

PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20 • TV132B

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Colossians 1:19-20

“For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

I’m interested in a bringing messages that are contemporary, in other words, I want to speak from the Scriptures. I want to preach the ancient Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

But, I want to preach to men today. I want to answer from the Scriptures the questions that you are asking. I want to deal with the problems and difficulties of this day. I want to speak to religion as it is today, not as it was two or three hundred years ago.

I don’t want to be fighting battles that were over a long time before I was born. There is no use resurrecting men, resurrecting issues and resurrecting battles that are already over. Let’s address our generation; let’s preach to the people of this day.

I want to do that today. I want to speak to you from the book of **Colossians**. If you have your Bible and you would like to follow with me as I read the Scriptures; I invite you to turn to **Colossians, the 1st chapter** and let me read two verses, **verses 19 and 20**.

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Let's think together on this subject: **“PEACE, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS.”** Now, in **Colossians 1:19** the Scripture says: *“It pleased the Father that in Christ should all fullness dwell, (all fullness in Christ, all fullness dwells according to God's good pleasure) and having made peace through the blood of his cross by Christ, to reconcile all things unto himself, in heaven and earth and under the earth.”*

Now, the greatest blessing, the greatest blessing that God can give to a nation, to a community or to a church is to send to that nation or church or community a faithful, bold, and truthful minister of the Gospel.

The greatest blessing that God can send is a faithful gospel preacher. And when God sends His prophet with His message and His people hear, there is spiritual prosperity.

Now, the greatest judgment that can fall on a people, anywhere, is to give them over to blind, unregenerate, reprobate preachers and teachers. That's the greatest judgment that can fall upon a people, to just turn them over to *“teachers having itching ears,”* covetous men, evil men, servants of Satan, who care not for God's glory or the people's good.

There have been many false prophets and false teachers in every age; we have them today. They were in Israel; they were here during the days of our Lord. They were here during the days of the apostles, they were here during the reformation and there are plenty of them today.

Our Lord called them: *“wolves in sheep's clothing.”* He said: *“Beware of them; beware of wolves in sheep's clothing.”*

Then, listen to what the prophet Jeremiah had to say about these pastors and preachers and prophets and teachers who compromised the Word of God:

He says in **Jeremiah 5:30-31** that there is an astonishing and horrible thing that's committed in this land: *“The prophets prophesy falsely.”* That's an astonishing, horrible, thing. The prophets who claim to be men of God prophesy falsely and the priests who claim to represent the people before God (and God before the people) rule by their own hand.

Here's the astonishing, horrible, thing about it: *“the people love to have it so.”* They like that sort of arrangement. The people are satisfied with it.

But, he says: *“What will they do in the end thereof?”* Oh what will they do when the end comes, what will they do when that day of the Lord rolls around, what are they going to do? They've got a false refuge and a false hope. They have believed a lie and rejected the truth. What are they going to do?

Then, **Jeremiah 23: 1 and 2** says this: *“Woe to the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture. Woe unto them, saith the Lord.”* What a judgment!

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Then, in **Ezekiel 34: 2 and 3**; listen to this charge against false preachers and false pastors: “*Son of man; prophesy against, speak against the shepherds of Israel.*”

I hear people say often, “We shouldn’t be critical and we shouldn’t speak against folks, you know, and we shouldn’t say anything against anybody’s religion, you know.”

Now, wait a minute! The Lord God himself said to Ezekiel: “*Son of man; you prophesy against the shepherds (or pastors) of your own nation.*” You tell the truth about them. Here’s what you tell, “*Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves. Should not the shepherds feed the sheep? They eat the fat, they wear the wool, but they don’t feed the sheep.*”

That’s what’s going on in this day. Preachers live in parsonages and pastorals furnished by the church. They drive their automobiles furnished by their church. They eat food furnished by their church. They wear clothes furnished by people (religious people).

They don’t feed these people. They live off of them. They live off the fat and they wear the wool but they do not feed the people of God. They are thieves. They are worse than thieves because they profess to be what they are not and to do what they don’t have the courage to do. God says; “*Woe unto them, you tell the truth about them.*”

In **Romans 16:18**; the apostle Paul says: “*They that are such, (this kind of person, this false preacher, this false teacher and false prophet); they serve not our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

Listen; what a sad commentary on this day: “*They serve not the Lord Jesus Christ but they serve their own belly; (that’s what they are serving, themselves, their own appetite, and by good works, works, humanitarian works, works of charity, by good works) and by fair speeches, (beautiful speeches and beautiful sermons) deceive the hearts of simple people.*” That’s **Romans 16:18**, that’s God’s Word.

