

COLOSSIANS: FIND TRUE LIFE IN CHRIST

07.19.15 Grace Col. 2:8-15 P 4 Spiritual busyness undervalues Christ's righteousness 35 Min

INTRODUCTION: (Mention Gold Rush) and PRAY

Attn: "We are busier that we've ever been and more spiritually discouraged than we've ever felt." Running to catch up with our life | Tattoo the Basset Hound. (A-1)

- We have grown richer in things and poorer in time. We buy anything that promises more time: electronics, shampoo and cond., cars, minute rice, microwaves, vacuums that run themselves, DVR's, Amazon Prime and pre-popped popcorn.
 - Time magazine said in 1960s, b/c of Technology advances people would work less.
 - We are caught running twice as fast as before just to keep up. Queen from A in W.
 - As if God will say, "Wow! What a life you packed in! You didn't even have time to eat. Well done good and faithful busy servant." We've made Christian life busy too.
 - I don't accuse, I am right here too. I value efficiency and obsess over productivity.
 - John Ortberg QUOTE: The Danger is that we will settle for a mediocre faith. (A-3)
- Relv: Are we just busy to be good? Have we made church more for us and less for Him?

TURN WITH ME TO COL 2:8-15 ON PG 983.

- (Previous) P describes the mystery of God made know in Christ, the hope of Glory
- JESUS IS EVERYTHING. A Christ-focused life values Him above all things in life!
- (theme) In this passage Paul warns Col about being easily distracted from the upward calling of knowing JC. Small faith leads to easily distracted spiritual life.
- (Struc) Today we'll discover 4 keys to un-busy or life and keep a firm faith.

SET GUARDS AGAINST SPIRITUAL DECEPTION (2:8)

- See to it is a call to warning! Impending danger. Against what? That no one will "Take you captive"—He had painted the picture of freedom/life in JC.
 - Don't let anyone take this from you by getting entangled in false beliefs or doubts — "The sin that so easily entangles" Heb. 12:4
 - Ill: Dad's traps in the family room. Sin, doubt, easy deceit. Be on guard!

What are the traps (lit. "rob," "kidnap" or "take as plunder") he was saying to avoid:

1. Philosophy — not god-centered, "Plausible arguments". Fallon "Meaning of life"
2. Empty deceit — "hallow" teaching leading to lifeless behavior or circular reasoning
3. Human tradition — Jewish/pagan action to appease God or act spiritual. "Dumb Friend's league giving" at CCC — this is great, this won't save you. Jesus only.
4. Elementals of the spirit world — fundamental principle of spiritual world. Things like angelic/demonic power. Why lesser when you have greater? Mysticism in church

Bottom line: Avoid all spirituality "not of Christ." He is the all-sufficient savior.

- "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life & godliness" 2 Pet 1:3
- False teaching is a serious threat. Christians are open to being deceived and we must stand strong. I've seen believers swayed by weak "philosophies". Stay rooted.

EMBRACE CHRIST AS THE SUFFICIENT SAVIOR (2:9-10)

- Christ is fully God. God lives/dwells lit conveys idea of God taking up residence in Him. In JC, God found a settled and pleasant home. Jn 1 — "Pitch a tent with us"
- The "whole fullness" is saying the same things twice (like a kid: I didn't not and I went and goed) — whole and fullness are the same idea. EVERYTHING is in JC.

V. 9 & 10 are saying Christ is "All God and all you need."

- We have been filled with the fullness of Christ. An amazing statement! "We are full in the full one." Nothing is needed but JC for our identity and righteousness.

- The idea of being filled in Him does not mean that we are full of the same deity that is in Christ. Rather we are made full in JC, our right standing with God is complete.
- By possessing Christ, we possess all we need. Charles Wesley said, "Thou, O Christ, art all I want,/More than all in Thee I find." Finding his fullness satisfies.
- We don't have to turn to empty philosophies or traditions. We simply rest in JC.
- "When I return to Jesus alone, Henri Nouwen wrote, "I get rid of my scaffolding." I let go of the things that seem to hold me up/tgr: ppl, tech, events...

WHEN THE ENEMY ATTACKS US, HE LIKES TO GO AFTER TWO THINGS FIRST:

1. The identity of Christ. He'll do everything to tear down JC and breath doubts
2. The identity of the believer in Christ. He hates you. He knows if you figure out your identity in JC, you'll be an unstoppable force in your life for God's Kingdom.

ELIMINATE THE EFFORTS OF THE FLESH (2:11-13A)

- ① We are no longer obligated to physical acts to obtain righteousness. "Without Hands" is to say, this is a spiritual transaction. Mosaic law gone, righteous in Christ.
- ② We are buried with Him. Our sin nature has been put to death by his death.
 - Baptism is the public profession of faith in the mighty power of God. Let's be clear, as an act itself it is a mere bath. With faith, it is obedience and by faith it is the means we are no longer dead in our trespasses but alive in Christ.
- ③ We are raised with Him. Dying signifies the death to the power of sin and Satan and the rising again is to embrace ability to live in the new life in JC (Romans 6:3-11)
- ④ We are made alive with Him. This is the great promise of the Gospel

OLD ADAM AND NEW ADAM—I want you to get this. 1Cr 15:45 Taste this sweet reality.

