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The Carey Pulpit

I am very aff. yours
W. Carey

William Carey University

Hattiesburg • Biloxi



In support of this year's topic of the Winter Bible Study, the sermon outlines in this issue of *The Carey Pulpit* are focused on Colossians. I pray that they help you in your Bible study and sermon preparation. *The Carey Pulpit* goes out to pastors across Mississippi and to alumni and friends across the country.

William Carey University is proud to carry the name of William Carey who was born in Paulersbury, England, in 1761. As a child he was fascinated by the world around him, and he spent much time in the garden and scavenging the fields collecting different plants. He was inspired by the adventures of Captain Cook and dreamt of traveling to far off lands. However, he appeared destined to live his life as a poor cobbler—a shoemaker. While apprenticing as a shoemaker he countered John War, a “dissenter,” who led him to accept Christ as his personal savior. William Carey became a bi-vocational pastor and demonstrated his talent for learning biblical languages. To help lay the theological foundations for the missionary movement, Carey wrote *An Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of the Heathens* and worked with other area pastors to establish the Baptist Missionary Society. In 1793 Carey and his family sailed for India where they would spend the rest of their lives devoted to the Gospel. When Carey answered the call to become a missionary in India, God honored and enhanced all his gifts and talents by transforming the poor shoemaker from England into a linguist, scientist, professor, and social reformer. Carey and his associates evangelized, established Serampore College, and translated the Bible into 40 languages. The “Father of Modern Missions” died in 1834 after helping to start the modern missionary movement.

Past and current volumes of *The Carey Pulpit* are posted on the university website, so you will have access to an ever increasing number of sermon outlines. The web address is www.wmcarey.edu/pulpit. If you would like to receive sermon outlines by email, please send your email address to scott.hummel@wmcarey.edu. I invite you to submit sermon outlines for *The Carey Pulpit* and to encourage others to submit outlines. The sermons can be focused on a single passage, topic, holiday, or event. Mail or email your sermon outlines to the address or email listed below.

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The pulpit shown on the cover is a late 19th century line drawing of William Carey's pulpit that now sits in the Carey Library and Research Center (CLRC), Serampore College, India.

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William Carey University

Education and Church Relations 2012-2013 Report

William Carey University had its earliest origins in Poplarville, Mississippi, when W.I. Thames opened Pearl River Boarding School in 1892. It offered “elementary, preparatory, and some college work.” After a devastating fire in 1905, the school was relocated to Hattiesburg and renamed South Mississippi College. Another fire destroyed the school in 1910, and in 1911 it reopened as Mississippi Woman’s College as offered to the Mississippi Baptist Convention, becoming the second institution of higher learning owned by Mississippi Baptists. In 1953 the college became co-educational, and the name was changed to William Carey College. After being approved as a Level 5 institution in 2006, the name became William Carey University. WCU now offers 28 undergraduate majors, 28 minors, 13 concentrations, and 14 graduate degrees, including four doctoral programs.

CAREY IS GROWING

- The record enrollment for fall 2012 was 4,016 with students from 30 states and 111 international students from 38 countries.
- Our student/faculty ratio is 13:1.
- Enrollment increased 6.8% over last year and increased 60% over the past six years.
- A record number of students graduated, with a fifth straight year of over 1000 graduates.
- The College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) began its first year in fall 2010 with a full class of 108 medical students. About 400 medical students are currently enrolled. The fourth class of 108 students was selected from over 2200 applications. Third and fourth year medical students are engaged in clinical rotations around the state.
- The expansion of McMillan Hall, which houses Information Technology, the campus post office, and the bookstore, has been completed.
- Davis Hall, a new women’s dormitory, has been completed, and students moved in fall 2013.

- Four new building programs were announced: new chapel, new school of business, new gym, and an anatomy building in the medical school complex.
- New academic programs were added including a Ph.D. in nursing education, Ed.D. in higher education, Ph.D. in higher education, Master of Education in educational leadership, Bachelor of Science in criminal justice, Bachelor of Science in health information management, and Bachelor of Arts in intercultural studies (missions).
- Six years ago Carey had seven sports—now it has 14 sports.
- Carey hosted the 2nd Annual Careers in Healthcare Symposium.
- The 2nd annual Scholarship Endowment Dinner with Governor Phil Bryant raised over \$375,000 for scholarships.

