

By Paul Wireman

OVERVIEW

Paul's letter to the Colossians follows a pattern he often used in writing to the early churches. He purposed to commend them for their faith, encourage them in their spiritual walk, and provide admonition and teaching to help them grow in their faith. His advice to them to "reach an understanding in Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" lends its support to seek as if there is a hidden treasure of high value that needs discovered. Paul wanted them to obtain wisdom and knowledge from Christ to prevent them from being distracted by "plausible arguments" that they would be exposed to from enemies of the church.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:1-5

¹For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, ²that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

DISCUSS

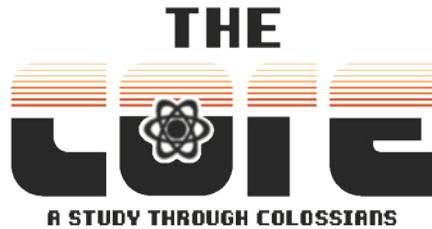
1. How does Paul's admonition to be "knit together in love" apply to believers today? Is unity important?
2. Just as the believers in the early church were facing false teachings that could mislead them, we are faced with distractions that do not acknowledge the authority of God's Word. How can we guard our hearts against false teachings?
3. Maturing in our faith will be the result of growing deeper in our understanding and our relationship with Christ. What are some daily practices we can perform to create muscle memory for our soul (things we do without a conscience effort to perform)?
4. As we mature in Christ, there becomes a firmness to our relationship. The struggles of today become the victories we reflect on tomorrow. What are some areas in your life where you had difficulty at some point but are now victorious over?

PRAY

1. Pray that you listen to the Holy Spirit to prevent being distracted by plausible arguments.

PREPARE

Before next Sunday, read and pray through Colossians 2:6-7. Pray for the Spirit's help in understanding the text. Consider the ways in which you are growing in maturity in Christ. Thank God for the methods he uses to grow your faith and ask for his continued work to perfect you.



By Nick Rao

OVERVIEW

Paul could not physically be with the Colossians, but he shared with them that he was with them “in Spirit” (2:5). They shared a connection in Spirit through the same faith. He recognized their being in “good order” and wanted to inspire them to be grounded and steadfast in Christ. Paul describes their experience as not just receiving Christ but also called them to “walk in him.” This highlights that our relationship with Christ is not a one-time event but a dynamic relationship that grows over time and will culminate in eternity in his presence.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

DISCUSS

1. Paul describes the Colossians as steadfast, which indicates they were holding true, but there was an enemy they were fighting. Would you describe your faith as steadfast?
2. The root system of a plant is its source of life. Paul refers to being rooted in Christ. What are you rooted in? What gives your life its source of strength and energy?
3. The growth of a plant is limited by how much its root system can grow. Are there limits to how much we can grow in Christ?
4. Paul encourages us in verse 6 to be “abounding in thanksgiving.” In what ways should this be the trademark of a life rooted and grounded in Christ? How does ingratitude affect our walk with God?

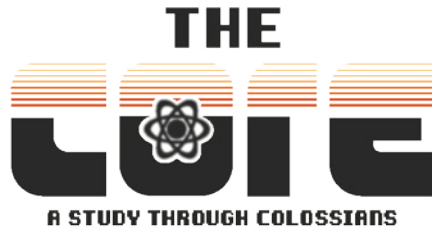
PRAY

1. Pray that your relationship with Christ does not become stagnant but that you flourish being rooted in him.
2. Pray that you do not feed your soul with cheap substitutes but that you rely on his Word.
3. Pray that you remember to thank Christ daily for his blessings upon your life.

PREPARE

Before next Sunday, read and pray through Colossians 2:8-10. Pray for the Spirit's help in understanding the text. Consider the ways in which you are growing in maturity in Christ. Thank God for the methods he uses to grow your faith and ask for his continued work to perfect you.

**COLOSSIANS
2:8-10**



**APRIL
13, 2025**

By Kimberly Miller

OVERVIEW

In Colossians 2:8-10 Paul's warning about being "taken captive" by deceptive philosophy underscores the importance of staying true to the core message of the gospel. False teachings can distort the truth and lead believers away from the sufficiency of Christ. Paul's emphasis on Christ's supremacy and his authority over all rulers and powers is a powerful reminder of his ultimate sovereignty. It's a call to hold firmly to the unaltered gospel and to recognize Christ's unparalleled authority in all aspects of life.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:8-10

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rules and authority.

