

Jesus

The Image of the Invisible God

Studies in the book of Colossians

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(Colossians 3:11-4:18)**

*"We have not ceased to pray
for you..."*

IN PREPARATION

COLOSSIANS 1:1-23

QUESTIONS

WHEN WAS
COLOSSIANS
WRITTEN? BY WHO?
FROM WHERE?

WHAT OTHER BOOKS
ARE WRITTEN
AROUND THIS SAME
TIME?

WHO WERE THE
COLOSSIANS? WHAT
KIND OF PROBLEMS
DID THEY HAVE?

WHAT ARE SOME OF
THE MAJOR THEMES
FOR THE BOOK OF
COLOSSIANS?

Introduction to Colossians

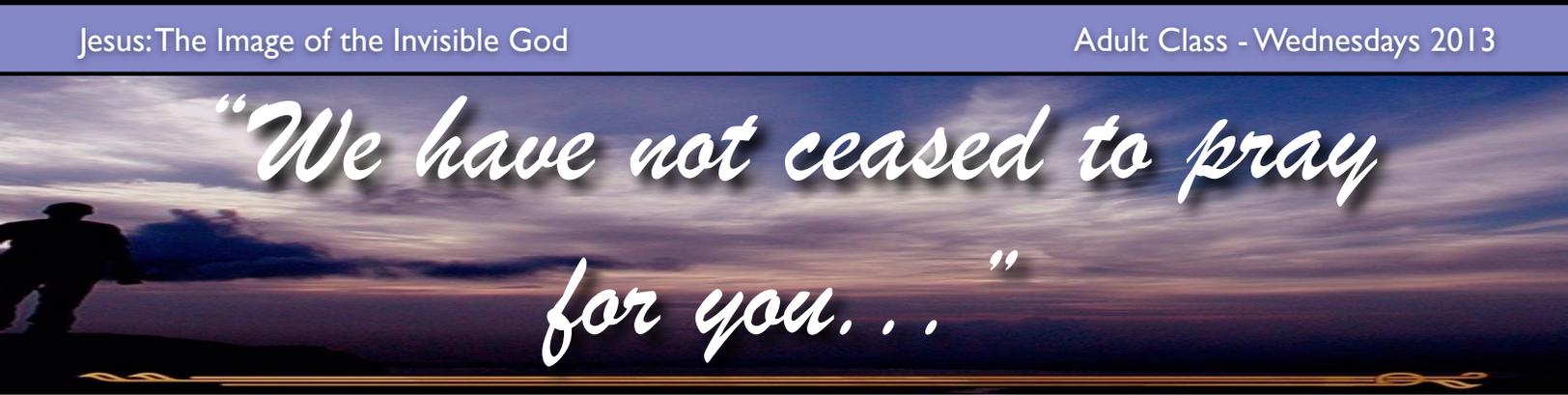
The book of Colossians is a powerful book with a powerful message: Christ is the end all and be all of knowledge! There is no other place to go! As Paul shares this message, he is trying to ground these brethren in who Christ is and the relationship they have with Him!

Introduction

As Paul begins his writing, he is speaking to some of his beloved brethren, and he has a concern on his mind - false teachers. Paul is concerned about this church, and he wants these brethren to stay where they are and keep growing in the Lord's will.

Paul's Greeting and Prayer

Paul greets the brethren and immediately goes into two things - their reputation and his desire for them. The church had been doing very well. On top of their obedience to the gospel, they had been alive and active! They were convicted



*"We have not ceased to pray
for you..."*

Who had taught these brethren the gospel? How had Paul heard about the work there?

What was the news about this church? How was the work going?

What specifically did Paul pray about for this church? Why?

Jesus, the Image of the Invisible God

The discussion changes now. It's no longer about the church, it is about their savior - Jesus. Paul describes in detail who Jesus is, what he did for them, what position he holds, and what it means for these brethren. The message is simple - no one is greater than Jesus! How does Paul describe Jesus? What position does He hold? Where does He come from?

*“Therefore, as you have received
Christ Jesus...”*

IN PREPARATION

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:15

QUESTIONS

WHAT CONNECTION
DID PAUL HAVE TO
THIS CHURCH?

HAD PAUL EVER BEEN
TO THIS CHURCH?
WHY WAS HE SO
CONCERNED ABOUT
THEM?

