

LESSONS FROM COLOSSIANS AND EPHESIANS

Introduction:

1. The books of Colossians and Ephesians are companion epistles dealing with the relationship between Christ and the church.
2. The similarities can be seen by comparing the last two chapters of Colossians with the last two and a half chapters of Ephesians.
3. These two books are really two sides of the same coin.
4. Colossians presents Christ as the head of the church.
5. Ephesians presents the church as the body of Christ.

I. Colossians – Jesus Is the Head

- A. Christ's preeminence in relation to God and the creation
 1. In relation to God
 - a. *His image* (1:15)
 - b. *Fullness of deity* (1:19; 2:9)
 2. In relation to the universe
 - a. *Creator* (1:16)
 - b. *Sustainer* (1:17)
 - c. *Pre-existent* (1:17)
- B. Christ's preeminence in relation to the church
 1. He is the head (1:18)
 2. He is the Savior (1:20-24)
 3. He is the victor (2:10-12)
- C. Christ's preeminence in relation to the Gospel
 1. Mystery revealed in Him (1:25-29) – *Christ in you, the hope of glory*
 2. All wisdom and knowledge hidden in Him (2:1-3)
- D. Christ's preeminence in relation to the Christian
 1. Doctrines of men are inferior (2:4-8)
 2. Law of Moses is inferior (2:16-17)
 3. Angels and "modern revelations" are inferior (2:18-19)
 4. Asceticism is inferior (2:20-23)
 5. Completeness is in Him (2:9-15)
 6. Spiritual resurrection is with Him (3:1-4)
 7. New life is in Him (3:5 – 4:18)

II. Ephesians – The Church Is the Body

- A. God's eternal purpose in relation to Christ
 1. God is the source of all blessings (1:3-6)
 2. Jesus is the channel of God's blessings (1:7-12)
 3. The Holy Spirit is the down-payment of God's blessings (1:13-19)
- B. God's eternal purpose in relation to the church
 1. The church is the fullness of Christ (1:20-23)
 2. The church is the place of salvation (2:1-10; 5:23)
 3. The church is the assembly of the reconciled (2:11-18)
 4. The church is the temple of the Lord (2:19-22)
 5. The church is the revelation of the mystery (3:1-9)
 6. The church is the manifestation of God's wisdom (3:10-21)
- C. God's eternal purpose in relation to the unity and growth of the church (4:1-16)