Colossians - Commentaries by Paul J. Pascoe

CareLines: Volume 2, Reconciliation

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COL 1:21

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled.

Col. 1:21

Webster's dictionary defines reconciliation this way: "To restore to friendship, harmony, and communion." This is what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us by His death and His blood shed on Calvary's cross. When we think of the tremendous price that He has paid in His love to bring about that reconciliation, we should act on it by daily enjoying the fellowship and communion that He has brought us into by His grace.

CareLines: Volume 2, Power

COL 1:11

Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power [or, the power of His glory].

Col. 1:11

The source of our strength and might is not within ourselves but in the Lord Jesus Christ in glory. Do you lack power in your Christian life? You will only have it as you walk each day conscious of the fact that your life is linked with the life of Christ in glory. That is the source of power!

CareLines: Volume 2, Deliverance: 2

COL 1:13

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Col. 1:13

If you are struggling for deliverance from Satan's power, get down on your knees with this verse open in front of you and claim God's promise. It does not say that He might deliver us, or that He is capable of delivering us, or even that He will deliver us, but that He has delivered us. It is an accomplished fact! Not only that, but the end of the verse tells us that we are brought into a relationship with His dear Son - the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

DECEMBER 14

Whereunto I also labor, striving according to His working, which worketh in me mightily.

Colossians 1:29

The Apostle Paul was a tireless servant of Christ. His purpose in life was to preach, to warn and to teach every man in all wisdom (verse 28). His desire was to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (verse 28). He never forsook his mission, and he was subjected to many hardships because of it.

CareLines: Volume 7, Walk

We . . . pray for you . . . that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.

Colossians 1:9-10

The Apostle prayed for those who made up the assembly in Colosse that their walk would please God. Ways to please God include being fruitful in our work for Him and growing in our knowledge of Him. This is our prayer for you too - to live in a pleasing way, to be productive in your labor, and to grow in knowing the Lord. To be fruitful results from abiding in Him. To grow results from feeding on Him.

CareLines: Volume 7, Maturity

Christ . . . whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:27-28

How do we become perfect or mature as a Christian? Our verse tells us of three nutrients for growth: the preaching of Christ - His person and work; warnings about sin and righteousness; and teachings of the apostles' doctrine. A garden grows best when it is first watered (preaching and teaching) and then weeded (warning). We need to be attentive to and thankful for the preaching and teaching we receive from God's Word and His servants. And we must take heed to the warnings of Scripture and separate from all that is a dishonor to the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 2, Knitting

COL 2:2

That their hearts may be comforted, being knit together in love.

Col. 2:2

If you do not think that being knit together is necessary, just take hold of a loose thread of one of your nice wool sweaters and keep pulling it until you are finished. What you have left is a ball of yarn. But you will not have a sweater! God has knitted us together to display to the world His love and purpose. Let's not deliberately unravel it.

CareLines: Volume 2, Roots

COL 2:7

Rooted and built up in Him.

Col. 2:7

Roots are what give stability and vitality to the Christian life. Some folks are really concerned about their ancestry and where they came from. This is sometimes referred to as "roots". But the roots of our Christian life are to be in Him, that is, in Christ. He is the source of all life, strength, nourishment, and stability in our life. Let's be rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ.

CareLines: Volume 7, Gone

Blotting out the handwriting. . . against us. . . and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross.

Colossians 2:14

This is a vivid word picture painted by the Apostle as he explains what Jesus did on Calvary. We had a written condemnation against us. Jesus took it, nailed it to His cross, and took the punishment for it. Now He can show that condemnation to God with the words "PAID IN FULL" stamped across it. What a Saviour! What a salvation! Our sins have been paid for by Jesus - they are gone!

CareLines: Volume 7, Philosophy

Philosophy. . . after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:8

Philosophy is a dangerous subject for a child of God to take in school. Be very careful, young Christian friend, that the lure of knowledge doesn't take you away from the God-given fundamentals of life that are written in the Holy Scriptures. The Bible holds the answers to life's problems. Man, in his constant search for perfection, has invented many things that don't get him one step closer to Christ or heaven. Only by following the Word of God can we have peace with Him and grow in our knowledge of Him. Study the Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation.

