

Recap of 5/9/21 (Col 2:16-3:11):

1. Paul states his purpose in proclaiming Jesus as well as admonishing and teaching in His name. The purpose is to bring everyone to maturity in Christ. Paul labors in letter writing and prayer to help mature the saints. An indication of this maturity is unity (hearts knit together in love) and being fully assured through a true knowledge of God's mystery which is His Son, Jesus Christ.

2. Since all true wisdom and knowledge are in Christ, Paul warns us to not be deceived by the seemingly persuasive reasoning of the world. It may seem reasonable on the surface, but it is really just foolish imaginings of man apart from God (see also 1 Cor 1:18-31). Some of the examples we see today are the confusion over sexuality, gender, race, abortion, marriage, and evolution. We need to live in and stand on the Truth found in the Bible (Christ) and cannot accept the lies of our culture.

3. Paul tells us not to fall into the traps of legalism, mysticism, and asceticism. We have died with Christ and been raised to new life in Christ so we shouldn't let anyone put us back into bondage to such things. Regarding legalism, if someone is judging our righteousness based on something in which we have freedom in Christ (Bible doesn't specifically condemn or commend) we don't fall into their way of thinking. Instead, we rejoice in our freedom in Christ. However, we should limit our freedom for the sake of a weaker brother or sister. Regarding mysticism, we are not to listen to those who use stars, crystals, or any other "special knowledge" to direct people's paths. All we need, we have in Christ. Regarding asceticism, rules for our body will never work. The only antidote to bodily temptation is seeking heavenly things; setting our mind on the things of Christ.

4. Paul admonishes us to put aside the things we formally walked in and gives us two lists. The first list in Co 3:5 includes things Wiersbe calls sensual sins. They are the temptations we fight inside of us. The second list in Co 3:8-9 includes what Wiersbe calls social sins. They are the temptations we encounter in relationships. By focusing on Christ we can consider ourselves dead to these sins. We have been renewed in Christ and in this renewal all the false distinctions of the world are gone because Christ is all and in all.