

## Christ, Not Carnality

Theme: Minimizing man to maximize Christ.

Colossians 1-3

### Introduction:

- A. There is something just as grievous as a carnal lifestyle ... *a carnal way of believing and serving our Lord.*
- B. When we ...
  - 1. Limit the fullness of Jesus as deity in bodily form.
  - 2. Create man-made commandments.
  - 3. ... *We minimize Him and maximize us (man).*

### Discussion:

#### I. It's All About Jesus Christ

- A. Being filled with the knowledge of His will ... all to God's glory. **1:9-12**
  - 1. So we can walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.
  - 2. So we can please Him in all respects.
  - 3. So we can bear fruit in every good work.
  - 4. So we can increase in the knowledge of God.
- B. Because He rescued and transferred us from the domain of darkness to His kingdom. **1:13-29**
  - 1. In Christ we have redemption: the forgiveness of sins. **v. 13-14**
  - 2. He has all preeminence: All things created by/for Him of which/whom He is over. **v. 15-20**
  - 3. Through His preeminence He reconciled all (believing) sinners to Him. **v. 21-23**
- C. Paul's reasons for proclaiming (preach, evangelize) HIM. **v. 24-28**
  - 1. To be filled with the afflictions Christ did not endure.
  - 2. To *Preach the mystery of Christ to make known the riches found in Him.*
  - 3. To admonish and teach every man to present him complete *in Christ.*

#### II. It's Not About Man

- A. Note the carnal extremes:
  - 1. Those who minimize Christ. **Vss. 8-15** (cp. **1 Tim. 6:20; 2 Cor. 10:5**)
  - 2. Those who maximize self-made laws of righteousness. **v. 16-23**
- B. Either extreme jeopardizes our stand *in Christ.*
- C. Bottom line: grow *in Christ by putting on the new man.* **Ch. 3**
  - 1. Seeking things above because that is where we live. Cp. **Phil. 3:19-20**
  - 2. Consider our (fleshly) members as dead. **v. 5-9** (cp. **Rom. 7:14ff**)
- D. This *new man grows into everything Christ represents: the righteousness of God.* **v. 10-14**

### Conclusion:

- A. Let the peace of Christ rule your hearts. **v. 15**
- B. Let God's word richly dwell in you: teaching and admonishing one another. **v. 16**
- C. Whatever you do (cp. **1 Cor. 10:31**) do all in the name of the Lord ... giving (Him) thanks. **v. 17**