

Week of Oct 14 - Colossians 2:8-15

Praying for you and your groups as you discuss this week! Please take some time yourself to pray that God would enlighten your minds and hearts as you discuss this passage and sermon. Some of the topics touched on this week are quite deeply rooted in our culture and may not even be noticed without God's help. May God bless you and help you as you lead his people in the truth!

You are loved,
Gary

Icebreaker

- We often warn children not to "take candy from strangers", and the sermon referred to this same principle with regards to Colossians 2:8. Share an example of a time where you have been "taken in" by something that turned out to be "empty" / not at all what was promised.
 - Why do you think you were taken by it?
 - Is there anything you could have done to prevent being deceived?

Sermon / Scripture Discussion

- Read Colossians 2:8 then discuss the following:
 - Do you think Paul is against tradition of any kind? (See 2 Thes 2:15; 3:6; 2 Tim 2:2). If not, what does he have in mind here?
 - What does Paul say at the *end* of verse 8 that can summarize his concern?
- Jesus doesn't claim to be one of many truths, he claims to be *the* truth (John 14:6); and Paul warns the Colossians that *anything* which is not according to Christ can take them captive.
 - What are examples in our society of thoughts/views that are not in "accordance to Christ?"
 - How could adopting such thinking/viewpoints take us captive—or make us ineffective—as the church?
- The sermon mentioned the distinction between "**public** and **private**" in our society. As a Christian, do you think it's possible to keep your faith in Christ relegated to the "private sphere" and not have it spill out in the rest of your (public) life?
 - Share examples of how this can happen / does happen today.
 - Why is this problematic?

- Believing that Christ is Lord of all is an unpopular decision in our culture. Share an example of a situation where you were faced with people who were resistant to your belief in Christ:
 - Did you “turtle” or hide away? Did you attack? How could you have handled things differently?
 - How does Ephesians 6:12 influence our views on how we interact with unbelievers? Who are we actually fighting against?

- Pastor Jonathan talked about identifying with Christ through baptism. Have you been baptized? If not, what is holding you back? Would you be willing to talk about it with one of the pastors? Can we put your name forward to the church office?

- There are many great truths in this passage and Jonathan mentioned four specifically. What do *you* need to remember this week? How will you commit to remembering it?
 - **Strength:** That in Christ we are filled! We need and have his power (v 10)
 - **Identity:** That in Christ we are “circumcised” and identify with him through baptism (v 11-12)
 - **Forgiveness and new life:** No matter our past, we are forgiven and made new (v 13-15)
 - **Evil is disarmed:** That Christ is victorious and has disarmed all rulers and authorities (v 15)

- Pray for each other that the truth will be planted deeply in our hearts and produce the fruit of the Spirit