That is a picture of this day. They serve not the Lord; they serve themselves and their programs. They serve their organizations, they serve their institutions, and they serve themselves, not the Lord, they serve “*their own bellies.*” And by good works and by all kind of humanitarian efforts and works of charity and beautiful, fair, lovely speeches, they deceive the people and bring down the judgment of God upon themselves. They deceive simple minded people.

Then, in **2 Timothy 4:3**: “*The time will come (and you might add, and now is) when they will not endure sound doctrine.*” They don’t want to hear doctrine. They don’t want to hear the truth. They don’t want to hear the foundation.

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They want to hear a good quartet sing. They want to hear a good solo. They want to hear somebody blow a horn. They want to see somebody put on a show. They don't want to hear sound doctrine.

They want to see things. They want to be entertained. *"But after their own lusts they will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and will turn away their ears from the truth."* They will not hear it.

Now, Jeremiah the prophet brings three charges, three serious, damnable charges, against all false preachers and false teachers; he says:

First of all: They are covetous men, they are covetous men; *"They covet the praise of men"*

You see that today. They like to be well-spoken of. *"They love the praise of men, rather than the praise and honor of God."* They love the praise of men. They covet the material possessions and they covet money: *"They are greedy of filthy lucre."*

They covet titles. Our Lord says: *"They love to be called Rabi."* They covet the offices. They like to occupy the *"uppermost seats in the synagogue and the tabernacle."* They are covetous men. *"They seek not the glory of God."*

The Word of God tells us to: *"Do what we do for the glory of Christ, whether we eat or drink; do it for the glory of Christ. Whatever we do in word or deed; do it for the glory of Christ,"* but no, not in this day, covetous men will not seek His glory.

They are seeking their own, not like the priest of old who had no land and no inheritance on this earth. No, they must have something; they must have something of their own and they covet these things, possessions and praise. Their pride covets titles and offices.

Secondly: He charges them with dealing falsely with the people rather than preaching the Word of God, they preach speculation! They will spend all of their time speculating about the Second Advent rather than preaching about the certainty of Christ's death on that cross the first time the Lord came among us.

They preach tradition, they preach works, they preach law, and they preach all manner of rules and standards laid down by the various organizations, rather than preaching the Word of God.

Paul exhorted Timothy: *"Preach the Word, preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort with all long-suffering."*

Thirdly: Jeremiah charged them with being covetous men, with dealing falsely with the people, and he accused them of giving the people a false hope and a false refuge.

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He said: “*They cry peace, peace, when there is no peace.*” When we are at war with heaven and heaven has declared war with us, he says: “*they keep crying to the people, peace; (you are all right).*”

They give folks a hope for heaven when they don’t have any hope. They give people who talk about forgiveness of sin when the sin still remains.

There’s been no ransom paid, there’s been no redemptive prize. There’s been no blood shed. There’s been no faith exercised. There’s been no repentance exercised.

But the false prophet says: “You are all right now; don’t get discouraged, don’t get upset, just do the best you can and everything will be all right.” There’s “*peace, peace,*” in it but Jeremiah says: “*there is no peace.*”

What’s the solution? What’s going to happen to our day? What is there for us? Well, I will tell you the solution is this; that we might find somewhere, some bold, truthful, brave servants of the living God.

We are not the servants of men nor the servants of denominations or the servants of the flesh, but they are dedicated, devoted, and consecrated to God almighty and His eternal glory. They have in their hearts a true love for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Their only ambition is to make Christ known. They seek not anything that a man has or anything that a man can do; they seek the glory of the Son of God and they will dare to come to this generation and set forth the good news of God’s grace in Jesus Christ.

They will tell people the truth about what happened in that Garden and what happened on that cross and what happens in a sinner’s heart when God is pleased to deal with him (not in judgment, but in mercy).

To tell men what God has done for them in Christ, rather than forever telling the sinner what he has to do for God or what God expects him to do in exchange for a reward in heaven. That’s the only solution. There is peace, there is peace but it’s in Christ Jesus.

It’s not in your altars or in your offerings; it is in Christ Jesus. There is forgiveness but it’s in Christ Jesus. It’s not in your works or your deeds. There is mercy in grace but it’s in Christ Jesus and it is sovereignly given. Our God says: “*I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.*”

There is eternal life but it’s in Christ Jesus. It’s not in the water sprinkled on an infant’s brow nor is it in the water under which a sinner is plunged by some preacher nor is it in some sacrament or some ceremony or some candle burning in a window somewhere; it’s in Jesus Christ.

