

Colossians: Week Four

Have the group read **Colossians 2:8-23** prior to coming to small group. Ask them to take notes on what they see in this passage and to read it over and over again before coming. The goal of this week is to understand Christ's work and its sufficiency in order to disregard empty human religion.

Opening

When you think of freedom what do you think of?

Discussion

Read v. 8. What do you see in our world, world religions, or even the Church that Paul might be referring to?

What does v. 9 mean? What is the fullness of Deity and why does it matter?

What is significant about being made complete in Christ and having our flesh and sinful nature "circumcised" from us?

Take some time to talk about v. 13-14. How can we better understand Christ's sacrifice and sufficiency from these verses?

In light of what you have already studied and reading v. 16-19, what kind of freedom do we have in Christ and his redeeming work on the cross?

Where have you been tempted to fill your life with empty rituals, rules, or seemingly spiritual things since you have become a believer? What is the danger in doing this? (v. 20-23).

What should we as believers seek to focus on in our new life in Christ going forward?

Application

In understanding that Christ is sufficient without the need for added humanly created rituals and rules, how can you make sure that you are living in the reality of the pure gospel and not adding unnecessary things to it?

What does it look like to live a God intended life of freedom in Christ? How can you make this happen?

How can we help others understand the true essence of the gospel without having to add belief in things like holy sacraments, worship of angels, special worship times or days, specific types of music at church, etc?

If none of these rituals help us to grow to maturity in our relationship with Christ, what will?

What are you going to change in your life after studying this passage?

Conclusion

Christ's sacrifice is sufficient for us. We do not need to add any other special rituals or acts in order to experience a new life and freedom from sin in our lives. It is through Christ's finished work on the cross that we are made right with God. Nothing else.

In our world today, many people have come up with things to add to the gospel. Even within the church there are people who firmly believe that if anything but old hymns and the Kings James Version of the Bible are used then you may not be a believer. Paul says this is ridiculous. While these things may appear wise (v. 23) they are really of no value when it comes to true life change.

Taking hold of a pure gospel and our freedom in Christ does not mean that we can live licentiously or disregard the commands of Scripture to do the things that will lead us to maturity in Christ. What it means is that we should look at Scripture and follow the teachings about becoming a disciple of Christ and not institute a bunch of man made nonsense.

Prayer

Pray that God would make aware to you things that you might be doing in your life that might appear spiritual, but really have no value. Pray that He would help you to live in the freedom of the gospel and to stay away from empty rituals. Pray that God would help you to become a solid disciple of Christ and show you how to do that.