- Adam — The first of all human creation. We all were in his image and b/c he sinned; now it was a part of our very nature. Nothing we could do to undo that.
- New Adam — Jesus "The new Adam" broke the mold allowed us to be reestablished

Now in the new Adam, ENJOY THE FREEDOM ONLY FOUND IN CHRIST (2:13B-15)

- V. 13 - And you is significant b/c Paul is assuring the reader that they too will share in the resurrection of Christ. We have overcome the first spiritual death in Adam.
- He forgave us of our debts. These debts were the trespasses we had made because we were uncircumcised in our flesh, being still of Adam's line.
 - The good news: We have been made alive together with [Christ].
 - He TOOK our sin and REPLACED it with His life! The mercy of God.
- Canceling the record of our debts was a very powerful word picture for the Col.
 - In Greco-Romans world: a written list of debts under a persons' name. A list that the person has confessed up to. A self-indictment. "It is a charge-list they themselves had signed and had admitted was accurate." I own it, he forgave it.
 - The list of our debts were nailed to the cross to appease the wrath of God.
 - The Gospel: It is both freedom from something and freedom to something
- V. 15 - He put to shame all other powers over us. The supremacy of JC
 - On the cross, all power was stripped from the power of rulers and authorities over the Christian's life and given to Christ. We submit to that authority daily in faith to Christ. The emphasis here is spiritual authorities.
 - We will continue to struggle w these powers (Eph 6:12, 16) but the power in us is JC. He is over any power that'll ever come against us. Come to peace!

- Jesus put these authorities to open shame publicly revealing their failures to deliver or give life. Giving an image of roman military victory to the original reader. Jesus defeats the powers at be and takes back all which ahs been plundered.

Are you trying to find the fullness of Christ by adding things to Christ rather than letting him be sufficient in and of Himself? Do you discount the value of JC by adding activity to your Christian life? Are you constantly looking spiritual thrills? New revelations? Exciting activities? Meaningful connections? All in hopes to add to Jesus? Do you have a "There's Got to be more attitude?" constantly looking for the proverbial greener grass? Forgot "Be still... know God"?

- **As much as we don't want to admit it, we find value in being hurried people.**
- **Spiritual busyness just a disordered schedule, it is a disordered heart.**
- **We must ruthlessly eliminate spiritual busyness and striving moralism from our life.**

SPIRITUAL BUSYNESS UNDERVALUES CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

- **Rev. 2—"You did so much, but you lost your first love."** A frightening phrase.
- **We've take a call of laying it all down and made it a call of picking up so much.**
- **I purposely do not preach a checklist** of activity b/c I don't want to teach you to be good moralists. I want you to be people who value being w/ JC as much as doing.

ELIMINATE UNESSENTIAL SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY TO GAIN GREATER VIBRANCY IN CHRIST.

- The call of Christ is simple, yet we've made it complex. **"Take up your cross and follow me."** — Be with me. Learn from me. **The call is faithful, not full or fast.**
 - **A life lived with Christ must be done in a rhythm of engagement and withdrawal.**
 - We do engage in doing/learning/fellowshipping but we must also withdraw to JC
- **Following JC means that we can't move faster than the one we're following.** JC made it his practice of being still before God. **Follow his example:**
 - **Mornings:** "Early in the morning". I am here God, what do you have for me?
 - **Break in the day:** at meals, or in the busyness. Close the door and rededicate.
 - **Evenings:** "Stay awake with me" Review, God what did you want to teach me?
 - **Like an athlete watches tapes** allow God to teach you the plays.
- **Jesus was often busy but he was never hurried.** Being busy is an outer condition; being hurried is a sickness of the soul. **He didn't "do" to get more of God.** Be with
- **Ill: Busy child trying to please his father.** Our righteousness is filthy rags.

APPENDIX:

TACOMA, WASH. — UNPLANNED RIDE. Tattoo the basset hound went for an unplanned run when his owner shut one end of his leash in a car door and took off for a drive with Tattoo on the leash's other end still outside. Motorcycle Officer Kerry Filbert was on patrol when he noticed a car that seemed to have something dragging from it. Filbert chased and finally stopped the car, but not before the dog reached a speed of 20 to 25 mph and "rolled several times," Mann said. The car's occupants, a man and a woman, jumped out and Filbert told them they were dragging a dog. The distressed couple began calling "Tattoo! Tattoo!" police said. The 8-month-old dog was not injured.

(A-2) RED QUEEN FROM ALICE IN WONDERLAND

"Now here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that."

(A-3) JOHN ORTBERG QUOTE

"The great danger is not that we will renounce our faith.

It is that we will become so rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it."