CAREY IS COMMITTED

- WCU hosted the Bivocational and Small Church Leadership National Celebration, featuring the theme “Networking with the Iron Men.”
- WCU published two editions of *The Carey Pulpit*, which provides sermon outlines.
- More than 350 local students and 75 teachers and chaperones attended the 2013 Young Authors Celebration hosted by the School of Education.
- The BSU kicked off the academic year by hosting “Survival Weekend” for 130 students.
- The BSU provided weekly and special activities which involved over 535 students and reached over 1000.
- More than 150 students served in community ministries and mission teams.
- Over 40 students on BSU ministry teams served at 14 churches.

- Over 100 students participated in projects to provide tutoring and tornado relief.
- Carey Scholars provided “College Preparation” sessions for 75 Hattiesburg High students.
- The BSU sent 11 students as summer missionaries in the US and abroad.
- WCU students participated in international mission trips to Chile, China, England, Spain, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Peru.
- The BSU raised \$11,067 for summer missions.
- BSU ministries saw 7 professions of faith.
- FCA saw 4 professions of faith.
- FCA adopted an 18-year-old cancer patient.
- FCA students have spoken at numerous area schools about their faith.
- Global Opportunity Week featured a pastor from Chile and provided training in cross-cultural evangelism methods.
- Nearly 1100 participated in the 2nd annual *GC Night: A Night for the Great Commission*.
- WCU had 94 church related vocation students.

CAREY IS EXCELLING

- The average ACT score for incoming freshmen is 24, which is six points higher than the Mississippi average and four points higher than the national average.
- For the first time, Carey was ranked a “Top Tier Regional University” by *U.S. News and World Report*.
- WCU was named a College of Distinction, an honor held by only three schools in Mississippi.
- WCU is a Best College Buy for its high academic standards but below average costs.
- For the fifth year in a row, Carey was selected as a “Military Friendly School.”
- WCU received a perfect score by the U.S. Department of Education for “College Financial Responsibility.”
- President Tommy King served as the president of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and

Universities, and William Carey University hosted the state-wide MAC conference.

- The speech and debate team won second place in the national debate tournament for the third year in a row.
- WCU had 14 student-athletes on the SSAC fall sports All-American teams and 18 scholar-athletes.
- Six Carey athletic teams were selected as NAIA Scholar teams with a minimum 3.0 GPA.
- Five teams placed in the NAIA Top 25 in the nation, including women’s tennis which finished 2nd in the nation.
- Coach Steve Knight was named the Athletic Director of the Year for the Southern States Athletic Conference

CAREY IS GLOBAL

- WCU maintains its relationship with the Texas Tech University Center in Seville, Spain.
- A teacher/student exchange program with Linyi University brought Chinese professors and students to Hattiesburg and Carey students and faculty to China.
- The Study, Travel, and Excavation Program took students to Greece, Jordan, and Israel.

Promoting and supporting Christian education is vital to Mississippi Baptists. At William Carey University, we are unapologetic about our commitment to a biblical worldview and the integration of faith, learning, and living. As a missionary, linguist, botanist, and educator, our namesake, William Carey, modeled the power of integration in Christian education. Only through Christian education are our students able to reach their highest potential in scholarship, leadership, and service.

Our achievements were possible due to your prayers and continued giving to the Cooperative Program. You are directly responsible for making a difference in the lives of our students, and through our students, you are helping to fulfill the Great Commission. Thank you for your continued support of William Carey University and Christian higher education.

FOUR PILLARS OF STRENGTH IN THE CHURCH DURING AN ERA OF ATTACK

Colossians 1:4-5

Introduction:

The church is under attack from outside its walls:

- Economic Godlessness...no honesty
- Entertainment Godlessness...no morals
- Educational Godlessness...humanism
- Evangelical Godlessness...societal claim that witnessing is a hate crime

The church is also under attack from inside its walls:

- The “less than straight community” claims the love of God while rejecting the righteousness and justice of God.
- The feminists want to remove all masculine references to God in the Bible.
- The ultra liberals want to cut and paste the Word until we have nothing to believe in
- The ultra conservatives want to worship a particular version of the Bible.

The same thing was happening in Paul’s day. The church was under attack from within by pagan believers who wanted to keep some of their ways and by Jewish believers who wanted to hold on to some Jewish legalism.

In these two verses we see FOUR PILLARS OF STRENGTH evident in the church in Paul’s day and in the church today.

