

I Can't find It Anywhere

By Phil Arms

Perhaps you share a similar experience. It was a few years ago when we were packing our three children into the car to go to church. In a hurry, I was frantic to find my new sunglasses. I was convinced I had laid them down somewhere the last time I had come in the house.

Knowing how children are prone to pick up things and leave them someplace else, I just knew one of them had carted my sunglasses off. I quickly interrogated each of them and they, just as quickly denied culpability. But I just knew in my heart that one of the little darlings was not telling the truth. After a second grilling of each, Suzanne, my dear wife, entered the room asking what all the fuss was about.

Now frustrated beyond measure I told her that someone has picked up my sunglasses and has now lost them and I mean to get to the bottom of it.

You can only imagine how utterly foolish and profoundly apologetic I was when she looked at me and said, "Phil, your sunglasses are on your head."

Obviously, I had put them on and then slid them up when I re-entered the house after loading up the car. And, yes, I felt foolish and, yes, Suzanne and the three now-grown children still howl with laughter each time they retell the story.

The Search is Over

I tell this to point out that many of today's Christians are not unlike myself on that occasion, especially when it comes to looking for something they already possess.

The wildfires of heresy that have been sweeping across the Christian landscape are being fanned by a very false assumption that getting born again is not enough. Many are led to believe they need something more than Jesus, such as an ecstatic experience or additional spiritual experiences or visions or something “deeper.”

The truth is, knowing Christ equips us with any and all the spiritual resources we need to live powerful, anointed, victorious, supernatural lives. In fact, the entire book of Colossians was written to address this same kind of heresy that was infecting the Church in Paul’s day.

Paul writes to denounce the false teachers who were telling Christians that Jesus alone was not sufficient, that more experiences were needed. So, Paul rebukes such heretics and then he masterly explains how having Jesus far surpasses anything they may attempt to add to their repertoire of experiences. He writes of the Lord Jesus Christ’s place within the Godhead, His sovereignty over the Universe, His thorough and powerful work of salvation, His pre-eminence as God, His all sufficiency in all things, His power, His Spirit, and of His profound ability to meet every possible human need.

Attempting to illustrate the depth and breadth and length of how Jesus indwells each believer, Paul writes:

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin. And He, (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation. For by Him (Jesus) all things were created both in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible....All things have been created by Him (Jesus.) And He (Jesus) is before all things and in Him (Jesus) all things hold together. He (Jesus) is also head of the body, the church, and He, (Jesus) is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead...For it was the Father’s good pleasure for All the Fullness to dwell in Him (Jesus) that through Him (Jesus) to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His (Jesus) cross. Colossians 1:13-20

It's All in Christ

If everything I need is found in Christ, as Paul repeatedly insists, and Christ is in me, then quite obviously I have everything necessary to overcome sin, defeat the enemy, fulfill God's call and to touch the world in which I live. Upon salvation His Spirit places us into the body of Christ and indwells us with all of Jesus.

Paul goes on with these radically remarkable statements about who is this Jesus! He declares in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge because in Him is all the fullness of God Himself. Further, Paul writes that Jesus is the Authority over all authority in the Universe.

Imagine the audacity of these Colossians as well as modern day heretics who tell us that Christ alone is not enough to bring one to spiritual maturity. This belief is what caused the false teachers to push a wide variety of artificial psychosomatic self-induced additives they insisted were needed to complete our salvation.

Further, this same group of heretics pushed human philosophy (Colossians 2:8-10), mysticism (Colossians 2:18-19) and asceticism (Colossians 2:20-23).

Amazing!

I often sit amazed when watching most so-called Christian television. So many of these like-minded heretics are twenty-four hours a day spewing their ridiculous claims and false doctrines out to shallow, gullible and often hungry, hurting viewers.

It's as if each preacher has to come out with a bigger tale than the others. His miracle is bigger, his vision more incredible, His prayers more powerful and his claims beyond belief.

Paul, in the strongest way possible, works to expose these contemporary soothsayers who push their false promises, false gifts and fake miracles.

Oh, yes, God does, indeed, do miracles but He will not stoop to exhibitionism and showmanship.

Paul warns against these deceptive vipers and tells us "beware." He writes in Colossians 2:8-10, "Beware, lest any man spoil you through vain philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiment of the world and not after Christ."

Paul hastens to add verses 9-10 which says, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and we are complete in Him who is the head of all principalities and power."

I repeat this to emphasize to extreme importance of our "looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith," only.

Listen!

The reason there are so many distractions to true Christians today is because one of the very real characteristics of the Christian is the continued appetite for spiritual truth and food. Because most pulpits are not feeding God's people a nourishing spiritual diet many of them are starving for any morsel of spiritual sustenance they can find.

The problem is really hungry people will eat about anything. Consequently, many take the heretical bait thrown out over much Christian television and get hooked on error and subject to false teaching.

Nobody Else Will Do

I urge you today to stand with us as we continue to lift high the name of Jesus. He alone is capable to save a soul and to save a nation.

Yes, many in the political arena today are preaching “God is America’s only Hope.” While that is true, it’s only partially true. It is not in subscribing to some nebulous impersonal concept of God that will provide individual or national redemption.

Just the preaching of God did not lay the Foundation for this great nation. It was the preaching of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that laid a foundation in the hearts of men and women that ultimately gave birth to this free nation.

Never forget...Christ is all you need. All you’ll ever need. We can never exhaust His resources, His power, His sufficiency, His glory, His love or His splendor.

How I pray you will join us in our efforts to touch lives for Christ and to lift high His Name, His Truth and His Gospel.

I pray today that you will seek Him and Him alone. And with us, remember this ministry as we remain faithful to exalt Him above all, for Jesus said, “If I be lifted up I will draw all men to myself.”