**Colossians 6 –**

Greetings in the name of the supreme one, Jesus Christ. Thank you for joining us at Redemption Church. Greetings to all of our online viewers. We are coming to you live from beautiful Plano, Tx. My name is Chris Fluitt and I am blessed to present the word of God to you today.

We are in our 6th week studying the book of Colossians. Please turn with me in your Bibles and Bible Apps to Colossians 2. Today we should finish off the 2nd chapter. After this week we are going to start a new sermon series. It starts next week and it is called “I want to believe, but…”

Watch this…

**I WANT TO BELIEVE, BUT… PROMO**

Make plans to be with us for this very important sermon series. When we are done with that sermon series we will come back to finish our Colossians series.

**Colossians**

While you are turning to the 2nd chapter of Colossians I want to tell you thank you for your support of this Church. Because of your faithful giving we were able to bless the Apostolic Bible Church in Maykop, Russia. Please keep that Kingdom work in your prayers.

Can anyone remind me what the theme of the book of Colossians is?

**Christ is Supreme**

Let’s keep that theme in mind as we read. Let’s begin with verse 15 of Colossians 2.

Colossians 2:15 (NIV2011) And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Colossians 2:16 (NIV2011) 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.

Colossians 2:17 (NIV2011) These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

Colossians 2:18 (NIV2011) Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind.

Colossians 2:19 (NIV2011) They have 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.

Colossians 2:20 (NIV2011) Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules:

Colossians 2:21 (NIV2011)“Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!”?

Colossians 2:22 (NIV2011) These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings.

Colossians 2:23 (NIV2011) 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.

Let’s clap our hands for the word of God.

Outline

Jesus Supreme V 15

Hints to problems in Colossae V 16-23

Shadow vs Reality V 16-17

Head Connection V 18-19

New Kingdom, New Rule V 20-23

It is good to study the word of God. Sometimes we study topically. We pick a topic and look at a few verses throughout the Bible. This is a good way to gain some understanding on various topics. But for the last few weeks we have been going verse by verse through an entire book of the Bible. There is a lot to be gained this way.

We gain a better understanding of the context and we pick up on a theme within the writing. **If we correctly understand the theme and context of the writing, it will help us correctly interpret the scripture.**

As we said earlier… the theme thus far could be narrowed down to the words – Christ is Supreme.

**Christ is Supreme**

If Paul is a good consistent writer, then this theme should continue. Our interpretation of scripture should remain inside this theme.

It is important to remember that these words we are reading are a one way conversation. A good conversation should make sense and progress ideas. The book of Colossians is doing that I believe.

Here is an example of bad conversation.

**BAD CONVERSATION**

“Colossae, Christ is supreme. I pray that you would know Jesus better. The other day Timothy brought me a wonderful baked potato. In Christ you have access to all the mysteries of God…”

What didn’t belong? The wonderful baked potato was not in the theme or progress of any idea. It didn’t progress the conversation and by its addition actually detracts from the power of the conversation.

Now this is not just any conversation… because we believe we are reading the unfailing & supernatural Word of God. **This Word of God is TRUTH and in every verse it is progressing the TRUTH of God.**

HOWEVER.. Sometimes mistakes are made in how we interpret this Word of Truth. Sometimes we interpret scripture incorrectly by not staying focused on the theme and progression of ideas.

The theme of this book is the superiority, the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Everything should be read & understood through this theme. This is the Word of God, so it will hold to its proper message and theme, so if it suddenly gets off course from the theme, it is because of our faulty interpretation.

There is a potential misinterpreted baked potato verse in our reading today. Look at verse 16. I want to be clear, I am not saying that Paul was wrong in saying this. I am also not saying that it was mistranslated into our English language. I am saying that this verses is often misunderstood by people who are ignoring the THEME OF Christ’s supremacy.

Let’s read it again…

Colossians 2:16 (NIV2011) 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.

