

Colossians 2:8-23

Stay Rooted to the Word of God

Section 1: 2:8-15

Do not be taken captive by (1) philosophy and (2) empty deceit based on human tradition which ultimately are rooted in the elements of the world. Christ is superior to all things that the world has to offer.

Philosophies and traditions have a way of trapping us. We get locked in to something of this world that causes us to miss out on what God has for us of eternal significance.

Why is Christ better? Because the ENTIRE FULNESS OF GOD'S NATURE dwells bodily in Christ. Jesus is God. He's much more than a man, prophet...He is Immanuel, God with us.

Because He is God, He is head over all rulers and authority. Jesus is Lord. As Lord (master, owner, ruler) what has Christ done on our behalf?

- Buried with Him in baptism...
- Raised with Him through faith...
- We were dead in trespasses...He made us alive with Him...
- He forgave us all our trespasses...
- He erased the certificate of debt with its obligations and He has taken it away...
- The Father triumphed over authorities in Him...

Scripture is sufficient. We don't need to go searching out visions, dreams, nature, philosophies, traditions and the like to better understand God or to be a better follower of Christ. 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Galatians 1:8. Psalm 19:7-14. Psalm 119:105.

Scripture is sufficient for us to know God and live for His glory.

- All the knowledge you will ever need about God is found in His Word. It is foolish to search for knowledge in places where knowledge does not exist. Knowledge of God is not found in the ways of the world, emotional experiences or the reason of man...knowledge of God is revealed in His Word.
- All that a believer is to be and do is completely revealed in the Scriptures. Scripture provides the believer with every practical principle needed in life to glorify God.
- Carl Trueman – Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies at Grove City College: *"In other words, the Scriptures are sufficient for a specific task: they reveal who God is, who man is in relation to him, and how that relationship is to be articulated in terms of worship."*

Therefore, since the Word of God is sufficient for all believers it is sufficient for the church. As a church we don't need the bells and whistles of the world. We simply need to read, study and apply the Word of God. We don't need marketing tools or tricks; we need a revival centered on the people of God valuing and loving the Word of God.

Ultimately...is the Bible enough? If you need more than the Bible to know and worship God...why?

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is the sufficiency of Scripture so important?
- ❖ Why is Christ better than what the world has to offer?
- ❖ Does your lifestyle prove to others that you follow Christ rather than the world?
- ❖ Do you truly believe the Bible is sufficient for you to fully know God?

Section 2: 2:16-19

All the OT festivals, laws, ordinances and regulation were all designed and given to the people to point them to the Messiah. As Romans 11:36 (CSB) says...*For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.*

Therefore, let no one defraud you with (1) ascetic practices (lowly, fake humility living) or (2) the worship of angles or (3) claiming access to a visionary realm.

Why are we to be caution with those people...because they are *inflated by empty notions of their unspiritual mind*. People who take things outside of Scripture and use them to inflate their spiritual standing are not following after Christ according to verse 19. The Scripture is sufficient for your spiritual well-being. Don't fall victim to someone who comes along and offers spiritual understanding apart from Scripture.

As 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (CSB) says...*¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

The Scripture is where we find all we need to be complete in our faith. We don't need angels, spirits, diviners, crystals, cards, Oprah, self-help books...we just need the Scriptures. Can God use other means to inspire His people? Of course. But as amazing as a sunset can be...it falls short in revealing and explaining God. Nothing can replace or even be compared to Scripture.

Remember anything we see or experience that is of God will NEVER contradict a single word found in Scripture. The Scripture is our source of truth; therefore, we measure EVERYTHING according to the words found in this amazing Book.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is it important to remember that all of the OT was pointing us to Jesus? How does that impact how we read the OT?
- ❖ Why should we be caution with people who claim spiritual knowledge outside of the Bible?
- ❖ Why are we to test every word spoken, every experience and every emotion against the Bible?

Section 3: 2:20-23

If you are claiming to be a Christian...why do you continue to live according to the world? Using the world's wisdom is not beneficial to the believer. Human commands and doctrines should have no place in the church. A "reputation for wisdom" is not biblical wisdom. Self-made religion, false humility and severe treatment of the body have no value in living for Christ. These things will not cause you to avoid or overcome sin.

We have died to self so that we may live for Christ. Part of our journey as believers is learning how to live a life for God's glory. The world will have a lot of ideas about how to "live a good life". Even many so-called Christians will have ideas about how to "live a good life".

As believers we are to search the Scriptures to know God so that we can live for His glory. "Living a good life" for God's glory begins with actually knowing who He is. Without a vibrant, healthy relationship with our heavenly Father...we have no hope of living a life for His glory.

Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why is the world's wisdom and God's wisdom at such odds?
- ❖ Why is a growing, healthy relationship with God required to live a life pleasing to God?