

A CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW (Part Three)

Dr. Jim Cecy

Colossians 2:8-15 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

Review of Part One and Two...

My World View

• Who am I? *A precious child of God* • Where did I come from? *An all-loving Creator* • Why am I here? *To glorify God and enjoy Him forever* • Where am I going? *To spend eternity in His heaven* • How do I get there? *By trusting in the death of Jesus Christ on my behalf*

I. THE THREAT TO OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

Colossians 2:8 "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world..."

"When we cease to worship God, we do not worship nothing, we worship anything." (G.K. Chesterton)

"In the pride of the flesh every theologian feels the need to innovate. But if what he says is true, then its not new. If it's new then it's probably not true."

II. THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

Colossians 2:8 "...rather than according to Christ."

The substance of a truly biblical worldview is Jesus Christ — the One who not only HAS all the answers to life's questions but who IS the answer. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16)

A Biblical Worldview of Jesus Christ

Doctrinal Statement #1. We believe in Jesus Christ — in whom all the fullness of Deity dwells.

Colossians 2:9 "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form..."

Doctrinal Statement #2. We believe in Jesus Christ — in whom we have been made complete.

Colossians 2:10 "...and in Him you have been made complete..."

Doctrinal Statement #3. We believe in Jesus Christ — under whom we submit as the Lord over all rule and authority.

Colossians 2:10 "...He is the head over all rule and authority..."

Doctrinal Statement #4. We believe in Jesus Christ — in whom we were cleansed.

Colossians 2:11 "...and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ."

Now in Part Three...

Doctrinal Statement #5.

We believe in Jesus Christ — with whom we were buried and raised up.

Colossians 2:12 "...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead."

Doctrinal Statement #6.

We believe in Jesus Christ — by whom we were made alive.

Colossians 2:13 "And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him..."

• We were once spiritually dead — buried deeply in the filth (the uncircumcision) of our sin (our transgressions). However, God is a "working" God who sent Jesus Christ to die in our place. Through faith in the shed blood and the resurrection of Christ we were buried with Christ and made alive.

Colossians 3:3 "For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." cf. Ephesians 2:1-7

Doctrinal Statement #7.

We believe in Jesus Christ — by whom we have been forgiven all our transgressions.

Colossians 2:13 "...having forgiven us all our transgressions..." cf. Isaiah 6:1-5

1 John 1:9 "If you confess your sins, He is faithful and just to forgive you yours sins and to cleanse you from ALL unrighteousness."

John 8:36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Doctrinal Statement #8.

We believe in Jesus Christ — by whom our debt was paid.

Colossians 2:14 "...having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

John 19:30 "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit."

"It is finished" = Greek: τετέλεσται (tetelestai) = work finished (Mt. 11:1); task performed (Lk. 2:39); task accomplished (Lk. 18:31); debt paid (Mt. 17:24)

Lessons from a Roman Prison: "The Certificate of Debt" posted on cell = a man's sentence

"TELESTAI" posted on cell = "Debt paid in full"

Colossians 2:13-14 "When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

Doctrinal Statement #9.

We believe in Jesus Christ — by whom God triumphed over His enemies.

Colossians 2:15 "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

"the rulers and authorities" = the devil and his host of fallen angels (demons) as well as those who are "...slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil..." (Romans 1:30)

God "disarmed" them... "made a public display" of them...and "triumphed over them" (cf. Hebrews 2:14)

Romans 8:37 "We are more than conquerors through him who loved us"

Concluding Challenge:

"I know men; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religions the distance of infinity....Everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and his will confounds me. Between him and whoever else in the world, there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a being by himself, his manner of convincing, are not explained either by human organization or by the nature of things....The nearer I approach, the more carefully I examine, everything is above me -everything remains grand, of a grandeur which overpowers. His religion is a revelation from an intelligence which certainly is not of man....One can absolutely find nowhere, but in him alone, the imitation or the example of his life....I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel. Neither history, nor humanity, nor the ages, nor nature, offer me anything with which I am able to compare it or to explain it. Here everything is extraordinary." (Napoleon Bonaparte)

A Biblical Worldview of Jesus Christ (Based on Colossians 2:8-15)

We believe in Jesus Christ —

- in whom all the fullness of Deity dwells
- in whom we have been made complete
- under whom we submit as the Lord over all rule and authority
- in whom we were cleansed
- with whom we were buried and raised up
- by whom we were made alive
- by whom we were made alive
- by whom we have been forgiven all our transgressions
- by whom our debt was paid
- by whom God triumphed over His enemies