

Wiped Out

Colossian 2:4-15

Sermon Discussion

The Study

Our passage this week continues the Apostle Paul's assertion that the Christian Life centers on Jesus. We don't need anything else for salvation. He pushes back on the Gnostic drive to get people to buy into their scheme of *progressive enlightenment* by an endless curriculum of "mysteries & secrets."

Vs. 4-7 • Paul reminds the Colossians that false teachers are *persuasive*. Their words are tricky. The Colossians must be careful to not turn away from the Gospel. How they *began* in faith is how they *continue* in it.

Vs. 8-10 • A call for caution: Be on the lookout for con-men who use what *seems like* wisdom but isn't because it ignores Jesus. It's just *tradition* (the Law/works-based righteousness) or *the basic principles of the world* (so-called common sense/conventional wisdom; mere human reason).

[There's debate over what Paul meant by "basic principles of the world." Some think it's demonic spirits so it's "basic *principalities* of the world." But that doesn't fit the context of "philosophy and empty deceit" they are "according to." It's better to understand Paul referring to clever arguments that *seem reasonable* but aren't "according to Christ."]

Vs. 9-10 shut the door on any appeal the Gnostic message might have. Jesus is **fully** God & Lord.

Vs. 11-12 • Faith in Christ fulfills the law and results in a new relationship with God.

Vs. 13-15 • Jesus atoned for ALL our sins and has defeated and disarmed the devil.

The Discussion

Were you ever been part of a cult or what today you'd label as a false teaching?
What's the story of your escape?
What are the marks of a cult?

Why do people listen to false teachers?
What are some signs of false teaching?

What are some of the mentalities we need to be on guard *against* as we seek to grow in Christ?
Why must we keep our grip in "grace through faith" in our entire walk?

Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, & Jude all warned about the danger of false teachers. What ought this tell us about *vigilance*? What happens when vigilance outgrows proper bounds and becomes *suspicion*?
How can we stay vigilant without being suspicious?

We are called to walk between two dangerous extremes; *legalism* & *licentiousness*.
Legalism makes how close we are to God a matter of how well we keep a set of rules.
Licentiousness says that since we are saved by grace and all our sins are forgiven, it doesn't matter what we do.

How do we maintain the proper balance and what are the signs we've strayed into one or the other?

If Jesus disarmed the devil, why and how does he still cause so much damage?
Pastor Lance spoke about the *power of choice* and how the devil tries to hijack our power through deceit. Unpack that. Think about it in terms of temptation and how to defeat it.