

Colossians

Lesson 4 - Colossians 2:11-23

In Colossians 2:10 we were given the amazing truth that we are complete in Christ! Nothing can make us more righteous. Paul knew there were those who would try to deceive and cheat the Colossian believers of the riches they had in Christ by saying they had to earn them through legalism. It is for this reason, in Colossians 2:11-23, he teaches what Christ has done to make them, and us, complete in Him. Take heed to the teachings and warnings this week, as there are those today who would deceive us with the same false teachings.

Begin your study with prayer, thanking the Lord for His Word and asking for understanding of it and wisdom in applying it to your life.

Memory Verse – This week’s memory verse:

*“And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”
Colossians 2:10 NKJV*

Read Colossians 2:11-12.

Slowly read these two verses which are one long sentence that tells us what Christ did for us and what we have in Him!

1. Colossians 2:11 says. “*In Him you were also circumcised...*” Paul then says three things about this circumcision. Complete each of the following phrases from this verse in NKJV.

a. *...with the circumcision* _____.

b. *...by putting off* _____.

c. *...by the circumcision* _____.

2. What do the following scriptures tell you about circumcision as a believer?

a. Deuteronomy 30:6

b. Romans 2:28-29

c. Galatians 5:6

3. Considering the scriptures above, describe what circumcision means for the believer, and for you personally.

4. Colossians 2:12 says we are *buried with Him in baptism*. What do the following verses from Galatians say about this?

a. Galatians 2:20

b. Galatians 3:27

5. Yes, we are buried with Christ in baptism, but what does Colossians 2:12 say comes next?

a. How does it say we were raised?

b. Knowing all we have just read in Colossians, what does Romans 6:4 say we should be doing?

c. What do you think this means in our own lives?

Read Colossians 2:13-15.

Colossians 2:13 begins with the word “*And...*” This means there is even more that Jesus has done for us!

1. “*And you, being dead in...*” What two things does Colossians 2:13 say we were dead in?

a.

b.

2. Colossians 2:13 continues to say we have been made *alive*. What does this mean to you, that you were dead and now are made alive?

a. What more does the verse go on to say about us being *made alive*?

b. Why is that small word “*all*” so important in this statement?

3. The picture painted in Colossians 2:14 is one we should remember. Stop now and consider what it means for you that Jesus nailed that to the cross!

What do the following scriptures have to say about this truth given to us in Colossians 2:13-14?

a. Isaiah 43:25

b. Romans 8:3-4

4. The victory accomplished with this act is beautifully described in Colossians 2:15.

a. Who does it say was disarmed?

b. What does Ephesians 6:12 tell us that adds to the meaning of this victory for us?

Read Colossians 2:16-19.

Having reminded the Colossians of all Christ did for them, all they are *in Him*, he now addresses more specific errors in the false teachings of Gnosticism (thinking they have a superior knowledge) and legalism.

1. The false teachers were trying to put the Christians under the yoke of the law, or legalism.

a. From Colossians 2:16, what specific areas of the law are mentioned?

b. Read Acts 10:9-16. How does this apply to the legalism of what to eat and drink?

Christians are therefore free to keep a kosher diet or to observe the sabbath if they please. There is nothing wrong with those things. However, they cannot think that eating kosher or sabbath observance makes them any closer to God, and they cannot judge another brother or sister who does not observe such laws. David Guzik

c. Read Mark 2:23-28. When the Pharisees judged Jesus for not keeping the Sabbath, what was His reply?

2. How does Colossians 2:17 correct this error?

a. What does this mean to you?

b. Can you think of an example from the Old Testament that is a shadow of what has been accomplished in Christ?

3. The word Gnostic means to know, and the Gnostics claimed that they had higher knowledge of mysterious things. In Colossians 2:18 several of these things are listed. What does the first line of this verse say will happen if you follow in these false lines of teaching?

4. Colossians 2:18 lists several things which the false teachers said we should *delight in*, which are definitely **not** to be embraced by Christians. Since the correction of error is always found in truth, let's look closer into some of these.

a. False humility –

1. What is false humility?

2. What is true humility?

3. Rather than being cheated by false humility, what do the following scriptures say comes with true humility, the humility we should walk in?

Proverbs 22:4 –

James 4:6 –

b. Worshipping angels –

1. What does Revelations 22:8-9 say about this?
2. What do you find in John 4:22-24 about who and how we are to worship?

c. Vainly puffed up (pride) – What do the following scriptures say about this?

1. 1 Corinthians 13:4
2. 1 Peter 5:5-6

d. Fleshly mind (carnal) –

1. What does Romans 8:5-7 say about the fleshly or carnal mind?
2. In Romans 12:2, what does it say we are to do with our mind, and how can we do this?
5. In Colossians 2:19, Paul says that those who delight in such things are *not holding fast to the Head...*, the very Head we have been taught to hold fast to!! Who is the Head? (see Eph 1:22)
6. Colossians 2:19 goes on to describe the relationship of the Head to the body.
 - a. What does this verse say about this relationship?
 - b. What more do you find in Ephesians 4:15-16

Read Colossians 2:20-23.

1. Consider the question posed in Colossians 2:20.
 - a. Why do you think people do still subject themselves to regulations, or the law?

b. From this same verse, why is there no longer a need to do this?

c. What does Romans 8:2 say about this?

2. Which specific regulations are mentioned in Colossians 2:21? (Apparently these were part of the requirements of the false teachers.)

3. According to Colossians 2:22, what is wrong with these things?

4. Colossians 2:23 goes on to explain that living by these regulations may appear wise and religious, but they have no value against the indulgence of the flesh. What does this mean to you?

5. To find the key to real change and value in our spiritual lives we have to look back to Colossians 2:20: *Therefore, if you died with Christ...*

a. What does it mean to *die with Christ*?

b. How does Romans 6:11 explain it?

c. In 2 Corinthians 5:15, after dying with Christ, how are we to live?

In closing...

1. Much of the same false teaching of Paul's time can be found today. Legalism still exists, but we have seen in this section of scripture how legalism brings one to think they can do something good to earn salvation. What is the truth of our salvation found in Titus 3:4-7?

2. Starting with Colossians 2:9, notice how many times you see *in Him* or *with Him* in verses 9-13. Considering this, how is the teaching of Colossians 2:9-10 the answer to anything that would tempt you away from the simplicity and purity of Christ?

Memory Verse

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NOTES