I. The Essence of Salvation is Faith (1:4a).

- A. To get in the body of Christ it takes faith (Luke 7:50)
- B. To get over our sin, separation, sadness, sickness, etc., it takes faith (Luke 17:19).

II. The Emotion of Salvation is Love (1:4b).

- A. Jesus expresses God’s love because God is love (1 John 4:16).
- B. Jesus exposes God’s love in conversation with Nicodemus (John 3:16).
- C. Jesus exemplifies God’s love at Calvary (John 15:13).

D. Jesus expands God’s love through the Church

1. Through loving our neighbor (Matt. 22:39).
2. Through loving one another (John 15:17).
3. Through loving sinners (Rom 5:8 and Acts 1:8).

III. The Excitement of Salvation is Hope (1:5a).

- A. Hope in this sense is not a wishful desire that something might happen, but a convincing belief that something is definitely going to happen.
- B. Paul expands that idea in Col 1:27...we have that hope because Christ is in us!
 1. It is not a hope of just getting by.
 2. It is not a hope of glitter and glue.

Illustration: We sing a song that explains it best, “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” *The Solid Rock*, words by Edward Mote and the tune by William B. Bradbury. 1975 edition of the Baptist Hymnal, page 337.

IV. The Energy of Salvation is the Word of Truth (1:5b)

- A. When we are tired the word revives us (Ps. 119:154).
- B. When we are lost the word reveals the way (Ps. 119:105).
- C. When we are in despair the word restores our hope (Ps. 119:114).
- D. When we are confused the word refreshes our understanding (Ps. 119:169).
- E. When we face difficulty, even death, the word reminds us in Him we have life (Ps. 119:50).

Conclusion:

The most basic structure needs four support points. To combat any threat during any era, we need to be reminded of the foundation, chief cornerstone, and the head of the church. We also need to hear Paul reminding the church at Colossae about strength that is evident in the church then, and now.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE**Colossians 1:1-2****Introduction:**

Douglas Rhymes wrote, "If our faith is not relevant to our daily life in the world . . . then it is no use; . . . A piety reserved for Sundays is not a message for this age." In these two verses Paul wrote to remind the Colossians of their identity in Christ and of their need to remain steadfast in their faith.

I. The Historical Setting

- A. The City: Colossae was a typical Greco-Roman commercial city located in modern-day Turkey. The luke-warm city of Laodicea was just 10 miles to the west. It was filled with pagan religious practices, superstitions and magical cults.
- B. The Church:
 - 1. The Colossian church had a good beginning because of Epaphras.
 - a. He nurtured their faith and they made real progress.
 - b. As Gentiles they did not have the benefit of Christian or Jewish instruction during childhood.
 - c. They had been converted from a pagan religious background.
 - 2. In the midst of that pagan environment, Paul encouraged this church to remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

II. The Apostle's Greeting (1:2)

- A. The Reason for the Letter
 - 1. Later in verses 10 and 23, Paul reveals his reason for writing to the Colossians.
 - 2. They had a good start, and Paul encouraged them to continue growing in their faith.

B. The Reminder to the Colossians

- 1. Being under intense pressure, the Colossian Christians would have found it very easy to revert to their former way of life.
- 2. Paul reminded them of their identity as believers in Jesus Christ.
 - a. They were set apart.
 - b. They were to be firmly committed.
 - c. They had spiritual position.
 - d. They were servants and witnesses for God's kingdom.

III. The Contemporary Application**A. The Contemporary Setting**

- 1. We are still called by this letter to remain faithful to Jesus Christ in the midst of immorality, paganism, and false teaching.
- 2. If ever the church needed to remain steadfast in the faith, the time is now.

B. Our Identity in Christ

- 1. We are to be set apart from the world for God.
- 2. We are also to be firmly committed.
- 3. God has called us to serve and to be his witnesses.

Conclusion:

When missionary E. Stanley Jones asked Mahatma Gandhi how Christianity could be more acceptable in India, he replied, "I would suggest, first, that all you Christians . . . begin to live more like Jesus Christ." Paul's message echoes that thought—our living should reflect our identity. Remember who you are!

JOURNEY

Colossians 3:12-17

Introduction:

In 1492 Christopher Columbus set out for the Orient but ended up discovering the Americas. Men still won't stop and ask for directions! In Colossians 3, Paul offers simple yet practical instructions for life's most important journey.

