

Colossians 2:8-3:4

Colossians 2:8-3:4 is the theological portion of the epistle. It is upon this portion that the rest of Paul's admonition finds its basis.

Part one: 2:8-2:19 – Soteriology - theology of salvation

- a. 2:8-15 – spiritual beings (worship of angels) and bondage to the law (practice Law for salvation)
- b. 2:16-19 – ties spiritual beings and bondage to the law together

Part two: 2:20-3:4 – Sanctification -

- a. two subjects are introduced with “since” and both are followed by commands that should be our appropriate response

2:8-3:4 focuses on the two leading fallacies of the Colossian heresy:

- 1) Angels;
- 2) The Law.

Beginning in 3:5 Paul focuses on true and righteous sanctification.

In Colossians Paul used 33 words which are only used one time by Paul in the NT.

In 2:8-3:4 Paul uses fifteen of these thirty-three words used only one time in his letters. (45%)

It is possible that Paul was taking the heretics vocabulary and using it against them.

The heresy had threatened two areas of Christian theology:

- 1) Soteriology – the work of Jesus Christ on the cross for salvation
- 2) Sanctification – the holiness that grows in a believer's life after salvation by faith.