

“The Skeleton and the Flesh of the Church” Applied Pt. 14

CBC Congregational Update & Vision Meeting, May 1, 2024 Col. 1:7-14 More Love to Thee, Facing a Task

Col. 1:7-14, Powerful portion of Scripture ladies just covered I believe—**what is the perspective and work of the Christian described here? do you live here?** This relationship full of gratitude toward God, worshipping His greatness, seeing His power and mercy and great transfer is not merely a given—**it is PRAYED FOR by believers**—if you have this, **do you pray for it?** If you don't, do you pray this prayer? **If you see others don't, do you pray it for them?** WE are to live with this perspective—what is the gospel—tied around the person and work of Christ—**I Cor. 15:1-8**, testified personally (given by Epaphras in Colossians passage)—**this perspective and maintenance of relationship with God fought for AMONG the believers II Cor. 11:1-4**; comes back to place of words—God's Words & God's means to communicate those words—receiving them from others; LIVING inside them, fighting for them as life, truth, **included personal example and prodding—II Tim. 3:10-17, II Tim. 1:13, Titus 1:9** Concerned about? Doctrinal drift, words/definition shift **Social gospel's message is that "A God without wrath brought men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross."** H Richard Niebuhr—died in 1962 **How does doctrinal drift/purpose drift take place? 1. Look for easiest natural path** (not as much effort required, little eyebrows raised or opposition from you/others both inside and outside church, therefore looks reasonable, successful, “I get it”); **2. Pay more attention to what is right in front of you** (people, words, feelings) **rather than words/examples given from God 3. Find alternate purposes inside true purposes**—increasing gap between what we are doing and people's understanding of gospel, gospel mission, purpose/place of church—14 part, only 2x a year but think so essential—dovetails w SS, ideas in membership class—if lost, please ask for notes, main message is that it is **dangerous to ignore where we focus as church**; WHAT is our identity, our purpose (individually/together must be able to answer this); the **why leads to the “what” driving the “how”**; **can't disciple, evangelize w/o thinking through these paths OR external become only thing talking about** (don't feel comfortable, accepted, not my type/style; myriad of causes that will identify, different doctrinal distinctives will gain too much prominence instead of us uniting under sound words of gospel that center our discussions as live and serve together; saying “whatever works” or “God seems to be blessing that method” w/o having firm why/what clearly articulated puts weight on method/results rather than source and goals—**need to be able to see WHY and WHAT beneath all do and point to these even while recognizing that there are different ways to get to these**, hence repetition; **the WHY? has already been determined** dividing line—God Himself—are you in fellowship with Him, under Him, or against Him, proved by being under someone/thing else; if He is the WHY, then HE determines the WHAT; **(what are His goals/purposes) IF** do NOTHING else together, Duty of People of God includes; **I. Worship God Together Rom. 15:5-6 II. Grow individually & corporately with a growth that comes from God Eph. 4:15-16 3. Protect/Defend the Name of God: His character and eternal purposes II Tim. 1:13-14**, verses telling what to do if people won't stay in line w these doctrines (guard treasure entrusted) **4. Own the People in the Particular Expression of the Body of Christ where God has placed you. I Cor. 12:18, 25, Eph. 4 5. Spread the Glory of God Hab. 2:14, I Pet. 2:9; What is needed to head toward these goals together?** Only when why/what are FIRMLY established are we ready to look at methods or these methods will head toward our own personal whys/whats; **Healthy change of focus toward why/what, then toward methods which flow from why/what happens piece by piece, slow/intentional**; rather than move right toward methods/how, working on couple of **guidelines to ask about our methods 1. Does this method show we are focusing on God, not us?** Center of our world **2. Does this method show we are focusing on the “we” more than the “Me”?** part of group, not I find my group or go own way;

3. Does this method show we are focusing on the Task Assigned, not the Climate Desired

Where does your mind go when you hear this? Little more of _____, little less of _____ Not quite happy w this heading . . . (ie. **Deut. 6-7**, **how does the identity of the people of God as described in Deuteronomy 6-7 affect their mission?** Mission tied to identity—later, Light to the Nations—didn't just happen; work, costly choices; **What climate accompanies that mission?** in OT, more instructed as to what they were to do, rather than “what they would get out of it”, same w NT in church **I Tim. 3:14-15 how does defining the church and its ownership affect its mission and the lives of all part of that church?** therefore, word of God/gospel bringing us to fellowship w God affects conduct which leads to mission/responsibilities, NOT show, performance, or clean path toward accomplishment; mission thumps--night is coming when no man can work—my Father is working, and I myself am working; not that I have attained or already become perfect, but press on to lay hold of that for which also I have been laid hold of **Eph. 2:19-22, 5:8-21, Col. 3:12-16—how would these passages effect choice of what we do at church, what we value, and perhaps even how often we do it?** Change focus and energy from _____ to _____; **what climate present in passages we've discussed & what impact does this have on the mission?** God there; God's identity; God's expectations, Word/god important, not promising climate/environment that is predictable/desirous, etc.; instead fear of Lord, reverence, need for provision, impossibility (DO IT—I'VE got you); NO WONDER Rom. 12 coming out of Rom. 11 speaking of people of God sidelined, Gentiles grafted in, shall the clay say to the Potter—offer your lives as living sacrifices; the focus of God's grace/emphasis does NOT end w blessing, but blessed to BE a blessing; (Make Me a Blessing); when pray for God's grace/mercy, pray for how it will be dispensed; **work of worship**, listening so that hear and do—Matt. 7 wise/foolish, James 1:25; God's Word brings life—IF you hear, understand, then what will you value/do? **What will be the result of focusing more on the task assigned than the climate desired? What will be results? What will there be less of? Where will we find things fighting against this in services, throughout week w mission of church?** Busy, looking past, through—fellowship w God, task done—reverence (baby's cute, but you as parent, other's smile encouragingly BUT NOT STEAL SHOW/ATTENTION—Hab. 2:20; ie. **why don't we clap? Why encourage silence, few jokes/interactions b/n people and front in AM especially?** How do we show reverence in this culture—CAN clap, but in culture of immediate and my pleasure, want to take moment and meditate on what heard for worship, repentance, focus, growth instead of just expressing feelings of approval however/whenever want (Paul Washer—what are you clapping for, I'm talking about you); (so when I'm w other cultures, will do it when seems other aspects intact—same here—sometimes clap, but WORK of worship; WORK of mission—who cleans up—who in kitchen—want to foster order, intention, MORE wanting to serve, but glad to be under—NOT taking away from worship); YES, serve organically in here—but realize that only so much time—we need to care about the spiritual aspects of WHO/WHEN/WHERE we are serving

1 Corinthians 15:1–8 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ² by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. ³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

2 Corinthians 11:1–4 I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. ² For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you *as a pure virgin*. ³ But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of *devotion* to Christ. ⁴ For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear *this* beautifully.

Ephesians 2:19–22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner *stone*. ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Colossians 3:12–16 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴ Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

1 Timothy 3:14–15 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, *I write* so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.

2 Timothy 1:13 Retain the standard of sound words which you have heard from me, in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:10–17 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad* to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, ¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Titus 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.