

/Hello./ We will now begin with the fourteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ The text for today is Colossians chapter 2./ The title of this chapter is “Faith.”

/First, strive to establish faith. Verses 1-5./ Second, firmly stand in the Word. Verses 6-7./ Third, live a life that is united with Christ. Verses 8-15./ Fourth, do not be led away by false teachings. Verses 16-23.

/Let’s discuss the first point. Strive to establish faith. Verses 1-5.

/Read verse 1./ I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.

/Paul had never visited the church of Colossi or of Laodicea./ Though he had never been to those churches, he always prayed for them.

/Because those churches helped and prayed for Paul,/ he returned the favor by praying for them./ Then what was the purpose of Paul’s struggle for them?

/Verse 2./ My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,

/Paul’s purpose was to encourage them in heart./ In those times, there were numerous troubles and temptations,/ and hence, Paul properly taught them the truth.

/When they firmly stood on the truth, they were both comforted./ It is a comfort for pastors to see the members of their churches stand firmly on the truth.

/Also, it says, “and united in love.”/ Believers can be united when they are united in love./ They can become a greater temple through unity./ Ephesians 2:21.

/When believers unite with one another, they become a greater temple, which is the work of God./ It also says, “complete understanding.”/ This refers to complete understanding regarding the truth.

/A church or a believer can be well when he/her understands the truth in all aspects./ That is why Paul struggled to teach the truth to the believers.

/The church and believers may grow after they learn the truth./ It says, “in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.”/ We can know Christ when we have complete understanding of the truth.

/We can only understand and believe through the Word and the Holy Spirit./ Human knowledge or wisdom is not enough to know or believe our Lord.

/Verse 3./ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

/“Wisdom and knowledge” do not refer to worldly wisdom and knowledge./ They refer to spiritual wisdom and knowledge./ That spiritual wisdom and knowledge is in Jesus Christ./ We can know it through the Bible and faith in Jesus.

/If we believe Jesus and learn God's Word,/ our views on divinity, life,/ universe, salvation,/ the afterlife, and the world will become proper./ It also says, "in whom are hidden all the treasures."

/The "treasures" indicate spiritual wisdom and knowledge./ In the redemptive world of Jesus Christ, all of these treasures exist./ Those treasures are hidden in Christ.

/Verse 4./ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

/It says, "I tell you this."/ Paul was referring to what was said in verses 2 and 3./ It refers to this, that everything in Christ is true wisdom and true knowledge.

/The reason why Paul said this was because there were many false teachers at that time./ Because there were many false teachers, Paul strictly warned them./ That is why he said, "I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments."

/People were deceiving others by fine-sounding arguments./ However, Christianity is not in a theory or an argument but in faith./ It is not in words but in power.

/Verse 5./ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

/Paul was physically absent from them./ Still, they were spiritually connected to each other because they prayed for each other./ A relationship between a pastor and the members of the church must be like this, where they are spiritually connected to each other through prayer.

/It also says, "delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is."/ "Orderly" refers to discipline./ Discipline is necessary for believers to have firm faith.

/Paul was pleased because the church of Colossi was orderly and had firm faith in Christ.

/Next, the second point. Firmly stand in the Word. Verses 6-7.

/Verses 6-7./ So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

/It says, "just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord."/ Believers must not continue to have infant-like faith but they must grow./ That is why Paul instructs them to be rooted and be built up in Jesus.

/We must understand the truth deeper./ There must be a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ./ Then we will be deeply rooted in Him, and we will not be shaken and fall.

/When faith is deeply rooted, then we are built up./ It refers to the building up of believers through the power of Jesus Christ./ It also says, "strengthened in the faith as you were taught."

/If we received the Word of truth, we must firmly stand on it./ We must not accept false teachings./ We have received the precious truth.

/Anyone who is not thankful for this truth can be deceived and be led astray./ Therefore, we must firmly stand on the truth as we have been taught, and overflow with thankfulness.

/If we are not thankful or unaware of the precious truth we have received, we will be deceived and be led away./ Therefore, we must always be thankful.

/Next, let us discuss the third point, which is, live a life that is united with Christ. Verses 8-15.

