**KINSHIP STUDY OF PAUL’s LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS**

**Week Four**

**Colossians 2:8 - 3:4 Monday 8th & Thursday 11th September**

Complete in Christ

**It is interesting that in his study of Colossians Tom Wright’s chapters don’t follow the various sections in most modern translations of the Bible. The paragraphs and headings of our various translations, and even the verses and chapters of the Authorised Version, are additions to the original Greek text and can shape how we comprehend what Paul is actually staying to his readers.**

**Anyway ….**

**This week’s passage starts off with quite a demanding verse. I think most of us will find Colossians 2:8 hard to make sense of … so I am hoping the extra notes will help!!**

**Paul doesn’t spend much time correcting false teaching. He focuses on the Truth rather than getting involved in debate about why untruths are not true!**

**SEVEN QUESTIONS**

**1.** Circumcision and Baptism. The first Christian communities often had to deal with the reality that the requirement of circumcision laid down in the Old Testament. Has the requirement of Baptism replaced these rules? What is the imagery of baptism?

**2.** VV 13 & 14. These verses give a full statement of what Christ achieved on the Cross for each one of us

Tom Wright suggests that the ‘handwriting that was against us’ (2:14) refers to the Jewish law, the law of Moses’ but perhaps it applies to all wrong-doing / sin / falling short in human behaviour. It was all paid for on the Cross.

**3.** V 15. “*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.”* Powerful words. How do you understand / explain these?

**4.** vv. 16 - 23. Paul touches on some of the issues that were touching the spiritual lives of the church on Colossae, and which Paul is concerned about.

Can you think of anything similar that is around for us today?

**5**. Chapter 3:1-2*. ‘Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.****2****Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things’.*

Paul is challenging his readers to make a deliberate, individual, personal decision towards a spiritual focus in their lives. What would that look like in my own life?

**6.** V. 3 -4. ‘*For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.****4****When Christ, who is yourlife, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.’*

These verses have a Past - Present - Future perspective on our spiritual lives.

Do you think of life / eternity as:

* Before I came to faith
* My life now as a believer / child of God
* My future life beyond physical death ?

**7.** You can sense Paul’s desperation for the church in Colossae. He really is worried that they are getting mixed up and confused by all the different teachings and philosophies. What should we be concerned about in our time? How do we pray for the church today?

Monday evenings on Zoom @ 19.00 hrs

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5602261575?pwd=YkxMbnF3WHgyMFNvR0hWMHcrdUdEdz09

Meeting ID: 560 226 1575

Passcode: 123456

Thursday evenings in Balduff House @ 19.00 hrs