Agnostics, atheists, spiritual seekers, and committed Christians are all on a spiritual journey whether they realize it or not. Paul offers us some invaluable principles for the journey. As a disciple, our aim should be to set our minds "on things that are above, not on things that are on earth" (Col. 3:2). The journey is not intended to be taken alone but is to be shared with others. In this way, Paul provides directions to help navigate life's difficult roads, which are at times marked by detours and dead ends.

I. Have the Right Clothing (3:14)

- A. When traveling not having the right clothes can be frustrating, uncomfortable and even dangerous. Climate, purpose, and culture all determine the clothing one takes on a trip.
 - 1. In the previous verses, Paul identifies ways that one's spiritual journey can be hampered.
 - 2. Paul calls on the "chosen" ones to clothe themselves "with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.... and over all these virtues put on love."
- B. The attire we adorn has everything to do with how we relate to each other, so the most important article we wear is love.
- C. William Barclay points out that "The great basic Christian virtues are those which govern human relationships. Christianity is community." (Barclay, *Colossians*)

II. Have the Right Attitude (3:15)

- A. One's attitude influences the way one sees and interprets events. For this journey, one needs to see clearly and respond appropriately.

- B. The peace of God is to rule or guide us.
 - 1. The peace of God serves like an umpire.
 - 2. The way to have the right attitude is to let Jesus Christ referee—mediate—between the conflicting emotions in our hearts; if we accept his decisions, we cannot go wrong. (Barclay, *Colossians*)

III. Have the Right Map (3:16)

- A. A road map or a GPS is an excellent tool for driving in an unfamiliar locale.
- B. Paul highlights the importance of knowing and living by God's word.
 - 1. God's indwelling word functions like a map for one's journey.
 - 2. His word directs every aspect of one's life and controls every thought and action.
 - 3. God's word is designed for every purpose and journey.
 - a. God's word directs one's path.
 - b. God's word teaches one how to walk with God.
 - 4. God's word is a perpetual guide for the decisions we make in all matters of life.

IV. Above All Be Grateful (3:17)

- A. Paul emphasizes the importance of gratitude.
 - 1. "Be thankful for the peace of God."
 - 2. "With gratitude in our hearts to God."
 - 3. "Giving thanks to God the Father through Him."
 - 4. What a difference gratitude will make during one's journey.
- B. The Art of "Thanksgiving"
 - 1. It is gratitude in action.
 - 2. It is thanking God for the gift of life by living it triumphantly.
 - 3. It is thanking God for your talents and abilities by accepting them as obligations to be invested for the common good.

4. It is thanking God for all that others have done for you by doing things for others.
 5. It is thanking God for happiness by striving to make others happy.
 6. It is thanking God for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful.
 7. It is thanking God for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others.
- C. "Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."
1. A believer needs to make conscious and concerted efforts to live life under Christ's authority.
 2. The believer celebrates and is grateful for Christ's presence and His provisions.

Conclusion:

Dressed for the occasion with the right attitude and mediated by the peace of God, may we set out on our journey. Trusting God's word, for guidance, we always give thanks to God our guide. To the seeker or the curious on-looker, God longs to relate the same way with you. His ways can be yours—drawing you and joining you, as he would with anyone, on your journey. Don't be afraid to ask for directions! This journey is designed to be made in the company of others and our loving Creator because we all matter to Him.

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Coming February 2014, the Holloway Center of William Carey University will be offering a one day seminar that will prepare you to preach through the first six chapters of Hebrews. This ten-hour intensive seminar will walk you through the exegetical process and aid you in developing your own cutting edge sermons based on your own study. All materials, meals, and refreshments will be provided free of charge to all pastors and staff members. There is limited seating, so sign up today. There is a reservation fee of \$25 per person.



*For more information contact
Dr. Brett Golson at
bgolson@wmcarey.edu
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WHEN FAITH AND PHILOSOPHY COLLIDE

Colossians 2:8

Introduction:

“What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” This question, which was posed by the second century Christian apologist Tertullian, addresses the issue of whether or not Scripture (supernatural revelation) should be subject to philosophical questions (natural reasoning).

