

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Colossians 2:1-23

INTRODUCTION

Colossians 2 serves as a warning to believers to guard against being deceived by human philosophies, legalism, or spiritual mysticism, reminding readers that Christ's fullness dwells in them. Through His work on the cross, believers are forgiven, freed from sin, and no longer defined by externals. It calls on Christians to live confidently in their identity as those fully accepted and made right with God through Christ alone.

THIS WEEK:

Discover this week why man-centered philosophies cheat us out of our experience of God and how we can live moment-by-moment grounded in our identity with Jesus.

OBSERVATION *What does it SAY?*

Discover key details of the passage by reading Colossians 2 and then answering the following questions:

1. From verse 8, what threatened the Colossians growth in Christ?
2. Verses 9-15 contain eight to ten realities in Christ that God's power applies to a believer. Identify as many as you see:
3. What reason does Paul give in verse 17 for why the OT laws feast days are no longer in effect for righteous living?
4. Paul says in verse 23 that ceremonial laws and ascetic practices do have a reputation for wisdom, but what are they **ineffective** at doing?

INTERPRETATION *What does it MEAN?*

Use the Bible to interpret the Bible. Look up the cross references and use them to interpret the passage under study:

5. What does Jesus say John 8:31, 32 about freedom? In what way can a philosophy or tradition take you “captive”?
6. Describe what Hebrews 10:1-3 says about the OT laws and festival days:
7. Consider Romans 6:5-7, 12-14; 12:1-2 and Colossians 3:1-4 and describe ways Christians can embrace their God given identity:
8. What does Galatians 5:1 say about freedom in Christ, and how does it relate to Paul's warnings in Colossians 2:20-23?

APPLICATION *Why does it matter?*

Now that you know what the passage means, think through the various ways it may apply to your life or the lives of others:

9. In what ways do religions rely on behavioral modification or human traditions to produce change rather than a new identity in Christ?
10. In what ways do secular philosophies rely on either behavior modification, or biological manipulation (some use of psychoactive drugs, or surgeries) to produce change rather than a new identity in Christ?

11. What impact does your identity have on how you relate to God?

12. Is living in your identity in Christ easy or difficult? Explain.

TAKE AWAY *How does this change me?*

13. What does this passage reveal about God?

14. What does this passage reveal about humanity?

15. What is the Holy Spirit revealing in this passage about your life?