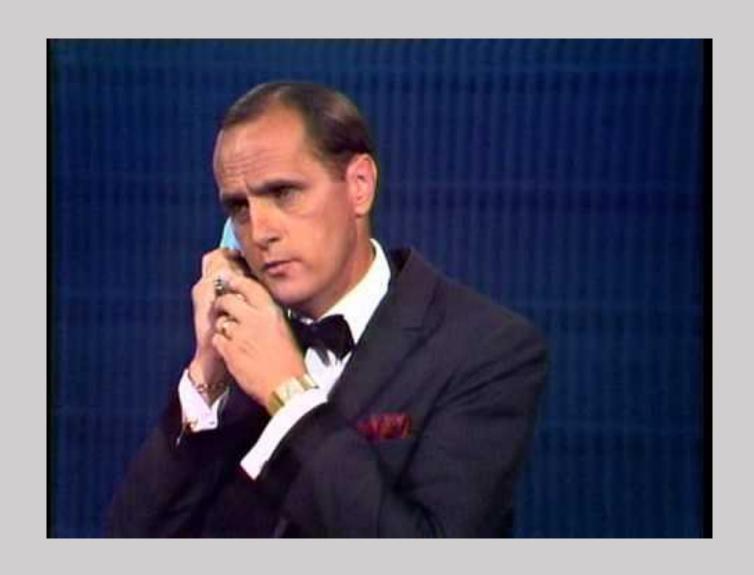


The Gospel vs. the Colossian Heresy (Colossians 2:6-15)

Bob Newhart: Conversational Reconstructions



Previous sermons in our series on Colossians

 Sermon #1: Paul gives thanks for the Christians at Colossae and prays for them (Colossians 1:1-12)

• Sermon #2: Includes a "Christ Hymn" that emphasizes that Jesus is God in bodily form (Colossians 1:13-20)

 Sermon #3: The body is not bad/evil, disputing a common notion from "Docetism" (Colossians 1:21-2:5)

Blueprint Statement

In today's passage, Paul further delineates the differences between the Gospel message and the teachings known today as "The Colossian Heresy"

Don't Walk Away

 ⁴ But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. (Revelation 2:4)

"Five things to Grow Deeper in Our Faith" (Fall 2020)

Scripture

Worship

Service

Prayer

Stewardship

"Syncretism"

- Taking bits and pieces of different religions to form a hybrid religion that is more to one's liking. However, this practice tends to create "easy theology": you only select those components that you already like.
- Example: The Jefferson Bible
- Application: which components of orthodox Christianity are you tempted to discard in favor of something from another religion or culture that is more to your liking?

Colossian Syncretism

- Jewish traditionalism (legalism)
- Greek mythology (gods stay separated from humans)
- Early form of "Gnosticism" (Jesus was a phantasm)
- Eastern mysticism (elemental spiritual forces)

Phantasm

• a figment of the imagination; an illusion or apparition

Pleroma

• Pleroma is a Greek word that has to do with filling or being full, or completing or being complete. . . In the New Testament, the *pleroma* is the fullness of God, the complete set of divine attributes that were incarnated in Christ. . . In Gnostic writings, "the *Pleroma*" takes on a technical meaning. The *Pleroma* is that spiritual perfection that is in contrast to physical deficiency. (Gnostics believed that matter was evil.) In Gnosticism, the Pleroma descended upon Christ at His baptism and left Him at the crucifixion before His death. Gnostics also hope to be able to experience the *Pleroma* themselves as they progress in Gnostic teaching. https://www.gotquestions.org/pleroma.html

Definition: "Sarx"

- --Human proclivity/tendency to sin: our "default setting"
- -- Jonathan Edwards: human beings cannot not sin
- "In Paul's writings, the flesh stands for the natural desires of a person operating apart from God. . . The pull of the world and temporal, physical needs and pleasures"

https://www.gotquestions.org/flesh-vs-spirit.html

Ezekiel 36:26-27

(New Living Translation)

• . ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you [a heart of flesh] a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

Romans 5:6-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

• ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

"Justification"

• ⁹ Since, therefore, we have now been <u>justified</u> by his blood, Romans 5:9a (ESV)

• He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴ having <u>canceled</u> the charge of our <u>legal indebtedness</u>, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross.

Colossian 2: 13b-14

"Justification"

General Ledger

Date: 4/2/12

| date | location | budget category | expense amount | account balance |
|------|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | | | <u>\$500</u> |
| 4/7 | Regal 7 Cinema | Entertainment | - <u>\$</u> 10 | \$490 |
| 4/9 | Gift from Uncle Ron | | +\$100 | <u> </u> |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

"Triumphing over them by the cross"

Colossians 2:15



Take-aways: The Colossian Heresy

Secretive ("esoteric") teachings may be:

- Overly complicated
- Prone to error
- Cause excessive Pride
- Used to intimidate other believers

Take-aways: Real Spiritual Growth ("Sanctification")

- Spiritual growth ("Sanctification") is the slow process of becoming more and more like Christ
- It requires first being rooted in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of one's life, and holding fast to this faith
- Additional spiritual growth occurs by setting deep the roots of your faith through: worship, prayer, studying Scripture, service, and stewardship

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26