/Verse 8./ See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

/In those times, many false teachers deceived believers with fine-sounding arguments./ Paul spoke of this./ He said, “See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy.”

/Philosophy consists of theories based on theoretical premises regarding certain incidents./ It is not real but are false teachings./ It says, “See to it that no one takes you captive.”

/If believers are led astray, they depart from the truth./ It says, “which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world.”/ The “human tradition” here refers to the teachings of man, not of God.

/Also, “basic principles of this world” refer to philosophy and a duty to observe the law./ In verses 14-16,/ it talks about worshiping angels./ In verse 21, it talks about asceticism.

/Next, Paul said, “rather than on Christ.”/ Religious services,/ philosophies,/ and wrong theologies/ are all basic principles of this world./ Paul warns the believers of Colossi not to be led astray by these.

/Verse 9./ For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,

/In Jesus Christ, all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form./ The body of Jesus Christ is an incarnated body./ The essence and true character of God are full in Jesus’ body.

/Verse 10./ and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

/It says, “you have been given fullness in Christ.”/ Also, Jesus Christ is the head over every power and authority./ Therefore, Jesus Christ is the head and ruler over the angels, the devil, and all authorities of this world.

/Although it may seem like this world is being ruled by the authorities of the world, God governs this world./ Our Lord rules this world with His sovereign power.

/Verse 11./ In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ,

/Believers of Jesus Christ have received spiritual circumcision./ What is the definition of “circumcision?”/ In the Old Testament, when a boy was born, his foreskin was to be cut off eight days after his birth.

/The meaning of circumcision is first,/ it is a removal of sexual desires./ Jeremiah 4:4./ Second, it signifies participation in the covenant of God./ Genesis 17:9-14./ Third, it is the mark of citizenship in God./ Genesis 17:14.

/The holy ceremonies of the Old Testament were circumcision and the Passover./ In New Testament, they are baptism and communion./ Baptism is a ceremony that cleanses believers through water./ Through baptism, believers participate in the covenant of God,/ and they become children of God.

/Here, Paul refers to spiritual circumcision./ Believers spiritually become children of God,/ they participate in the covenant of God,/ and they receive spiritual circumcision.

/It says, “the circumcision done by Christ,” and this signifies circumcision of spiritual union with Christ.

/Verse 12./ having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

/When we believe in Christ, we receive baptism of the Holy Spirit./ Because we received baptism of the Holy Spirit, we receive the baptism of water as a sign.

/“Having been buried with him in baptism.”/ Also, just as God raised Christ from the dead,/ Paul says that they have been raised with Him from the dead through faith.

/Believers become part of the cross of Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection./ In Galatians 2:20,/ it tells us that we have died with Christ./ We have been buried with Him./ We have been resurrected with Him./ Galatians 2:20.

/“Baptism” means to cleanse./ It is a sign that one has been cleansed of his sins through faith in Jesus./ It is a sign that one has become clean through the washing away of his sins./ Romans 6:3-5.

/There it says that the baptized believers participated in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ./ Because they were cleansed by the blood of Jesus, baptism is given as a sign.

/It also says, “raised with him.”/ Because believers have been united with Christ,/ they have been raised with Christ.

/Even if one did not receive baptism of water, he received baptism of the Holy Spirit when he first believed./ Therefore, we have been united with Christ.

/One is born again through the life of Jesus Christ./ That is why Paul says that they have been raised with Him.

/Verse 13./ When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

/It says, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.”/ Before we believed, we were dead in our sins and in the uncircumcision of our sinful nature.

/Circumcision signifies the removal of sexual desires./ Therefore, anyone who is not circumcised did not receive forgiveness of sins./ This also signifies the state of one who has not been born again.

/However, through faith in Jesus Christ, our sins have been forgiven and we have been born again.

/Verse 14./ having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.

/“Having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us.”/ “The written code” refers to the regulations of the law./ They are the rituals of the law.

/Jesus Christ took away the rituals of the law such as sacrificing a calf or a lamb as offering,/ and observing the Passover and the Sabbath./ However, we must keep the truth that is included in the law.

/The blood of a calf or a lamb were offered in the Old Testament,/ and the substance of that ritual was that it signified the blood of Jesus Christ.

