

Colossians

The Colossian Error: Jesus Is Real and He Did What He Did... But... Christ Alone Is Not Enough

Paul's Battle Cry Is "The Pre-eminence of Christ" - Col 1:18

- Jesus Christ is Pre-eminent in...
 - ...salvation - 1:13-14
 - ...creation - 1:15-17
 - ...the church - 1:18
 - ...proclamation - 1:28
 - ...personal life - 3:4ff
 - ...family life - 3:18ff
 - ...vocational life - 3:21-23
- Pre-eminence: holding first place in everything (nothing or no one else has second place)

When the Church Fails to Proclaim the Pre-eminence of Christ, the Spirit of Anti-Christ Appears

- I Jo 2,4; II Thess 2:3ff

- He is religious by nature - II Thess 2:4
- He wants our focus to be on something other than Christ
 - ...a "Christ + _____ = the fullness of life"
- Believing him results in a corresponding loss of life - Col 1:9-11
 - ...of understanding/wisdom - Lk 11:52
 - ...of fruitfulness - Jo 15:5
 - ...of power/strength - Eph 1:19; 6:10
 - ...of joy - Jo 16:33
- How does this happen? We allow ourselves to be...
 - ...deluded - Col 2:4
 - ...deceived - Col 2:8
 - ...defrauded - Col 2:18

The Truth of the Gospel - Col 1:5

- The source and center is always the person and activity of Triune God - 1:3-8
- The means is always grace - 1:6
- The result is always liberty - 1:9-11

The Activity of God in the Person of Christ:

- He delivered us: from/for - Col 1:13
- He transformed us: outsiders/insiders - Col 1:13
- He redeemed us: guilty/forgiven - Col 1:14
- He reconciled us: separation/oneness - Col 1:22
- He completed us: empty/full - Col 2:10
- He qualified us: need/supply - Col 1:12,27

We were "saved" by the receptivity of His activity - Col 2:6

...we must now live by the receptivity of His activity - Col 2:6

...Christian growth is never in addition; but only in abiding and abandoning to the Pre-eminent Christ!