

**Thy, Not My**  
Colossians 1:18-23  
Colossians #2

*The deeds of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I've done before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

At no time in the history of the Church of Christ - the "ekklesia tou Christou," the bride purchased with His blood, the royal priesthood divinely called out and commissioned, the fellowship of former goats who have, by grace, become sheep - has a church that used "my" because they forgot the meaning of "thy" ever prospered or persevered.

When the runners came from Bethlehem all breathless with good news, thy were passing a baton forward through time. Those runners prospered and persevered not because of "my." But because of "thy." When that commission came from God's lips to our ears specifically because it was carried by his saints for two thousand years, it reached us not because of "my." But because of "thy." In that history since our faith's arrival, there have been Great Awakenings and Welsh Revivals. There have been saints and martyrs, summoned by a new birth. They prospered and persevered not because of "my." But because of "thy." Saint Patrick saved the Irish nation. Not because of "my." But because of "thy." William Carey had a Great Expectation. Not because of "my." But because of "thy." And, friends, lambs and lions have been called to the ends of the earth. Not because of "my." But because of "thy."

Once upon a time, an individual existed who lived according to "not my, but thy." From a dungeon in Rome, he had the courage to write a letter to a church made up of individuals he had never met. But he knew enough about them, and their circumstances, and about the Deity, Supremacy and Character of their church founder to tell them – in stern love – what will happen if they slowly replace "thy" with "my." And, equally, what is possible for their church if they will commit themselves to putting "my" in his or her rightful place. And that's never ever before "thy." His name was Paul. And the church he wrote to but didn't know personally was Colossae. Turn with me to Colossians 1:18-23.

*<sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. <sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

## Why Thy Not My

### 1. If my, then my creation. If thy, then Thy Creator (18-20).

**Favorite TV Show in My Adolescence** (Dukes of Hazard); **Favorite Restaurant** (Kentucky Fried Chicken); **Favorite Cartoon** (Smurfs).

**The Sign of My Creation in My Image:** (1) Dukes of Hazard View Of God: “Just the good ole boys never meaning no harm” (2) With Either Kentucky Fried Chicken: “Finger licking good” or (3) Grouchy Smurf – “I hate” application.

**The Problem With My Creation:** (1) In my image; (2) If so, then I’ve just trampled on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Commandment (graven images); (3) Jesus is then not only what I imagine Him to be, but also at the whims of my disposition.

**What Happens When We Do This:** (1) We make disciples not, of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (2) But what we say and think about Jesus Christ of Nazareth; (3) And, consequently, change the character of God; (4) And then at best, unintentionally lead people astray; (5) Or, at worst, take people to hell with us.

**But Thy Creator Means:** (1) The Head: Self-explanatory; (2) The Beginning: Alpha in Greek/Genesis in Hebrew (not coincidentally); (3) The Firstborn: Title of Rank; (Jacob over Esau, etc); (4) The God Who Is There: Fullness dwelling is equivalent to saying He is God; (5) The Reconciler: God and man were at one time friends (Garden); but sin made them enemies (the Fall); and people remain enemies of God without a relationship with Jesus evidenced not by the deeds of the flesh; but the fruits of the Spirit.

### 2. If “my,” then “that” evil. If “thy,” then “my” evil.

**Article I Read This Week and My Written Response:** *What is Wrong With the World in the 2.5 Minutes it Takes You to Read This.* “Dear Sir(s) in your article, *What Is Wrong With the World in the 2.5 Minutes it Takes You to Read This*, you ask, ‘what is wrong with the world?’ I am. Sincerely, David Derrick West.”

**What We Were Created to Be:** (1) The crowning glory of the creation of God (Genesis 1:27); (2) Knit together in my mother’s womb (Psalm 139:14); (3) To bring glory and honor to God (Is 43:7)

**But What We Are By Nature (Flesh):** (1) Hostile in mind (Greek; KJV; ESV; NASB) / Alienated (NIV): combative against the one by whom and for whom I’ve been created. The essence of alienation of character. (2) Engaged in Evil Deeds (Greek; KJV; ESV; NASB): transgressor; organizer; worker of evil deeds (notice deeds were evil; not the essence and dignity of human beings created in His image).

**How Can What Went Wrong Be Made Right:** (1) For on the cross Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied. (2) We are friends of God solely and only because God pursued the relationship through Jesus. (3) Our response was repentance and faith evidenced by the Fruits of the Spirit, not a walking of the isle, the praying of a prayer, or a baptism in water (though those are all good and necessary things). (4) But without evidence of Spiritual Fruit, they are meaningless.

### 3. If “my” then levels of reconciliation before God. If “thy,” then equal reconciliation before God (22-23a).

**Bank Loan Collateral vs Pawn Shop Loan Collateral:** (1) Go to a bank to get a loan, then with good credit, you’ll get a modest interest and affordable payments to pay it back. (2) Go to a pawn shop for a loan, then bye bye to your collateral.

**Problem With Colossians:** (1) Viewed themselves as bank collateral sinners; (2) But Paul tells them all, and all equally before God, that were pawn shop collateral sinners (3) And were flirting with returning there – (notice “if” in v23).

**Solution for the Colossians:** (1) Already finished: “Now” (they just had to start living consistent with it); (2) Because of what God and only God has done: Reconciled (no longer alienated; brought back to right Garden of Eden relationship); By His Blood (without shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins, Heb. 9:22); To present before the Father: people who are blemish (suitable for sacrifice even though Jesus did; and free from accusation (on the basis of substitutionary atonement and only that basis). (3) If not, all would be condemned equally and justly.

**But There Are Terms to That Relationship:** (1) “if”; (2) Does that mean salvation can be lost? No. (3) But it does mean it is possible to have taken the right steps and not be regenerate and therefore lost (Galatians 5:19-21; all of them). (4) It is possible to never really belong to God to begin with even though you think you do (1 Jn 2:19; Heb 10:26); (5) The evidence of salvation, regeneration and someone bound for glory will and will always be the Fruits of the Spirit. Period (Gal 5:22-24)

**Application:** No such thing as accepting Jesus as Savior without making him Lord (Romans 10:9). That’s a false Gospel and why people think in terms of the time they walked an aisle more than the dispensing of fruit.

#### **4. If my, then “my” cross and gospel. If thy, then “thy” cross and gospel (23b)**

**Man Objective of the Sports Radio Broadcast Team Before the Season Kicks Off Friday:** Trademark our image.

**Out of All Images, There’s Only One That Will Endure Forever:** the Cross

**But We Have Different Understandings of that Gospel Cross:** (1) The Cross of the Consumer (how can I benefit from Christianity and the Church); (2) The Cross of the Cosmopolitan (Culturally acceptable to be a Christian and go to church, particularly here); (3) The Cross of the Crusader: (By this sign we will conquer others instead of being conquered by it.

**But There Is Only One Right Cross and Gospel:** (1) The cross and gospel of Jesus; (2) Charles Spurgeon spoke of them the best: “Stand at the foot of the cross, and count the purple drops by which you have been cleansed: See the thorn-crown; mark His scourged shoulders, still gushing with encrimsoned rills. And if you do not lie prostrate on the ground before that cross so long as you shall live, then you have never even seen it.” (Charles Spurgeon, *The Old, Old Story*)

**Application:** I don’t know about you. But that’s the only baton I care to pass these days.

#### **Credits and Citations:**

Newsboys. *The Mission*. Compact disc.

Spurgeon, Charles. *The Old Old Story*. Sermon manuscript.