/Therefore, now, we do not give offerings to God with a calf or a lamb,/ but we go before God with faith in the blood of Jesus./ Ceremonial circumcision of the Old Testament has now been abolished,/ but its substance is baptism.

/That is why we receive baptism of the Holy Spirit when we first believe in Jesus./ Then we receive baptism of water as a sign of our confession of faith./ Hence, we first participate in the promise of God through Jesus Christ.

/This is the truth about the ceremony of baptism. First, we participate in the promise of God through Jesus Christ./ Second, it signifies the removal of sexual desires.

/Third, it is a sign that we have become children of God./ Although the ritual has been abolished, we receive baptism with the truth./ Matthew 5:17./ It says that Jesus did not come to abolish the law but to fulfill the law.

/Jesus abolished the written code and perfected the truth./ Then what was the purpose for giving us the law?/ First, it was so that we would recognize our sins through the law./ Then, we would recognize our sins and be led to Christ.

/Second,/ there is no one who can be saved by perfectly keeping the law./ The law was given to us so that we would know how incompetent and weak we are.

/Third, it was so that we would know the will of God./ We can know the will of God through the law./ Fourth, the purpose of the law/ was to give believers a guideline of the lifestyle they were to live by.

/The law is our guideline./ It tells us what to do and what not to do./ Fifth, the spirit grows by keeping the law./ Sixth,/ we receive rewards in heaven by keeping the law.

/Through the law, we realize that we are sinners and we are led to Christ./ We understand the will of God through the law and it becomes a guideline to believers./ Also, the spirit grows by keeping the law.

/When we keep the law, we can receive rewards in heaven./ In Romans 7:6,/ it says that we no longer serve God in the old ways of the written code./ We must serve God in the new way of the Spirit.

/Therefore, we must serve God with the truth of life that is in Christ./ Although the law is good, we are weak and evil./ That is why we go against God's Word.

/Because we are evil, we clash with the law even though the law is good./ We stand against the law./ That is why Christ perfected the law on the cross./ He fulfilled all the requirements of the law.

/Therefore, He canceled the written code./ It is the same as deleting the account of records of how much everyone owed Him./ Jesus forgave us all.

/Verse 15./ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

/It says here, "having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."/ The "powers and authorities" refer to the works of the devil./ They also refer to the powers and authorities of the world that are controlled by the devil.

/Jesus defeated all of them on the cross./ It says, "he made a public spectacle of them."/ It means that Jesus freed all the captives from the things that bound them.

/Christ made a public spectacle of all the works of the devil./ Jesus triumphed through the cross and defeated all powers and authorities.

/Next, the fourth point. Do not be led away by false teachings. Verses 16-23.

/Verses 16-17./ Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

/There were many deceiving things./ Among them were things to "eat or drink."/ In Leviticus 11,/ there are animals that were allowed to be eaten in the Old Testament.

/Animals that did not chew the cud and did not have a split hoof were not allowed to be eaten./ Also, the Israelites were not allowed to eat fish that did not have scales because they were unclean./ There were false teachings regarding the "religious festival and a New Moon celebration" as well.

/There are numerous feasts such as the Sabbath, the Passover, and the Feast of the Tabernacle./ The "New Moon celebration" refers to sacrifice offerings given on the first day of every month./ "Sabbath" refers to observing Saturdays./ Believers of Jesus Christ cannot judge these things.

/This is because Jesus Christ abolished them all on the cross./ The things of the Old Testament are shadows./ The reality of the **shadows** is Jesus Christ.

/They tell us that Jesus Christ redeem His people through His blood and complete it./ Therefore, we no longer have to observe such feasts because we believe in Jesus Christ.

/Paul also talks about the written code and the rituals./ Because Jesus Christ, the reality, perfected the law, we only have to believe in Christ.

/Hence, we do not observe the Sabbath on Saturdays but on Sundays, which is the day Jesus Christ resurrected from the dead./ Therefore, when we observe Sundays, we must observe it as we would observe the Sabbath.

/It is wrong in the eyes of God to do worldly works or trade goods on Sundays./ It would be a violation of the fourth commandment.

/Verse 18./ Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions.

