



**RCC Phoenix – 8.14.22 – Colossians (Week 4)**

**Colossians 2:1-10 NLT**

“I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In Him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong. And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ in Laodicea

This church is only mentioned in 2 books of the Bible: Colossians and \_\_\_\_\_.

Scholars believe \_\_\_\_\_ also started this church.

Laodicea was noted as being a \_\_\_\_\_ city during the Roman period.

The city was located on major trade routes that connected it to other important cities. It was also it was a center of \_\_\_\_\_ production and \_\_\_\_\_.

The goal of the Roman empire was peace and calm, not \_\_\_\_\_.

As part of the Pax Romana (Roman Peace) agreement, cities heavily populated with Jews were exempt from \_\_\_\_\_ the Roman Emperor. Christians were grandfathered in as long as they were seen as a spinoff underneath Judaism.

Domitian became the Roman Emperor in 81 AD and announced himself as a living god.

As time went on, the number of Gentiles being saved and joining the church in Laodicea increased dramatically and greatly outnumbered the Jewish believers. This led to Domitian \_\_\_\_\_ their exemption.

The church was put into a difficult position. They could worship the emperor and maintain their \_\_\_\_\_ or reaffirm their faith in Christ and potentially lose everything.

**Colossians 2:1-3 NLT**

“I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God’s mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Many believers compromised and gave in to the demands of the emperor causing the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ them in the book of Revelation.

**Revelation 3:14-17,19 NLT**

“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation: “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.”

**Colossians 2:4-5 NLT**

“I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong.”

Paul doesn’t mention this as a passing statement. He is directly dealing with the \_\_\_\_\_ of compromise in the Colossian and Laodicean churches.

Something that \_\_\_\_\_ Good isn’t \_\_\_\_\_ Good

Eventually, outside cultural pressures will come to the church and believers will be confronted with the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Let Your \_\_\_\_\_ Grow

### Colossians 2:6-9 NLT

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.”

As Believers, our roots are to grow directly into \_\_\_\_\_. Our lives are to be built on \_\_\_\_\_.

Salvation is not the \_\_\_\_\_ goal, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ point.

What does it mean to \_\_\_\_\_ your relationship with Christ?

We learn what pleases Him.

We learn what grieves Him.

We learn how to trust Him.

We learn how to follow Him.

We learn our purpose.

We learn His desires.

We develop a closeness with Him.

The final warning is not to let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ.

Definition of “Capture”:

- a. To gain \_\_\_\_\_ or control of
- b. To \_\_\_\_\_ and hold

Where do these empty philosophies come from? \_\_\_\_\_ thinking and spiritual powers of this \_\_\_\_\_.