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“This is the record; God has given us, eternal life, and this life is in his blessed Son. He that hath the Son of God hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God, (whatever he has) hath not life.”

There is hope; yes sir, there is hope but it's in Jesus Christ. It's not in you, your preaching or your church. It's not in the law, your deeds or your works. God has turned everything over to Jesus Christ.

God has vested everything He has in heaven, earth, and in hell into the hands of Jesus Christ. *“It pleased the father that in Jesus Christ should all fullness dwell.”* There's not a smidgen of dwelling anywhere else.

If you are the partaker of any blessing or benefit from the hand of a holy God, you will come to Christ, Jesus Christ the Lord. That's so!

I want you to turn with me to the book of **Hebrews**. I want us to look at **chapter 9** of the book of **Hebrews, verses 24 through 28**; like I said, there is a solution.

We are going to have to somehow close our ears to the covetous ministers of compromise, who cry *“peace, when there is no peace,”* who deal falsely with people who give folks a hope when they have no true hope, a refuge when they have no true refuge, and they preach a salvation that can't save.

We are going to have to turn to somebody who knows the truth and I believe that truth is found here in **Hebrews 9: 24 through 28**. You read in those verses of the three appearances of Christ for sinners; there are three appearances revealed here.

All that God has for us is in these three appearances. All that we have, all that we are, all that we ever hope to be is included in these three appearances right here. If you will learn something about these three appearances you will learn the Gospel.

If you will learn to preach them, you can preach the Gospel. Now here they are in **Hebrews 9:26**:

First of all: It says: *“He appeared, (sometime, somewhere), he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”*

Second: Hebrews 9:24: *“Christ entered into heaven itself, now to appear, (right now; he doth appear) in the presence of God for us.”*

Third: Verse 28: *“Unto them who look to him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”*

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First: *“He appeared to put away sins.” “He appears (present tense) in the presence of God.” “He will appear.”* It’s all right there. See if I can make good on that in **verse 26:** *“He hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”*

What would you say is the greatest miracle of all? What would you say is the greatest event in the history of this world, creation? That God made the world from nothing? Or perhaps you might say regeneration; a dead sinner is quickened to life. Or perhaps resurrection, when all those who are in the grave will hear his voice and shall come forth, some unto life and some unto death.

But I believe the greatest miracle of all is incarnation, God became a man. He who is the infinite of days became an infant of days. He who made man was made into a man. He who made woman was made of woman.

He who made the angels was made, for a little while, for a season, lower than the angels, the infinite, immutable, invisible, eternal God, who the heavens cannot contain, for a little while walked this earth in human flesh. That’s a miracle!

He appeared: *“He was in the world and the world was made by him and the world knew him not.” “He was in the world.”*

Now, how did He come into the world? He came through a woman’s womb. He was born like you and I except without a father; He was virgin born. He’s the Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He came through a woman; He was made of a woman.

Why did He appear into this world? Well, that verse tells you. It says: *“He appeared to put away sin.”* That’s why He came. That’s what the angel said when they announced His birth; the angel said: *“Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins.”* That’s why He came, to put away sin.

My friends; sin is hard to put away. I know there are stains that are difficult to remove. I use to hear my mother talking about “don’t get peach stain on something or don’t get blackberry stains” and you use different things to try to get them out.

Let me tell you something; there’s a stain that nothing will remove, nothing you know anything about on this earth and that is the stain of sin.

The Jewish sacrifices couldn’t remove it; it’s not possible. All the blood of bulls and goats on Jewish altars slain couldn’t remove that stain of sin. Religious ceremonies couldn’t remove it: *“By the deeds of the law shall no flesh be justified.”*

Good works can’t remove it: *“not by works of righteousness which we have done.”* Reformation won’t remove it. Even death and hell won’t remove it. Our Lord said: *“There’s a great gulf fixed.”* Nobody will ever come from there here.

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There's only one thing that will remove the stain of sin and that's the blood of Christ: *"the blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all our sin."* There's nothing else!

"Other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid. None other name under heaven is given among men," the only thing that will remove the stain of sin is the blood of Christ. Now, that is on the authority of God's Word, God Himself. *"He came into this world to put away sin."*

How did he do it, *"by the sacrifice of himself?"* Not by healing; that's not how sin is put away. You can heal a man's body and he will still die and go to hell.

It's not by just teaching; you can teach a man to read and write. You can teach a man to try to do right. You can teach a man to treat his neighbor right and he will still perish in sins, because he has sins of the heart and imagination before God.