/Here, it says, “Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize.”/ During those times, some people claimed, “Since humans are lacking, they cannot personally approach God, but must do so with the help of angels.”

/In Judaism, there are three major parties./ They are the Pharisees, Sadducees,/ and Essenes./ The Essenes insisted that people must strictly observe the law/ and serve Moses as second after God.

/They also insisted on asceticism and the worship of angels./ They taught that worship did not have to take place in the temple./ They claimed that man must worship angels because God gave Moses the laws through angels.

/However, angels are merely creatures. They are servants of God who do errands for believers./ Here, it says, “disqualify you for the prize.”/ It means that believers must not be too humble to bow down to things they don’t have to.

/It also means that they must not submit to lies./ It is a good thing to be humble but believers must be humble in the boundaries of God’s Word./ It is wrong to accept heresies because one is too humble.

/Humility that is not of God’s Word takes away believers’ rewards./ Also, it says, “Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen.”/ Man depends on what he sees./ However, Jesus said, “blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

/The standard of Christianity is not the things that are seen with the eye, but the Bible./ The things that we see with our physical eyes are not all correct./ The human eyes can be mistaken in the things it sees.

/Satan can show us false things./ Therefore, we must not believe everything we see with our eyes, but we must believe with the spirit./ Also, the Word of God must be the standard./ It also says, “his unspiritual mind.”

/This refers to emotionalism of the flesh./ One could have a passionate heart at the beginning and gain satisfaction from it for a while./ He will at first be zealous as he pursues his emotion/ but because the emotion belongs to the flesh, it will eventually decrease.

/Therefore, emotions cannot be the standard./ The Word of God must be the standard./ Also, it says, “puffs him up with idle notions.”/ People want to puff themselves and exaggerate about their circumstances.

/People easily become arrogant./ However, God will lower them after a short period./ He will reveal their true identities./ Therefore, we must not boast./ The power of God will depart if one is arrogant.

/Paul boasted of his weaknesses./ He said that the power of God stayed in him when he was weak./ Thus, we must not be in a place where we boast and exaggerate about ourselves.

/Verse 19./ He has lost connection with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

/It says, “He has lost connection with the Head,” and “the Head” refers to Jesus Christ./ We must obey the commands of the Head./ We must accept the rulings and teachings of Christ./ We must gain strength through Him.

/Then we must be united with Him./ The body is attached to the head, the hands are attached to the body, and then the body can have life when its parts are united./ In this way, believers must receive Jesus’ reign.

/Verse 20./ Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules:

/Paul says in this verse, “Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules.”/ “The basic principles of this world” refer to basic religions.

/In this text, Paul refers to paganism and idolatry./ The believers of Colossi were Gentiles./ Before, they were idolaters.

/However, because Jesus died on the cross for them,/ it was wrong for them to obey the written codes as worldly people did.

/Verse 21./ “Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?

/Ascetics claimed,/ “It is a sin if you touch it,/ if you taste it,/ and if you marry.”

/Verse 22./ These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings.



/We must not pursue human commands and teachings./ What the Bible does not forbid is not sin./ The rituals and written codes of the Old Testament were all nullified through the cross.

/Therefore,/ we must not follow human teachings, but we must follow the Word of God.

/Verse 23./ Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

/Asceticism mentioned earlier holds the appearance of humility./ It holds the appearance of harsh treatment of the body./ However, Paul is saying that it is useless in restraining sensual indulgences./ We must not act out of hypocrisy or appearance.

/Here, it says, “their self-imposed worship.”/ This refers to manmade practices of religion./ It also refers to hypocritical rituals like Cain’s offering.

/It also says, “an appearance of wisdom.”/ This refers to complimenting others by saying, “There is true wisdom.”/ Ascetics were complimented and received public popularity.

/However, in the eyes of God, they are useless./ Does asceticism give power to triumph over sin?/ We can defeat sin and sensual indulgences through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

/External piety without internal piety has no life./ That is merely hypocrisy./ It is to deceive oneself and deceive others.

/It is only through Jesus Christ that our born again spirits grow and we live with internal piety.

/Here we will conclude the fourteenth lecture on the prison epistles./ Thank you.