is not going to be found anywhere else—not in the pyramids, nor in numerology, nor in the zodiac, etc.

2:6 (A) One can imagine the determination, enthusiasm, and wholeheartedness with which these men had received Christ. (B) This is a very important exhortation. When tribulation comes because of the Word, are these Colossians going to turn away (see Matthew 13:21)?

2:8 (A) To make spoil has to do with the chase. It is like a hunter seeking animals, not for meat or fur, but that he might make spoil of them by putting them in a zoo. (B) There are thousands of philosophies, but there is not a savior in any of them. (C) One error that has always afflicted the Christian world has been the idea that, through some form of asceticism or perfectionism, believers can reach a point where sin no longer makes any demands upon us. Many people, knowing that this world is not what it should be, think that we should withdraw from it. They then cut themselves off by going into monasteries or convents or the wilderness. Others argue that we could reach a state of almost sinless perfection if we would just stop eating meat. Paul is speaking against worldly ideas such as these.

2:9 (A) This fullness is not found in some philosophy, some diet, some position to assume, or some meditation. It is found in Jesus Christ alone. (B) Or "all the complement of the deity is dwelling in Him." (C) Or

"in substance." (C) It was customary when a man was crucified to briefly write out the charge against him on a sign nailed above his head. Over the cross of Jesus Christ, the sign said: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The Romans did not know of any crime of which they could accuse the Lord Jesus Christ, so this was all they could write. Men only saw the sign, but what did God see? God saw the true bill that was against us. On Calvary's cross, Jesus Christ was paying any penalty that I should have paid and discharging any debt that I myself owed. Right there was where I obtained forgiveness; right there was where God dealt graciously with my trespasses and yours.

2: 15 (A) The Roman authorities of His time took Jesus Christ and nailed Him to the cross. After His death, they laid Him in a tomb, and set a guard over the site. The authorities charged these guards to be very careful, as they were afraid that His body might be stolen. When He rose from the dead, He spoiled all these principalities and authorities (like Pilate and Herod), making a public display of them.

2:16 (A) There is nothing that is in itself unclean. Only if God declares it to be unclean is it unclean. Since God has not declared anything as unclean to me, I will not permit anyone to judge me in regard to food or drink.

2:17 (A) The Greek *soma* ("body") refers to the substance or essence of a thing.

2:18 (A) The arbitrator in a baseball game is the umpire, and in a football game, it is the referee. Here, Paul speaks of those who would arbitrate against us. (B) People have many opinions regarding what humility is: a certain kind of dress, a certain way of walking, or a certain tone of voice. (C) People often claim that they have had an experience, and that they are taking their stand on it. I take my stand on the Word of the Living God.

2:19 (A) These do not hold that which is the very out-flowing source of all truth, humility, and everything else. (B) Paul is showing that we believers individually and personally are to develop and grow up into Him Who is the Head.

2:20 (A) That is: the basic things of the world. In this world, if you are going to be a Christian you must belong to an organization called "the church." You must have certain ceremonies performed over you, such as

having someone dip you in water. You must have rituals, like eating a little bit of bread and drinking a little wine. You must make some kind of observance of certain days and festivals. These are the elements of this world that make up the religions of men. (B) Many believe that if they can find certain rules and then live by them, this will constitute a God-honoring life. Yet only those rules which are laid down by the Word of God are important. For example, when it is stated in I Timothy that: **"There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus,"** we are to live by that principle and that rule and never violate it.

2:23 (A) Or "unsparing treatment of the body."

The SEED & BREAD Bible-study leaflets are published as often as time and means permit and are sent free to all names on THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY mailing list. Send us your name. There will be no obligation, solicitation or visitation. Additional copies of any issue available on request.

MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 306, Published October 2015