I. The Problem Identified

- A. Athens was the center for the Greek philosophy, which offered more questions than answers.
1. Epicureans (cf: Acts 17:18)
 - a. Taught pleasure (not necessarily sensual) as the chief good in life.
 - b. Depended on experience for knowledge
 - c. Denied divine intervention in the affairs of humans
 - d. Did not believe in life after death
 2. Stoics (cf: Acts 17:18)
 - a. Concerned with how the cosmos began and the laws that govern it
 - b. Believed that everything comes from and returns to the basic element, which is fire
 - c. Asserted that the *logos* was a purposeful and guiding reason
 3. Skeptics did not believe in anything absolute. Their system was overcome by doubt and demanded observable evidence for all information.
 4. Cynics abandoned comfort, affluence, and prestige for the supreme virtue of a simple life.
 5. Gnostics argued that the human problem did not consist of guilt that needed forgiveness as much as ignorance that needed knowledge.

- B. Greek Religion (Col. 2:8; cf: Acts 17:22-23; Acts 19:27)
 1. The Greek Pantheon and mythology
 2. Character of their gods: easily angered, vindictive, immoral
- C. Jewish Traditions (2:8)
 1. Circumcision—Judaizers believed that one must become a Jew before one could become a Christian.
 2. Torah piety—Judaizers believed Christians must follow the Jewish law.
 3. Synagogue worship—Early Christians struggled with continuing to go to the synagogue and temple for worship.

II. The Problem Described

Paul describes Greek philosophy, Hellenistic religion, and Jewish traditions as deception, empty of truth or power.

III. The Problem Resolved (2:6-7)

- a. Receive Christ—through hearing the Gospel and responding appropriately
- b. Walk in Christ—true believers and hypocrites believe the same thing but do different things.
- c. Rooted and built up in Christ—discipleship
- d. Established in Christ—long term faithfulness

Conclusion:

While Greek philosophy provided concepts which biblical writers used to communicate the gospel and systematize their doctrines, Christian doctrine is based on supernatural revelation. The Christian faith is still under scrutiny and assault from postmodern philosophy, dogmatic traditions, and pseudo-Christianity. Yet, the remedy is the same: receive Christ, walk in Christ, be rooted in Christ, be built up in Christ, and be established in Christ.

WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD

Colossians 1:10-11

Introduction:

The Christian life has often been described as a walk. Actually the word for “walk” in the text means “life style.” Therefore, when we are instructed to walk worthy of the Lord, it means our life is to be a life worthy of the name Christian. We are instructed to walk worthy in three ways:

I. Fruitful in Every Good Work (Col. 1:10a).

- A. The Christian works out his salvation with good works.
 - 1. His works are not for salvation, but a result of his salvation.
 - 2. Fruit bearing also has to do with behavior.

B. Bearing fruit leads to a productive life.

II. Increasing In the Knowledge of God (Col. 1:10b).

- A. The knowledge which Paul prays for is a larger, more thorough knowledge.
- B. This is a stronger word than “gnosis.” It is “epignosis.”
- C. This knowledge is not a secret mystery into which only the favored few can be initiated. It is available to all the saints.

III. Strengthened With All Might (Col. 1:11)

- A. We are to be strengthened with all might.
 - 1. The word “power” is also used to translate “might.”
 - 2. The strength is actually available through the power of His Glory.
- B. His strength and power are available to the Christian.

Conclusion:

The challenge for the Christian is to walk each day in the power of his might and to allow his behavior to bear fruit in his Christian life. As Paul said, “Order your behavior worthily of the Lord” (Col. 1:10).

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**PAUL'S POWERFUL
PREFATORY PREPOSITION**

Colossians 1:1-2

Introduction:

God finds value in the small things. For example, he chose small Israel to be his chosen people in preference to larger nations. In our culture, small things are often disregarded as unimportant. In scripture, our attention often focuses on the large passages, and our sermons are driven by verbs.

Some consider the introductions to Bible books insignificant, and they are easily glossed over assuming they are simply a formality in letter writing. This two-verse introduction of Colossians displays the great power of God in a sentence that is completely devoid of verbs and is instead theologically driven by prepositions.

I. The Power of God's Will: "Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus By God's Will" (1:1).

- A. Paul was converted and brought to Christ by God's sovereign will.
 - 1. Paul was not seeking Christ; he was seeking to kill Christians (Acts 9:1-2).
 - 2. Christ pursued Paul on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-4).
- B. Paul was made an apostle by God's sovereign will.
 - 1. God appointed Paul to be an apostle (Gal 1:1).
 - 2. Paul's task as an apostle was to seek out the lost (Tit. 1:1).
 - 3. The great persecutor of the church became the great missionary.

