

JESUS + NOTHING = EVERYTHING

Week 3: Stay Connected to CHRIST

Key Text: Colossians 2:6-15

OPEN

The book of Colossians is all about the importance of knowing Christ – that living in Christ is everything. But in this week's passage, the apostle Paul warns that after coming to faith, we can still be led astray. The point of this text is that we must continue to stay connected to Christ. It's only when we continue to 'live in him' just as we first 'received Christ,' that we will experience the fullness of what he has done for us. So, it's important that our confession of Christ be accompanied by follow up, a focus on building a strong foundation, and exhibiting fortitude in our faith through thanksgiving. Paul warns us that we must guard against any deceptive philosophy that would lure us to depend on anything rather than Christ.

REFLECT

- In verses 9-10, what are 3 things we are told about Christ that Paul lists for us in these 2 verses? Why do you think they are essential for a believer to understand?
- In verses 11-12, Paul then lists 3 things that Christ has done for us that we could not do for ourselves. What are they? What is the significance of each? Discuss.
- As we continue to break down this passage, verses 13-14 contrast being spiritually dead with being made spiritually alive. What is it, according to these verses, that makes a person spiritually alive to God?
- In this passage, Paul talks about Christ cutting out the 'flesh' that rules us. Explain what you think he means.

DISCUSS

- Go around the circle and describe one of your favourite commercials. What made it compelling? What would be different about your life if you acted on it?
- The Colossians needed to be aware of 'hollow and deceptive' philosophies, both human and spiritual. What are some of the philosophies of our day that are false and contrary to the Gospel we should guard against? Consider both categories, human as well as spiritual.
- Paul talks about continuing in Christ, just as 'you received Christ.' Share how you first received Christ. What was it about the Gospel that first compelled you to believe?
- What compels you now, after coming to Christ, to continue to 'live in him,' knowing that being a believer isn't easy?
- As a group, share some of the practices that have helped you individually be rooted in your faith that are 'underneath' the surface not always visible to others?

APPLY

- Paul talks about a 'before and after' reality to Christ cutting the control of the 'flesh' from our lives. What aspect of life 'in the flesh' (attitude, action, or thought) do you need God's victory in?
- What is one spiritual discipline you could begin applying to your personal life this week to grow deeper roots to your faith? Invite someone in the group to encourage you.

PRAY

- As a way of showing fortitude in your faith, take time as a group to thank Jesus for what he has done / is doing / and has promised to do.
- Personally thank Jesus for something you know in your life is from him.
- Pray for a greater hunger for God's Word and discernment in being wise to deceptive philosophies.
- Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.