

(NIV Pew Bible page: 1183)

Context

- 1] Paul to a young church, never visited, amidst great religious confusion,
- 2] He focuses on
 - 1) The person of Jesus – God, Creator, Sustainer, Leader (1:15-18)
 - 2) The work of Jesus – reconciliation between God and man (1:19-23)
 - 3) Paul's calling to present 'Christ in you the hope of Glory' (1:27)

??? Why when we have been buried with him / raised with Him do we still need to be warned encouraged etc.

The Christian life (6, 7)

- 1] as you received (i.e. by faith)
- 2] Continue (by faith)
 - a) Rooted and built up in Him
 - b) Strengthened in faith as you were taught
 - c) Overflowing with thankfulness

cf Thankfulness (1 Thess 5:18)

Receive Christ Jesus as Lord.

Choose to live in Christ

The choice (8)

- 1] see to it (i.e. guard against)
- Cf Resist the Devil and stand firm (1 Pet 5:8, 9)*
- 2] (Not)
 - a) hollow and deceptive philosophy
- cf (1 Corinthians 1:20ff)*
- b) human tradition and basic principles
- cf human tradition (Is29:13; Mk7:5ff)*
- *Be aware / resist deception and false doctrine*
- 2] (But) on Christ

Either - In Christ (9-15)

- 1] God - In Christ
 - a) All fullness of Deity dwells (9)

cf God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him (1:19; Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1)

Jesus was / is God among us in bodily form

GRACE We are given fullness in Christ

 - b) We have been given the fullness *The head over every power and authority* (10)

Nb The head (1:18, 2:19; Matt 28:18)

Jesus is head of all power and authority

Acknowledge that you have been given fullness in Christ
- 2] Us - In Christ (11-15)
 - a) We have been
 - 1) 'circumcised' (11)

cf Circumcision (Genesis 17:1ff) Non physical – of heart (Deuteronomy 10:16)

 - 2) buried and raised (12)

Cf Dead in sins (Eph 2:1) Dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus (Rmns 6:11)

'believe that by your faith you are buried with Him through baptism' raised with him

3) made alive by God (13a, b)

cf Romans 6:3-6

GRACE When we were dead, God made us alive

b) He forgave our sins (13c, 14)

Cf Psalm 130; 1 John 1:9

Cf cancelled code (fulfilled law) (Matt 5:17)

JESUS God forgave all our sins

c) He disarmed the powers and authorities (15)

Cf powers (Ephesians 6:12)

Reckon that all spiritual powers have been defeated by Christ

Or - In the World (16-19)

1] Therefore (16a)

2] Do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink (16b)

Judge not lest you be judged (Matt 7:1)

Cf shadow of things to come (Heb 9:9; 10:1)

Cf Eat or drink (1 Cor 8:8)

Sabbath days rest (Heb 4:9)

Do not accept (ie ignore) judgement by others of religious practice

3] These are a shadow of the things to come (17)

Nb passing not/ the reality

JESUS - Jesus fulfils ALL our religious habits

3] Do not let anyone disqualify you. (18, 19)

a) from the prize (Phil 3:14)

b) by the spiritually proud (8b)

b) who have lost connection with head

cf the body (1 Cor 12:12) ie not under His authority

Discern that spiritual legalists and 'superiors' have lost contact with the head – Jesus

Exhortation (20 -23)

1] Since you died..? (20a)

2] Why do you submit to its rules.....? (20b, 21)

'Since you died with Christ, live (freely)

3] These 'laws' are destined to perish (22, 23)

a) based on Human commands

cf ritual cleanliness (Pharisees) (Lk 11:39)

b) appearance of wisdom (23a)

Avoid human practice that attempts 'ritual' purity

c) lacking value in restraining sensual indulgence (23b)

Acknowledge that ALL religious practice will perish

Do not try and counter 'the flesh' with cosmetic religion

Main Point *Though 'in Christ' by faith, we need to choose to live with Him and for Him.*

Key verse *So then just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord continue to live in Him....' (2:6)*

(Nb – note well, ie – that is cf - compare with)