

THE PASTOR AS SCHOLAR

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Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri

Introductory: Definitions; prefatory observations; a text: 2 Timothy 4:13: "When you come, bring the cloak a left in Troas at Carpus' place, and the books (ta Biblia) but especially the parchments (membranai)." (Cf. Acts 26:24: Festus to Paul: "Paul, you are mad! And your great learning is driving me mad". (ta grammata) . ("Gird up the loins of your mind", 1 Peter 1:13).

I. An Apostolic Model

A. The Nature of the Colossian "Philosophy".

1. The Crucial Passage (Col. 2:16-23) (Two foci: angel-worship and ascetic practices)

Do not, therefore, let any one sit as judge over you in matters of eating and drinking, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day. These are a shadow of things that were to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

Let no one condemn you by his own interest in "humility" and in the worship of angels, as he expatiates on what he has seen at his initiation, vainly puffed up by a mind bound to the flesh, and not clinging to the Head, from whom the entire body, nursied and knit together as it is through its joints and ligaments, grows to a size that comes from God.

If, with Christ, you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you keep on submitting to regulations, as though you still belonged to the present order of things: "Don't handle; don't taste; don't touch!" (referring to items that perish as they are being used), according to the precepts and instructions of men? These rules may indeed sound wise for disciplining the will, and for self-abasement, and for toughening up the body, but they find no favor with God, serving only to indulge the flesh.

2. The Apostle's Substantive Response (Col. 1:15-20)

He(Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in Him everything in heaven and on earth was created, not only things visible but also the invisible orders of thrones, dominions, principalities and powers: the totality of all things was created through Him and for Him. He exists before everything; and in Him all things cohere.

He is, moreover, the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. For God resolved to have His total fullness take up permanent residence in Him and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself by the act of creating ^{along} peace through the blood of His Cross-through Him/ ^{along} to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven!

II. A Contemporary Application (Preaching and Teaching)

- A. Researching for Accuracy
- B. Setting Professional Priorities (Paul in Prison)
- C. Checking out Specifics
- D. Dedication to Truth
- E. Personal and Audience Enrichment
- F. Indefatigable Zeal
- G. Use of Adequate Tools
- H. Continuing Education.
- I. Mastery of One Subject

Concluding Remarks:

Theology has the task of interpreting reality in light of the Biblical revelation. The Church is once more up against the challenge not only to out-pray, to out-work, but also to out-think her enemies.



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