WHY IS CHRIST BEING
FOCUSED ON? WHAT
POSITIONS AND
POSSESSIONS
BELONG TO CHRIST?

WHEN DID THEY
COME TO JESUS?
HOW?

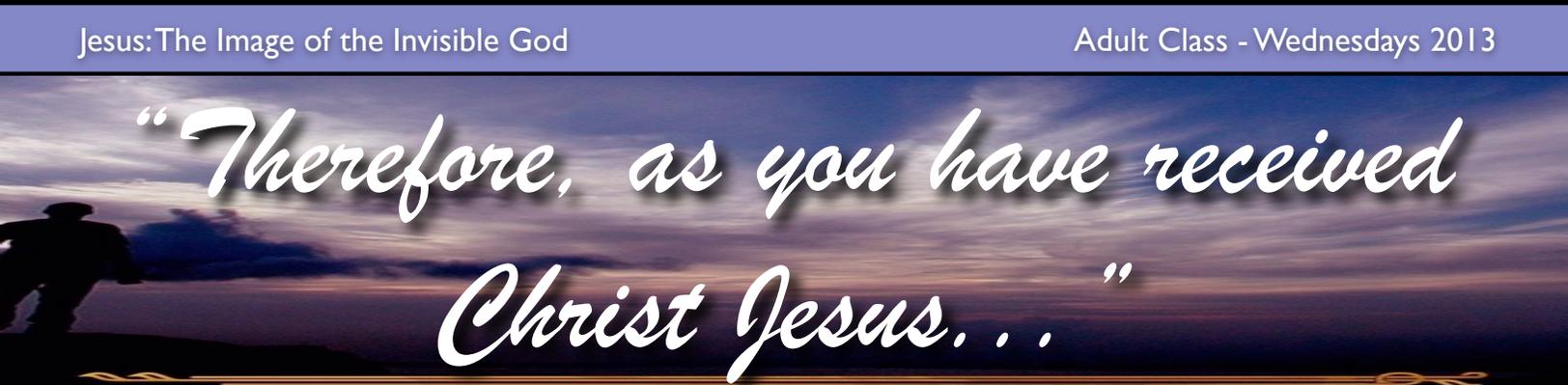
Introduction

Paul had suffered many things for many different reasons. In second Corinthians he elaborates multiple times about his burdens in Christ. One of those burdens was for the churches, and Paul had a burden on him about the church in Colossae. He was concerned about them.

Paul's Work with Colossae

Paul had a special place in God's work. Paul was a specific minister of the mystery of God, and he was appointed to the work of the Gentiles. The church in Colossae is one of those groups. Paul wanted the Colossians to reach maturity. The church was seemingly young in the faith, and there were people trying to lead the church away.

What was the specific role God had given to Paul? Why?



*“Therefore, as you have received
Christ Jesus...”*

What kind of struggle is Paul under? Who was he struggling for and why?

What type of deception was going on in Colossae? How were they trying to lead away the brethren?

Colossae's Reception of the Gospel

These brethren had been properly taught. They had received the truth. They had the right Savior. But there was a dangerous threat at play in Colossae. Paul seems to imply that there were people who were not satisfied with Jesus were claiming additional, special knowledge. Paul now reminds them of their initial obedience to the gospel and what occurred at that time.

How had they received Jesus? What did Paul want the brethren to do (as when they initially obeyed)?

*"If then you have been raised
with Christ..."*

IN PREPARATION

COLOSSIANS 2:16-3:10

QUESTIONS

WHO WAS THE
GROUP PASSING
JUDGMENT ON THEM?
HOW?

HOW COULD
SOMEONE ELSE
DISQUALIFY THEM?
WHAT DID THAT
MEAN?

WHO WERE THESE
FALSE TEACHERS?

WHAT APPEARANCE
DID THESE TEACHERS
AND THIS DOCTRINE
HAVE?

WHAT DID IT MEAN
TO BE RAISED WITH
CHRIST?

