

Sunday, December 13, 2020 Colossians 2:15 The Triumph of Christ

Colossians 2:15

- **And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.**
- Beginning with the word “and,” verse 15 is a continuation of the thought being expressed in verse 14.
 - Colossians 2:14—as far as believers are concerned the law has been “blotted out” i.e., obliterated, and expunged. Furthermore, it was “taken out of the way.” When the Lord Jesus Christ hung on that cross and shed his blood in payment for our sins, he satisfied the righteous requirements of the law.
- The subject and main actor of verse 15 is the Lord Jesus Christ i.e., the “he” who “made a shew of them openly.”
- The object(s) against who Christ acted were “principalities and powers.” We have already seen these beings multiple times within the book of Colossians. The word translated “principalities” possess the meaning of first in time and position i.e., those rulers who were first in rank and power. It is interesting to consider that anytime Paul talks about these positions of rank and authority “principalities” are always mentioned first.
 - Colossians 1:16
 - Colossians 1:18—“beginning” the Greek word translated “principalities” is used in referenced to the Lord Jesus Christ as the preeminent one over all things.
 - Colossians 2:10—Christ is the head of all “principality and power.”
 - Ephesians 6:12
- Colossians 2:15—now let’s look at the action that Christ took as it relates to “principalities and powers.” What did our Lord do to these evil beings? He “spoiled” them. According to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* the English word “spoiled” carries the following meanings:
 - Plundered; pillaged; corrupted; rendered useless.
- The Lord Jesus Christ has rendered these being utterly useless i.e., he has taken them as a spoil of war. He has plundered and pillaged them of their authority.

- Colossians 2:8—Christ has actually done in the heavenly realm what the Colossians were in danger of allowing to happen to themselves by listening to false Gnostic teaching that said Christ was lower than angelic beings because he possessed a physical body.
- Colossians 2:15—the next action that Christ took with respect to “principalities and powers” is that he “made a shew of them openly” i.e., he put them to open shame and humiliated them. The idea here is that by spoiling them he openly embarrassed them in front of the entire universe by making a public example of them.
- Christ actions in spoiling them and making “a shew of them openly” manifest His decisive “triumph” and victory over them. The phrase “triumphing over” speaks of the triumphal procession following victory over one’s enemy. Noah Webster defined the word “triumphing” as follows:
 - Celebrating victory with pomp; vanquishing; rejoicing for victory; insulting on an advantage.
- Jesus Christ completely triumphed over Satan and his “principalities and powers” at a given point in history i.e., the cross. The expression “in it” at the end of verse 15 harkens back to “the cross” in verse 14. The grammar indicates that on the cross, at that precise/exact moment in time there was a complete triumph by the Lord Jesus Christ over Satan and his cohorts.
 - Matthew 28:18
- More was accomplished at the cross than what you can read about in the Old Testament and the Gospels. The revelation of the mystery committed to and through the Apostle Paul reveals, manifests, and declares everything that Christ accomplished at the cross. We learn about the heavenly aspect of Christ’s triumph in Paul’s epistles.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8
 - Ephesians 3:9-10
- Colossians 2:15—this is why Satan hates the mystery. This is why more churches don’t believe and teach about the “wisdom of God in a mystery.”
 - I Corinthians 1:18—Satan does not like the proclamation of a message that puts him and his cohorts to open shame.
 - I Corinthians 3:19—God took Satan in his own craftiness by simply keeping a secret about his plan to form the church the body of Christ and use us for his glory in the heavenly places.