DISCUSS

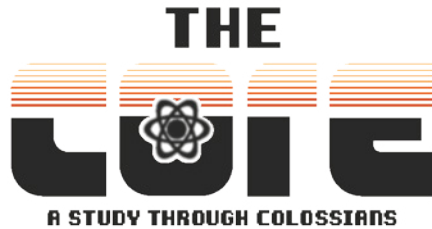
1. In verse 8 Paul warns that there are those who want to deceive the church at Colossae. What does Paul mean with his warning to not be taken captive by "empty deceit"?
2. What are some modern examples of the "philosophy and empty deceit" that Paul warns against?
3. What does this passage teach us about how our union with Christ transforms our identity?
4. What did Paul affirm about Christ? How did he affirm it?
5. What did God give the Colossian believers?
6. How can we discern between divine wisdom and human philosophy in our everyday life?
7. What is the significance of Christ being described as the "fullness of deity" in verse 9?

PRAY

1. Thank God for Jesus and that all things were made by him and for him.
2. Ask that he keeps you from being influenced by enticing arguments and deceptive philosophies.
3. Thank God that Christ is the only way, the only truth, and the only life. Pray that you may grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus every day.
4. Thank God for the wonderful truth that Christ is all you need and that you are spiritually complete through Jesus. Ask him to teach you all you need to know to become more and more like Jesus.

PREPARE

Before next Sunday, read and pray through Colossians 2:11-13. Pray for the Spirit's help in understanding the text. Consider the ways in which you are growing in maturity in Christ. Thank God for the methods he uses to grow your faith and ask for his continued work to perfect you.



By JonMark Coleman

OVERVIEW

Paul has been elaborating on our new position in Jesus. In 2:6-7 he says, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith . . ." This new position is one where we are filled with the fullness of Christ and Christ has all the spiritual authority as seen in 2:9-10, "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority."

This week in 2:11-13 we see how we as believers have a new "circumcision of Christ" symbolized in baptism. Baptism is a symbol of a spiritual reality; we are buried with Christ and raised with Christ through faith. By faith, we are made alive in Christ and our trespasses are forgiven. This new standing of who we are as "raised with Christ" will lead to a call for life change in chapter 3.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:11-13

¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses . . .

DISCUSS

1. Read Galatians 6:12-15 and Romans 2:28-29. What does Paul mean in Galatians 6 when he says that "neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation"? In Romans 2 how is circumcision "a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter"? What does it mean in Colossians 2:11 to say we are circumcised with "the circumcision of Christ"?
2. Why is baptism referred to as being buried with Christ and raised with Christ through faith? Have you put your faith in Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and found new life in him, but still need to be baptized? Why is baptism important for a believer?
3. Does being buried and raised with Christ have an immediate effect, eternal effect, or both? Does it affect who you are today? Would those who knew you pre-Christ see any difference in your life in Christ? Consider Romans 6 where Paul reflects on what it means to be "baptized into Christ Jesus."

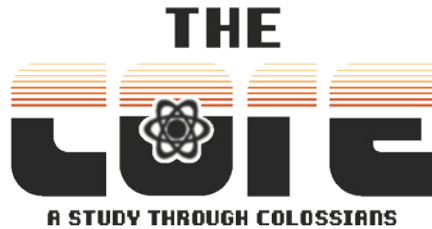
4. Looking at 2:12, what does it mean that this resurrection in Christ is through faith? What does it mean that this is a "faith in the powerful working of God"? Reflecting on 2:10, how does the concept of "you have been filled in him" connect with 2:12?
5. Colossians 2:13 and Ephesians 2 both mention being dead in our trespasses (v. 1), the uncircumcision of our flesh (v. 11), and God making us alive together with him/ Christ (v. 5). (Ephesians 2 can be helpful for further reading and reflecting on the topic.) Have you considered lately the key truth of the gospel that you were once dead in sin and are now alive in Christ? We have received grace. How can you praise God this week and rest in this new life you have in Christ?

