

**August 15, 2010**  
**Listening Well**  
**Galatians – Colossians**

What is **COMMON** in the letters is Paul's desire for the churches to get it right in regard to **WHO JESUS IS**, and in regard to **HOW THEY LIVE**

**Ephesians 1:13-23 (page 811)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,<sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession-- to the praise of his glory.<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,<sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.<sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.<sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,<sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength,<sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,<sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.<sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**Philippians 1:9-11 (page 814)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,<sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,<sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-- to the glory and praise of God.

**GETTING IT RIGHT ABOUT JESUS**

To the Jews Paul is saying that Jesus **ALONE IS ENOUGH**. To the Greeks he is saying that Jesus was **FULLY HUMAN (flesh)** and **FULLY GOD (complete spirit)** and that it is the **UNION OF THESE** in righteousness that is the totality of our Christian existence

**Colossians 2:1-23 (page 817)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Colossians 2:1 I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.<sup>2</sup> My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,<sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.<sup>4</sup> I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.<sup>5</sup> For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,<sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with

thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

**We are to *START* with Jesus, *DISCOVER* Him for who He really is, what He really said, and what He really did, and then take that *REALITY INTO ALL THINGS***

<sup>9</sup> For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup> and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him you were also circumcised, in the putting off of the sinful nature, not with a circumcision done by the hands of men but with the circumcision done by Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism and raised with him through your faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup> having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. <sup>19</sup> He has 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. <sup>20</sup> Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, why, as though you still belonged to it, do you submit to its rules: <sup>21</sup> "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? <sup>22</sup> These are all destined to perish with use, because they are based on human commands and teachings. <sup>23</sup> 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.

**Jesus is the *RULER USED* in all situations to measure *ALL THINGS***

## **GETTING IT RIGHT REGARDING HOW WE LIVE**

### **Philippians 2:1-4 (page 815)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Philippians 2:1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

### **Ephesians 4:22 - 5:20 (page 812)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Ephesians 4:22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. <sup>25</sup> Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body. <sup>26</sup> "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> and do not give the devil a foothold. <sup>28</sup> He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. <sup>29</sup> Do not let any

unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.<sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.<sup>31</sup> Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.<sup>32</sup> Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children<sup>2</sup> and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.<sup>3</sup> But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people.<sup>4</sup> Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.<sup>5</sup> For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person-- such a man is an idolater-- has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.<sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient.<sup>7</sup> Therefore do not be partners with them.<sup>8</sup> For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light<sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)<sup>10</sup> and find out what pleases the Lord.<sup>11</sup> Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.<sup>12</sup> For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.<sup>13</sup> But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,<sup>14</sup> for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live-- not as unwise but as wise,<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.<sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,<sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Colossians 3:1-17 (page 818)**

<sup>NIV</sup> Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.<sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.<sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.<sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.<sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.<sup>8</sup> But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.<sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices<sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.<sup>11</sup> Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.<sup>13</sup> Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.<sup>14</sup> And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.<sup>15</sup> Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.<sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.<sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.