

Sermon Series: Colossians

Sermon Text: Colossians 2:6-23 Walking in Freedom

You can glorify God's grace by walking in freedom in Christ.

1) Walk in Christ (2:6-8).

- a) Rooted (perfect) in Him (v. 6)
- b) Built up (present) in Him (v. 6)
- c) Established on Apostolic teaching of Scripture
 - i) as you received (aorist) Christ Jesus the Lord (v. 6)—tradition handed over, defined by “as you were taught”; acceptance of the proclamation of Jesus as Lord, confession of it, baptism
 - ii) established (present) in the faith, just as you were taught (v. 7)—strengthened in understanding and conviction of the content of the faith
- d) abounding (present) in thanksgiving (v. 7)
- e) See to it (present) that no one take you captive by (v. 8):
 - i) philosophy—Judaism seen as just another competing human system of thought and life
 - ii) empty deceit—qualifies the warning about philosophy; not all philosophical thinking, but vain, that is, godless philosophy
 - iii) according to human tradition—cf. Jesus' critique of Pharisees (Mk 7:5-13)
 - iv) according to the elemental spirits of the world—national gods that ruled nations
 - v) not according to Christ—the proper boundary for worldview
- f) **Application:**
 - i) Cautious appropriation of practices that originate in religious contexts: (e.g. Martial Arts, Yoga, New Age Diets and Health Techniques). God has given everything necessary for life and godliness in His Word and Spirit through Christ (2 Pet. 1:3).
 - ii) Critical analysis of scientific explanations for life and the soft sciences that depend on those explanations for their theories and practices (e.g. Psychology and Sociology)

2) For Christ is all you need to live before God (9-15).

- a) in Him the whole fulness of the Deity dwells bodily (v. 9)— God incarnate
- b) you have been filled in Him (v. 10)
- c) Christ is head of all rule and authority (v. 10)—same as stoicheia v. 8
- d) You share in the circumcision of Christ (v. 11)
- e) You share in the death of Christ (v. 12) for forgiveness/justification (v. 14)
- f) You share in the resurrection of Christ (v. 12) for victory over evil (v. 15)
- g) **Application:**
 - i) Know God in Christ alone. Worship God in Christ alone.
 - ii) Trust Christ's victory and sovereignty.
 - iii) Trust your acceptance with God in Christ.
 - iv) Define your identity in Christ.

3) Do not walk apart from Christ (2:16-23).

- a) Let no one judge you over Old Testament shadows (dietary laws and festivals) now that the substance has come (vv. 16-17)

b) Let no one disqualify you with manmade religious practices (vv. 18,21-23)

c) **Application:**

i) Guard Christian liberty by understanding Redemptive History.

ii) Guard Christian liberty by knowing Christ's law.

iii) Respect Christian liberty by refusing to bind others' consciences to your own scruples or personal convictions.

4) For Christ is all you need to live before God (2:19-20).

a) Christ is the Head from whom the whole body is nourished, united, and grows from God (v. 19)

b) You died with Christ to the elemental spirits (v. 20)

c) **Application:**

i) Glorify our Head by joyfully receiving all His goodness as the all-satisfying treasure of your soul.

ii) Die daily to the elemental spirits. "Be killing sin or it will be killing you" (John Owen).

Doxology: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (1 Peter 1:3-5)