PRAY

1. Give glory to God that Jesus defeated death and was raised to life as the first fruits of the resurrection.
2. Praise God that you are raised with Jesus through faith into newness of life.
3. Pray and ask God how to live a life that daily reflecting the position you have of being "raised with him through faith."
4. Praise God for the forgiveness you have received and ask God for eyes to see how to extend that forgiveness to those who sin against you this week.
5. If you are not yet a follower of Christ, ask God to give you eyes to see your need for forgiveness and new life in Jesus by faith.

PREPARE

Read over Colossians 2 and consider how verses 6-13 lead into verses 14-15. Note the victory in Christ that has been purchased for you. Spend time in prayer asking the Lord how you can live joyfully in the spiritual victory purchased by Christ for God's glory.



By JonMark Coleman

OVERVIEW

In 2:11-13 we focused on how we as believers have a new “circumcision of Christ” symbolized in baptism. In baptism, we are symbolically buried with Christ and raised with Christ through faith. By faith, we are made alive in Christ and our trespasses are forgiven. Chapter 2:14-15 focuses on how Jesus fulfills the just requirements of forgiveness in “canceling the record of our debt” by “nailing it to the cross” and triumphs over demonic rulers and authorities. Jesus’s victory not only disarms these spiritual rulers of their power over his redeemed people but brings these rulers on a spiritual procession of his triumph and their shame.

READ COLOSSIANS 2:14-15

...¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities[b] and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

DISCUSS

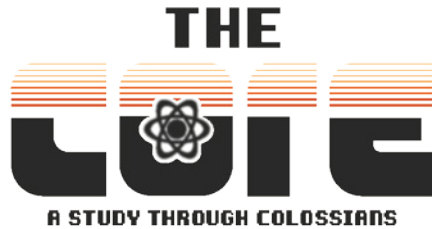
1. Colossians 2:13-15 has dramatic verbs that link back to the work of Christ on our behalf. In the ESV they are translated as forgiven, canceling, nailing, disarming, and triumphing. What is the relationship between these words? Do you see the connecting link between your salvation and Christ’s triumph?
2. Compare Colossians 2:13-15 and 1 Peter 3:18-22. What similar themes are mentioned and emphasized in these two passages?
3. What are the legal demands of forgiveness? How did Christ intervene to meet these legal demands?
4. What does Paul have in mind with the statements about disarming the rulers, putting them to shame, and triumphing over them in Christ? Do we share in Christ’s triumph? How are we triumphant through Christ?
5. What are the effects of our triumph in Christ on our lives today? Does this spiritual truth affect our practical reality—our daily walk, how we view ourselves/family, and how we view others around us? Consider 2:6-7, 2:16-17, and 3:1-3. Are there steps you need to take to make clear to your own heart and the world around you which side of the triumphant procession you and your family are walking on?

PRAY

1. Give glory and praise to the only one who is worthy—Jesus Christ the Lord! “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:12).
2. Thank the Lord that the record of your debt being canceled and you being called to walk forth in triumph through Christ was a part of God’s plan for his glory.
3. Praise God for having disarmed the rulers and authorities. Thank him for being the one who triumphs.
4. Ask the Holy Spirit how he desires to direct your Christian walk and call others into that triumphal procession of Christ.

PREPARE

Read chapter 2 of Colossians. Reflect on the fact that those in Christ have had their debt nailed to a cross and Christ is openly marching in triumph over the spiritual rulers of darkness. Then consider what the application for verses 16 and onward would be for us as believers. Pray and ask God to give you spiritual eyes to see past the shadow to the substance found in Christ.



By Rachel Raines

OVERVIEW

After warning the Colossian believers about false teachers (2:4-8) and pointing to Christ as their help in danger (2:9-15), Paul describes the false teaching in their midst. Legalism had crept in, in the form of a "Jesus +" religion; these teachers insisted on imposing Jewish traditions and adding certain religious practices to faith in Jesus. Asceticism, or severe self-discipline, delights in false humility while mysticism, such as the worship of angels or seeking for visions, delights in religious experiences—neither exalt Christ. False teachers, Paul says, are self-centered and driven by their sinful desires. Those attached to Christ, however, will continue to grow in maturity, nourished by him. False teachers can be identified by their message. Who does the message exalt? Christ or themselves?

