

Colossians 1:15-23 — Infection in Colossae

Diagnosis: Infection in Colossae

- Jewish legalism
- Greek emphasis on deeper knowledge and mysteries (early Gnosticism)
- Elite perfection available to a select few
- Worship of angels/spirit beings as mediators to God
- Jesus the man could not be the Christ, God

Strengthen Your Immune System to Fight & Prevent Infection

Be absolutely immovable about these:

1. Justification by faith alone (adding works to faith (legalism) ~ stroke that paralyzes you)
2. Authority and inerrancy of the Scripture (saying Scripture has errors ~ strep because it spreads germs when you open your mouth to speak)
3. Deity of Jesus Christ (negating the Deity of Christ is ~ meningitis that attacks the protective covering of the brain, of our mind)

Prescribed Antibiotic is Truth about Christ — Jesus Christ is God!

Parallel passages: John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-6; Colossians 1:15-19

Jesus Christ's relationship to God

- Jesus is the representation and exact likeness of God. (v. 15)
- All God's fullness (His totality) dwells permanently in Jesus. (v. 19)

Jesus Christ's relationship to the Creation

- Jesus is the firstborn (priority and superiority) over all creation. (v. 15)
- Jesus created everything in the entire universe as planned by God the Father. (v. 16)
- Jesus is the controlling and unifying force in all of nature. (v. 17)
- As Creator, He has total right over our lives and has a right to set the rules (and thus tell us what is right and wrong).

Jesus Christ's relationship to the Church

- Jesus created the Church by combining Jews and Gentiles into one body of believers and appointed Himself Head. (v. 18, Ephesians 2:15)
- Jesus received a new body. (v. 18, 1 Corinthians 15:20)
- Jesus reconciled us to God through His physical death on the Cross. (vv. 20-22)
- So that in everything He might have supremacy. (v. 18)

Jesus Christ is above all powers and authorities, in all believers, & is all we need for earth & heaven!!