It's not even by love. God is love but not even by love. He put away sin by sacrifice, sacrifice:

**"There is a fountain
Filled with blood
Drawn from Immanuel's veins,
And sinners plunged
Beneath that flood
Lose all their guilty stains."**

Don't get so formal and so nice in your religion that you leave the heart of it out; that's the blood of the cross.

I know that we are getting awfully dignified in this day, mighty dignified. We are talking about "you're ok and I'm ok and he's ok and she's ok." We are talking about doing good, "let's send wheat and grain to the enemies and feed your enemies." That's all well and good but don't get so nice and so dignified and so formal that you cut the heart out of your faith (the blood of the cross).

There are a lot of folks that are taking the old hymns about the blood out of the songbooks....because *"without the shedding of blood there's no remission, there's no remission."*

**"What can wash away my sins?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."**

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“He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”

Second: it says: *“He entered heaven; now to appear in the presence of God for us.”*

Now, I told you last week about that old tabernacle in the wilderness; that was a picture of what we are talking about now. There was the Holy of Holies and there was a veil and then there was the Holy place.

The old high priest once a year, (picturing the death of Christ and the work of Christ, His work of redemption) would go under the veil into the Holy of Holies and there he would put the blood on the mercy seat to cover the broken law. That was the atonement. Outside of that veil was the incense; that’s the prayers of Christ.

So you see, our Lord entered *“not the holy place made with hands, (the tabernacle on earth), but heaven itself into the presence of God with his own blood.”*

There He now sits at God’s right hand and He prays for us and pleads for us and He intercedes for us. Christ died for our sins was buried and rose again and He ever lives to make intercession for us.

We have a High Priest; Christ is our great High Priest. He’s not a fellow down here on the earth. You don’t go into some little square and tell a human being about your sins; you tell Christ about your sins, for that human being can’t do anything about it.

You see, Christ is every believer’s Priest. Christ is our High Priest and *“having a high priest over the house of God; let us come boldly into his presence.”*

You see this earthly priesthood and its deeds and its types and its shadows have been gone away, they have been put away: *“He taketh away the first that he may establish the second.”*

You see, these priests were many and Christ was one. They offered many sacrifices. *“He with one offering hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”* They entered a place made with hands. He entered heaven itself.

They took the blood of an animal and He took His own blood. They kept standing around, walking around, and they never sat down because they never finished their work. He sat down at the right hand of God.

They died; the Lord Jesus Christ lives. Their priesthood ended and somebody else took over. He hath an everlasting priesthood: *“There’s one mediator between God and men.”*

Let me tell you something and don’t you ever forget it: There’s one God. You may say: “I know that.” Do you know this? *“There’s one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”* Did you know that?

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You better know that because you will never come to that one God except through that one Mediator. You see, that's just as important as that first statement; that's **1st Timothy 2:5**: *"There's one God and there's one mediator."*

You know what a mediator is. You know what an intercessor is and that is Christ. When He died on that cross that veil was rent into from the top to the bottom. The way is open into the presence of God to those who will come, come by Christ. *"He is able to save to the uttermost them that come to God by him."*

"He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. He appears now in the presence of God for us."

Third: it says in **verse 28**: *"Unto them that look for him, shall he appear the second time without sin, unto salvation."*

You know, men know very little about the return of Christ. He's coming back but men know very little about it, even though some today do an awful lot of speculating about it.

God says what we do know; we do know Christ is coming back. He said Himself: *"If I go away I will come again to receive you unto myself."* The angels said: *"This same Jesus which is taken up from you shall so come in the like manners you have seen him go."*

I know that; He's coming back; this same Christ is coming back in a personal return, this same Jesus. I know that His coming will mark the end of the world and there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

I know that His coming will signal the resurrection of the dead. I know His coming will be personal, this same Jesus. I know this, *"blessed are those that look for him, he will appear the second time without sin unto salvation."*

He came the first time as an infant. He's coming the second time as the infinite God. He came the first time to be born in a manger; He's coming again reigning on a throne.

He came in poverty and He will return in majesty. He came as a Lamb; He will return as a Lion. He came to die and He will return to reign. He came to save; He's returning to judge. He came to open the door of grace and He's coming back to close it.

I think it's highly possible that more people today are concerned with the return of Christ than they are with the Christ who shall return. That's a dangerous position, to be more concerned over the return and its advents and events than to be concerned about Him who comes.

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We will be better off if you will be concerned about Him because *“in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and it pleased the Father to make peace through the blood of his cross.”*

His second coming will avail you nothing unless you know something of His first coming *“when he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself!”*