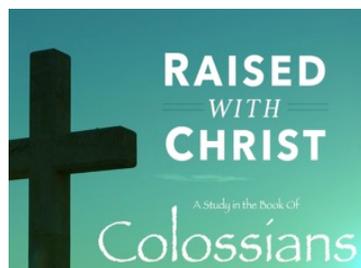


## “Raised with Christ!”



### Part 3: “For the sake of His Body the Church”

Colossians 1:24-29, 2:1-5

Introduction: Marriage and the family are GOD’s idea, and so is the Church!!

The Church is like a family ... God’s family.

***Through the stewardship of God’s Word, His children are brought to maturity in Christ and empowered to stand firm in their faith in Christ.***

**Colossians 1:24,29, 2:1:** “... for the sake of His Body, the Church” (vs. 24).

This is about being God’s instruments to BUILD the Church, Christ’s Body.

#### I. The instructing of God’s children in God’s Word: Verses 24-26 ...

**Verses 24-26:** “... according to the stewardship from God ... to make the Word of God fully known ...” (vs. 25).

We who believe in Jesus live in this world as children of the living God!

**John 1:12-13** ... What is it that God uses to bring about the “new birth?”  
His Word!

We are stewards, commissioned by God to teach the truth He has revealed in HIS Word to HIS children.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9:** “And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children” (vss. 6-7).

**II Timothy 3:14-15:** “... and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.”

There is urgency here because we have been charged by God to instruct our children ... the children HE has entrusted to us.

There are babes in Christ who need to be instructed and the Church is responsible for their instruction.

#### II. The maturing of God’s children through God’s Word: Verses 27-28 ...

**Verses 27-28:** “To them God chose to make known the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ IN you, the hope of glory” (vs. 27).

Parents and the Church are responsible to teach God’s children God’s Word in order to bring them to maturity in Christ.

God revealed this “mystery” to the “saints,” to those who believe.

God’s goal in Christ is to conform His children to the image of His Son. (Romans 8:29)

**Hebrews 5:11-14, 6:1:** “But solid food is for the mature ... Therefore, let us ... go on to maturity” (5:14, 6:1).

#### III. The protecting of God’s children with God’s Word: 2:1-5 ...

**Chapter 2:1-3:** “... to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery” (vs. 2).

Helping people to be “encouraged” and “knit together in love” requires time, patience and commitment.

**Chapter 2:4-5:** “... that no one may delude you ... rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.”

Spiritual immaturity has left many vulnerable to the deception of false teaching.

False teaching is not always obvious ... it is subtle.

We have an agenda outlined by God in His Word to preach and teach “the whole counsel of God!”

**II Timothy 3:16-17:** “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable ... that the man of God may be complete ...”

**Ephesians 4:11-16:** “... so that we may no longer be children” (vs. 14).

***Through the stewardship of God’s Word, His children are brought to maturity in Christ and empowered to stand firm in their faith in Christ.***