II. The Power of the Local Church: "To the Saints and Faithful Brothers in Christ at Colossae" (1:2a).

- A. The Colossae saints are set apart for "faithful" living (Eph. 4:11-16).
 - 1. The local church is a visible expression of the spiritual "setting apart."

- 2. The local church is the primary means by which believers are encouraged to practice faithful, Christian living through teaching, edification, admonishment, equipping, and practicing spiritual gifts.
- B. The Colossae saints are "brothers" in Christ (1 Cor. 14:26).
 - 1. Christians should nurture other Christians because they are among our closest relationships on earth.
 - 2. The bond of brothers and sisters in Christ is to be expressed and experienced in a local body where intimacy and growth can be witnessed and nurtured.
 - 3. Through this kind of love shared among brothers, the love of Christ is powerfully displayed to the world.

III. The Power of the Gospel: "Grace to You and Peace from God our Father" (1:2b)

- A. All those in Christ are given the grace of God (Titus 3:4-7).
 - 1. God's grace is unmerited favor freely given by God.
 - 2. God's grace is powerful enough to forgive sin, grant righteousness, and guarantee eternal life.
- B. All those in Christ are given the peace of God (Eph. 2:11-22).
 - 1. Only God's peace can bring reconciliation to fallen men.
 - 2. God's peace is powerful enough to break down the wall of hostility between God and man.

Conclusion:

Have you experienced the power of the gospel in your life? There is no power on earth that compares to the power of God.

THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL

Colossians 1:5-8

Introduction:

There is nothing more lovely than the gospel which is nothing less than the heart of the Lord. Paul emphasized that their response was to the word of the truth of the Gospel—that in light of a false gospel others brought. There are five truths of the gospel that stand out in this passage.

I. The Gospel is Powerful (Rom. 1:16).

- A. The word associated with the “power” of the gospel is the same word associated with the “power” of the Holy Spirit.
- B. It is the same word associated with the resurrection power.
- C. Through the gospel, we are totally regenerated and remade—a new creation in Christ Jesus.

II. The Gospel is Progressive (1:6).

- A. The gospel was moving forward.
 1. The disciples took it from Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria.
 2. Paul and others took it beyond the Middle East
 3. Paul went house to house, door to door, market to market in that great city of Ephesus.
 4. Epaphras heard the gospel, believed it, and took it to Laodicea, Hieropolis, and Colossae.
 5. The gospel continues to move forward.
- B. The gospel will never stand still.
 1. There are believers who may stand still.
 2. There are churches that stop sharing the gospel.
 3. But God always raises up someone and some church that will carry the gospel to unbelievers.
- C. The gospel cannot be stopped or silenced.
 1. Nations have tried to stop the gospel.
 2. No one has ever been able to bind the gospel because the word of God cannot be bound.

III. The Gospel is Productive (1:6).

- A. The gospel brings forth fruit.
- B. The gospel is viable (Mark 4).
- C. The more of the gospel seed that we sow, the more fruit it will bear.

IV. The Gospel must be Preached (1:6).

- A. In order to believe the gospel, you must first hear it (Rom. 10:14).
- B. Hearing comes with preaching.
- C. God has called the church to proclaim the gospel.
- D. God calls out men to preach the gospel.

V. The Gospel Must be Personally Received (1:6).

- A. There is no eternal life without receiving the gospel.
- B. There is no salvation without receiving the gospel.
- C. It is not a community decision, though an entire community may choose to believe at the same time.
- D. It is a personal choice.

Conclusion:

Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962), the world-famous violinist, discovered an exquisite violin on one of his trips, but he was not able to buy it. Later, having raised enough money to meet the asking price, but to his great dismay, it had been sold to a collector. Kreisler made his way to the new owner's home and offered to buy the violin. The collector said it had become his prized possession and he would not sell it. Keenly disappointed, Kreisler asked, "Could I play the instrument once more before it is consigned to silence?" Permission was granted, and the great virtuoso filled the room with such heart-moving music that the collector's emotions were deeply stirred. "I have no right to keep that to myself," he exclaimed. "It's yours, Mr. Kreisler. Take it into the world, and let people hear it."

HOW TO BE A MAN
Colossians 3:18-25

Introduction:

In today's world it seems it is becoming increasingly difficult to understand just what is expected from a "man." This is not because there is a lack of people trying to define what a "man" should be. In fact, it is just the opposite. It would seem that everyone has their own ideas. One group will say men should be more sensitive, caring, and get in touch with their feelings. The other end of the spectrum says men need to hunt, spit, and burp. You could read for days without drawing the conclusion found in Colossians 3. As Paul writes about the household, he highlights three "positions" that define how to be a man.