If you go to Google and search “Colossians 2:16 meaning” you will find about 149,000 search results. And in those search results will be 2 view points on the same scripture.

Viewpoint 1 – Colossians 2:16 tells us that you should NOT watch what you eat or drink, keep any of the Old Testament festivals, the Sabbath, or the Law of Moses in general. Anyone that tells you otherwise is deceived and not really a Christian.

Viewpoint 2 – Colossians 2:16 tells us that you should watch what you eat or drink, keep the Old Testament festivals, the Sabbath, and the Law of Moses in general. Anyone that tells you otherwise is deceived not really a Christian.

Now I don’t want you to freak out… We are going to clear things up… but first we need to sit in this awkwardness.

We have 1 scripture. 2 polar opposite viewpoints. What gives!?

No wonder Christianity has such a problem with denominationalism. We splinter over single verses like this. Some denominations form over the interpretation, or often MISINTERPRETATION of a single verse.

So which viewpoint is correct? Is Colossians 2:16 telling us WE SHOULD or WE SHOULDN’T.

“Which viewpoint is correct” is not actually the right question. The right question is “What did the writer mean? What were they trying to convey?”

The arguments of viewpoints take us down the trail of denominational infighting. Perhaps without even realizing it we super impose our bias upon the scripture. Interpreting through the lens of bias will not ever reveal the truth. So what lens should we look through in interpreting scripture.?

**What lens should we look through in interpreting scripture?**

We should not interpret according to denomination or any human traditions. Paul has been speaking this way in Chapter 2 already.

2 quick answers for this question.

#1 Jesus Christ should be your lens.

John 5:39

There is much scripture to back up this idea. The basic idea is this…

Jesus reveals all TRUTH because He is the way the TRUTH and the life. (John 14:6)

Jesus reveals God because He is the image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15)

Jesus reveals the Word, because He is the Word. (John 1:1)

Your Bible says that God is love and that God loves us… but it is best seen through seeing Jesus on the Cross loving us in a self-sacrificial way.

**Connect every scripture you read, to the Christ you have received.**

Make Jesus the lens of all scripture interpretation.

The 2nd answer is very similar…

#2 The continued theme should be your lens.

What is the theme of that book of the Bible and how does it relate to this scripture?

We have been saying that the theme of Colossians is Christ is supreme.

**Christ is Supreme**

So how can we interpret through the lens of Christ and the theme that Christ is supreme? Let’s try…

Let’s try viewpoint one…

Colossians 2:16 (NIV2011) 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.

Jesus Christ is supreme. So you need Christ… but you also need to make sure you DO NOT keep the Sabbath. You better not celebrate a religious festival because that would be bad. Jesus is Supreme. You need Jesus, plus you need to not do this other stuff…

Let’s try viewpoint two…

Jesus Christ is supreme. So you need Christ… but you also need to make sure you DO keep the Sabbath. You better celebrate religious festivals because it would be bad if you didn’t. Jesus is Supreme. You need Jesus, plus you need to do this other stuff…

I feel like both viewpoints incorrectly interpret what Paul was trying to say. They treat these verses like BAD CONVERSATION… like the idea of suddenly telling us about the baked potato that Timothy brought us idea.

Paul just said in verse 15 that Jesus TRIUMPHED OVER THE POWERS BY THE CROSS. And then one sentence later they jump to a different theme entirely. That is not good conversation. That is not how Scripture works. That is a tell-tell sign that someone is misinterpreting scripture.

And in the case of twisting scripture, misunderstanding scripture, we often make it say the opposite of its original intent.

The verse says DO NOT LET ANYONE JUDGE YOU… yet viewpoint 1 & 2 is all about judging people who DO or DON’T! Leave it to us humans to totally miss the point!

The word therefore is sometimes thrown into translations to help fill the language gap. Not in this case. The Greek word for ‘therefore’ is “oun” (ü'n), and it is used 526 times in scripture. It is used always to clarify and solidify a previously made point.