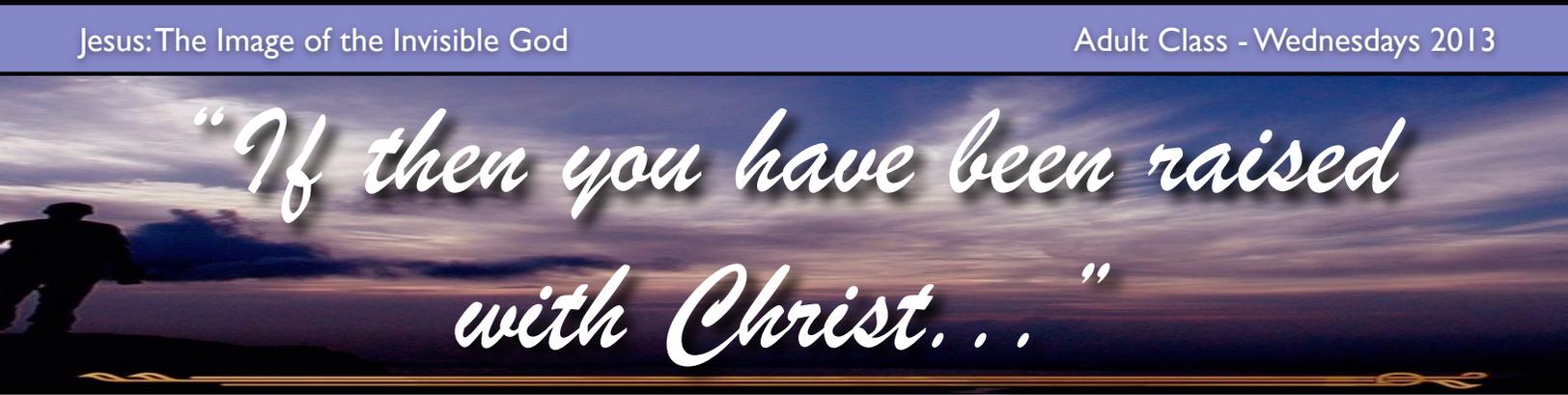
Introduction

Paul has just discussed the conversion of the disciples and reminded them of what happened when they obeyed the gospel. Now he settles into addressing what could cost them all the precious gifts they gained in obeying the gospel.

False Teachers in Colossae

Paul's concerns hinged on this particular section of Colossians. The brethren were being judged and condemned by these false teachers for not holding to their doctrines. Paul specifically addresses their doctrine and dismantles it in the minds of the brethren. As well, he uses a strong appeal to that initial obedience of the gospel in order to motivate the brethren to turn away from this error and to remain in Christ from where all wisdom comes.

In what were these false teachers passing judgment on the brethren? Was there a problem with observing these things? What was the



*“If then you have been raised
with Christ...”*

What are these different doctrines? What are they connected to?
Consider Hebrews 8:5, 10:1

Why did those physical things not matter anymore to the brethren?

What type of regulations were they submitting to? Where did they originate? What was the appearance of these regulations?

The New Life in Christ

Paul again appeals to their conversion in order to take them to the real source of spirituality - Jesus and a renewed focus on Him. Paul had realized that the brethren were being led away from the source and were being bound up in human wisdom and not in Jesus. The brethren needed to remove some physical things, but these were not the same regulations as in chapter two.

*"Whatever you do, in word
or deed"*

IN PREPARATION

COLOSSIANS 3:11-4:18

QUESTIONS

WHAT DOES IT MEAN
THAT CHRIST IS ALL,
AND IN ALL?

WHAT WERE THE
BRETHREN TO PUT
OFF?

WHAT WERE THE
BRETHREN TO PUT
ON?

DID BEING IN CHRIST
CHANGE THEIR
RELATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES?

Introduction

Paul continues past the negative and begins to instruct the brethren in the new mindset they were supposed to have and the fruit that would come from it. This fruit would manifest itself in actions and in a change in the way they operated in their relationships.

The New Life Continued

Because these brethren had already obeyed the gospel they had put off the old man. Paul then brings up that when sin creeps in, the old man is coming back to life! Crucify that man again and put on the new man with a renewed mindset from the knowledge of God.

Where do these characteristics originate? What was the chief characteristic?

*“Whatever you do, in word
or deed”*



...

The Responsibilities for Old Roles

Paul now turns to the specific roles these brethren would fill. The initial instructions are general attitudes and actions all brethren are to have. The law of Christ expands to more than just a single person with no concern for others. It changes each aspect of our lives.

What admonitions are meant for the family? How are these neglected in today’s society?

If all are free in verse 11, why would these bondservants and masters need these instructions?