I. Position of Father

- A. The position of father is a position of respect.
- B. The position of father is a position of responsibility.
- C. The position of father is a position of leadership.
 - 1. He is the head of the household (Eph. 5:23).
 - 2. The father will be held accountable to God for the direction he leads.
 - 3. He is to set the spiritual standard for the family.

II. Position of Daddy

- A. The position of daddy is a position of intimacy.
 - 1. More than teaching and providing for children, being a daddy is pouring into their lives.
 - 2. Involves being engaged with the children.
 - 3. Involves loving the children.
- B. The position of daddy "does not provoke your children" (Col 3:21).

- 1. Does not mean, not disciplining children.
- 2. Means loving the child for who he or she is without comparing to others.
- 3. Means not being a hypocrite by not living up to the standards set for children.
- 4. Show your children love and treat them fairly and you will avoid "provoking" them.

III. Position of Husband

- A. The position of husband is much more than as caretaker or provider.
- B. The position of husbands is not as boss.
- C. The position of husband is a position of love for his wife.
 - 1. Love wife "as Christ loved the church, and gave Himself for her" (Eph. 5:25)
 - 2. Love wife more than just physically.
 - 3. Love wife involves sacrifice for her, a willingness to lay down everything for her.
 - 4. Love wife as the most important human relationship, never to be taken for granted.

Conclusion:

With all the opinions and all that the world is trying to do to define what manhood looks like, we need to take a look at God's Word. This passage ends with a warning, "The wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done" (Col. 3:25). Be careful to heed God's Word. He has clearly defined what it is to be a true man, and what is at stake if we fail to live to that standard.

JESUS: THE SUFFICIENT SAVIOR**Colossians 2:8-15****Introduction:**

One of the first questions IMB personnel in Southeast Asia think about when witnessing to a Muslim is "where is water?" The missionary desires to know where water is because if the Muslim follows Christ, baptism is encouraged to happen immediately. On a particular occasion, no water was nearby, and several Muslims indicated a desire to follow Christ. The missionary did not remember seeing a river or any other water source close enough to use. However, he did have a shovel in the back of his truck. With the help of national partners, the missionary dug a "grave" deep enough for an adult. The hole was then filled with water from several of the surrounding houses and was used as a baptismal.

Think about the significance and symbolism associated with that baptism ceremony. Imagine watching an individual make a bold proclamation to follow Christ and then walk into the miry pit of death. Now imagine hearing "burying sin with baptism, and walking into a newness of life" as the new believer walks forth from the tomb!

The above mentioned mental picture is very consistent with what Christ has done for us. Colossians 2:8-15 speaks of Christ being our sufficient Savior. Although we are deserving of death because of our sins, Christ took our deserved punishment. No matter rituals, customs, or traditions, salvation from an eternal separation from God due to our sins is only found through the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. When we follow Christ, we unite with him by dying to our old ways. Being made complete in Christ, we are raised to a new life in Him.

Christ is our sufficient Savior for three different reasons.

I. Jesus is Completely God (2:9-10).

A. He is God in bodily form

1. The entire fullness of God's nature dwells within Him.
2. Paul praised Jesus earlier as the invisible God in visible form (1:15).
3. Jesus is also the Creator who made everything that has come into existence (1:16).

B. He is the head over all rule and authority.

II. Jesus Completely Saves (2:11-12).

A. Through Christ, our hearts have been circumcised.

1. This circumcision was not done with hands.
2. In spiritual circumcision our fleshly nature has been removed, and we are then able to meet the demands of God's Law.

B. We are raised from the dead.

C. Paul's illustration of baptism reminds his readers of their very own death, burial, and resurrection through Christ.

III. Jesus Completely Forgives (2:13-15).

A. Debt refers to our sins, and the certificate of debt has been nailed to the cross!

1. Jesus did not die on the cross for any sins he committed. Jesus was not guilty of any sins.
2. Our sin debt has been paid!

Conclusion:

In many parts of Southeast Asia, it is illegal for a Muslim to convert to Christianity. Think of that Baptism again. Would you surrender yourself to the miry pit for something insufficient? Christ truly is the sufficient Savior.

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