CareLines: Volume 2, Old Versus New

COL 3:9-10

Ye have put off the old man . . . and have put on the new.

Col. 3:9,10

It’s assumed that a born-again Christian has put off the old man (discarded the old ways, the old friends, the old habits) and has put on the new man (Christ - His beauty, love, compassion). It still requires daily commitment, though, to be done with the old nature. It requires close communion with the Lord Jesus for others to see Him in us. Yes, young Christian - the OLD is DEAD - the NEW LIVES.

CareLines: Volume 2, Hearty Service

COL 3:23

Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.

Col. 3:23

The word heartily in this verse is translated in other scriptures as “life”, “soul”, or “mind”. In other words, whenever we do something, we should do it with everything that we have -for His honor and glory. We should do it “as though our life depended on it”, “from the bottom of our souls”, and “setting our whole mind to it”. That means that when you do a job as a Christian you should not do it “half-heartedly”.

CareLines: Volume 3, Rule

COL 3:15

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts.

Col. 3:15

This word “rule” comes from a root word which means “direct” or “control”. No matter what question or conflict or struggle comes up in our lives, the peace of God should control the state of our hearts. Nothing ever disturbs His peace. His peace should preside in our hearts.

CareLines: Volume 7, Forgiveness

Even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:13

One of the characteristics of our Lord Jesus was that He bore no grudges and was willing to forgive - completely. Maybe one of the major causes of a bitter attitude and unhappiness in a Christian’s life is that there is an unforgiving spirit. This must be dealt with. Ask the Lord to help you forgive those who have wronged you (even though they may never apologize). You will not be at peace until you do.

CareLines: Volume 7, Singing

Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

Colossians 3:16

It is of the greatest importance that Christians, especially young people, sing songs that are accurate expressions of biblical truth. Singing is a very powerful way of teaching and it seems that people can remember a song and a tune much better than other things they see or hear. You must pay close attention to what is given out as Christian song and music today, as much of it is not based on sound doctrine. However, there is no shortage of wonderful and uplifting psalms, hymns and songs for us to sing every day to ourselves and to one another. As Bach said so many years ago, “The aim of all music should be for nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.”

CareLines: Volume 2, Agonizing in Prayer

COL 4:12

Epaphras . . . always laboring fervently for you in prayers.

Col. 4:12

The expression “laboring fervently” really means “agonizing” and is the same expression used of the Lord Jesus when it says, “Being in an agony He prayed more earnestly.” It comes from a root word which tells us of intense emotional strain and anguish displayed by those

participating in the Greek games. Do you pray with that intensity? Even agony? The Lord Jesus did! Epaphras did! So should we.

CareLines: Volume 3, Grace

COL 4:6

Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt.

Col. 4:6

When the Lord Jesus spoke, they “wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of His mouth.” But He also spoke the truth, and that hurt like salt in a wound. This should be our pattern when we talk with our friends. Our conversation should be filled with grace, with a little sprinkling of salt! Too much we find that it’s filled with salt with a little sprinkling of grace (maybe)!

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

COL 4:17

And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.

Col. 4:17

Many of us need such exhortation. We have received a ministry of the Lord - a need which we are in the position to fill or an ability which we can use for the Lord. For one reason or another there is a danger that this ministry may not be fulfilled. Let none of us fall into thinking that some small thing which the Lord has given us to do is unimportant. Be diligent to fulfill that work. Don’t let anything distract or discourage you from doing the ministry that the Lord has for you to do.

CareLines: Volume 3, Service

JULY 20

Epaphras . . . a servant of Christ . . . always laboring fervently for you in prayers.

Colossians 4:12

A lot of work for the Lord is done in private. Prayer is some of that “private” work. The Lord taught His disciples to pray “in the closet.” In our verse Epaphras labored with dedication in prayer for the Colossian saints. Perhaps you have a certain person on your heart as needing prayer. Maybe a young person in your assembly doesn’t come to meeting any more. Labor for them in prayer - fervently. You may be the only intercessor they have (besides the Lord).

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