

GOODNEWS LETTER

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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

"But I want you to know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God," 1st Cor 11:3.

Thayer states the Greek word for **Head**: Kephale (kef-al-ay), means: "Anything supreme, chief, prominent; of **persons**, master, lord; of **things**, the corner stone - Gk Eng Lexicon, pg 345.

Finding one's place in life is very difficult. Some never do; whether, it's where one should be in life or what to do in the service to God. Therefore, the first step is to understand about our Head.

Who's Your Father?

Jesus pointed out that some men are of God and others are not. "If God were your Father, you would love me;...You are of your father, the devil," Jn 8:42, 44.

Yet, whether we go back to Jesus' time or all the way back to Adam, the story remains the same. Man runs from God. And, just like Adam, man thinks God doesn't know where he is. But, the LORD knows! He cries to all men, "Where art thou, Adam?" (Gen. 3:9)

God hasn't stopped looking for man or calling him to His order of service. So - relative to eternity, the number **one** thing is to understand God's order.

That's why the Bible is so wonderful. It gives us the truth on how God works. The Bible is profitable for reproof and correction (See 2nd Tim 3:16). It's God's order. And, like 1st Cor. 11:3, the order is so clear that it cannot be missed.

No matter where man is standing - naturally or spiritually - God's order begins with Christ. In Colossians 2, we get direction for natural man.

While, Colossians is an epistle to the Church at Colosse, Paul want us to notice what takes place before one becomes a member of that church. He wants us to see the spiritual truths that lie in Jesus Christ, alone.

Clearly, the blessings on Paul's list occurred the moment one trusts Jesus at the cross; before one joins the Colossian Church or Trinity or, any church. Look at the following reasons.

FIRST: Christ made us alive, having forgiven all our transgressions (v13).

SECONDLY: Christ canceled the certificate of debt (the Law), taking it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (v14).

THIRDLY: Christ triumphed over the rulers and authorities when He made a public display of them through the cross (v15).

All these blessing were timed at the cross. When one knows this, he forgets about religious observances of food and drink or festivals. They mean nothing to God and His **order of service**. Neither, new moons(times) or, even Sabbath Days, have any value of service (Col. 2:16).

We must ask: Did Christ forgive us? Did He cancel the debt? Did He triumph over the enemy? And, we ask, "WHEN DID THEY HAPPEN?"

Paul explains what occurred at the cross in chapter one of Colossians, verse 19, "For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

Let's sing: "At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart rolled away (rolled away)

Importantly, while reconciliation took place at the cross, the order of service doesn't stop there. Paul wants us to know that "...in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy, blameless and beyond reproach, if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not removed away from the hope of the gospel which you have heard," Colossians 1:22-23.

CHRIST, THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

In Ephesians, 4:11, Paul tells us that apostles, prophets and evangelists; along with pastors and teachers, were given to the church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of service to the building up of the body of Christ;"

As His representative, His body on earth, the church is to, "...speak the truth in love...grow up in all aspects unto Him, who is the Head, even Christ, from whom the whole body, being fitted and held." Paul elaborates about each member; that this is the proper working of each member (part) CAUSING GROWTH OF THE BODY, IN LOVE.

What we have in Christ must be understood apart from the church. Without question, the church was commissioned to preach the gospel to the world; but, never can we think that we receive His forgiveness, cancellation and triumph over the enemy only after we become members of His church.

Thus, the order of service for man is to be saved in the finished work of Christ. Then, be baptized and walk in the newness of the life of Christ. This is the gospel order: the death, burial and resurrection.

In capping off this short article, we cite Colossians 3:1-3. "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

FOR YOU HAVE **DIED** AND YOUR LIFE IS HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD."

The order is good and true. God wants us to know the order today and receive it in our heart. He doesn't want us to wait until we get to judgment day and find out about it, then.