READ COLOSSIANS 2:15-19

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

DISCUSS

1. Before Jesus came, what purpose did Jewish dietary laws and holy days serve? Consider Galatians 3:24-4:11. How did these traditions point forward to Jesus? See Hebrews 10:1-10 and Romans 10:4.
2. Paul often used sports analogies to describe our walk with Christ (1 Cor. 9:24-27, Gal. 2:2, 2 Tim. 4:7). In Colossian 2:18, the word "disqualify" is an athletic term which means to be ruled ineligible for the prize while competing in a race. Consider our text and read the other verses listed. In what ways is the Christian life like a competition? What is the prize we seek, and how could we be disqualified?
3. How does Paul describe the false teachers in 2:18-19? Read Matthew 7:15-20. How does Jesus's teaching identify false teachers?
4. Ascetics limit physical pleasures to exalt themselves, but what does true humility look like (Phil. 2:3-4, Col. 3:12-13, 2 Cor. 5:14-15)? What does God's Word say about worshipping angels (Heb. 1:1-14, Rev. 19:10, 22:8-9)?

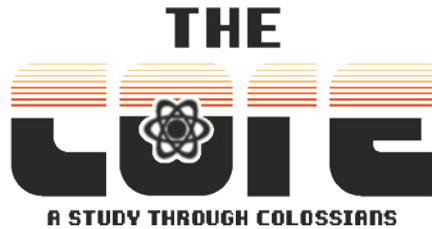
5. How does Paul describe connection to the body of Christ in 2:19? See John 15:8-10 and Ephesians 4:12-16.
6. Legalism can be a subtle snare! In what ways have you been tempted to add to the gospel message of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ or to live a "Jesus +" religion? Review Colossians 1:13-23 to be reminded that all we need is found in Christ.

PRAY

1. Praise God for his provision in Christ, the head of the church (Eph. 1:22-23).
2. Confess any unbelief that the fullness of God, or all we need, dwells in Christ (Col. 1:29-20).
3. Thank God for providing everything we need for life and godliness in Christ (2 Pet. 1:3).
4. Ask for strength in the Spirit and enduring faith to believe (Mark 9:24).

PREPARE

Before next Sunday's sermon, read Colossians 2:20-23 and write a short summary of the text. Pray for wisdom to spot false religion.



By Rachel Raines

OVERVIEW

Having just described the false teaching in the Colossian church (2:16-19), Paul turns to simple logic to encourage his hearers to stay the course of placing their faith in the finished work of Jesus. When believers identify with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection, they die to the powers of this world and no longer depend on man-made rules for spiritual sustenance. Christ is all-sufficient while the false teaching of legalism, a "Jesus +" religion, is useless, he explains. Why would a believer submit again to these regulations? They may appear wise, because of the human effort required, but old covenant traditions and false humility ultimately cannot change the heart. Legalism simply does not work and only creates spiritual self-deception. Christ alone is the only way!

READ COLOSSIANS 2:20-23

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

DISCUSS

1. Read Colossians 2:12-17. Christ-followers have died to earthly elements because of Jesus's atoning sacrifice on the cross. From verses 15 and 16, list items included in "elemental spirits of the world."
2. Read Matthew 23:27-28 and Mark 7:6-9. What warnings did Jesus give the Pharisees about man-made teaching? What does he teach about how a person is truly defiled (Mark 7:14-22)?
3. While it may seem appealing on the surface, what is wrong with legalism? Refer to Colossians 2:23, Galatians 2:21, and Ephesians 2:8-9.
4. There are no man-made quick fixes in the journey of ongoing sanctification. If legalism does not work, what does produce lasting heart change? Review Colossians 2:19 from last week's sermon and refer to Philipians 1:6 and 2:12-13 and 2 Peter 1:3-11.
5. Reread Colossians 2:22-23. In this context, why might Paul have previously written, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God," to the Corinthian church (1 Cor. 1:18)?

PRAY

1. Praise God that he has transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:13) and shown us the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:7).
2. Confess and run to Jesus when you have trusted in self-reliance instead of trusting in him (2 Cor. 12:9).
3. Thank God for giving us a new nature that desires what he desires (2 Pet. 1:4).
4. Ask for the Lord's help to trust in him alone and not your own understanding (Prov. 3:5-6).

PREPARE

Before next Sunday's sermon, read Colossians 3. Summarize Paul's main points in your own words. Pray that the Lord will use chapter 3 to bring about spiritual maturity in your walk with him.