

Colossians 2:8-15

We are prone to get caught up in

1. Philosophy...the love or pursuit of wisdom
 - a. Please be careful!!
 - b. Oh how much we like to pursue the "deep things."
 - c. Knowledge puffs up and can so easily stuff up!!
 1. We like to sit around and talk about our doctrine, our methodology, our principles, and never realize there is very little practice....
 2. We are called to obey, to do, not just know
 - d. We can be ever learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth
2. Empty Deceit...worldly deception
 - a. According to human tradition...and never even question what/why we do things
 - b. According to the elemental spirits
 - c. NOT according to Christ
 - d. Be careful about putting too much stock in humans and their traditions
 1. We can pattern ourselves after the Puritans
 2. Or the Reformers
 3. But, friend!! We have Christ!!

Christ—the fullness of deity

I. Filled in Him v10

1. To make full....to complete.
2. Not only do we need Christ to save us...but to sanctify us....to complete us!
3. Philippians 1:6 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

II. Circumcised in Him v11

Paul compares the saving work of God in us with the practice of circumcision.

1. Only this is a circumcision made "without hands"
2. It's a spiritual thing he is talking about, not a physical one.
3. And he says that what is being cut away is the "body of the flesh."
4. Ezekiel 11:19-20 *And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God*
5. The New Testament equivalent of circumcision is Christ cutting away "the old sinful body of the flesh."
6. Not physical surgery, but spiritual surgery

The covenant people are being constituted in a new way : by spiritual birth, not physical birth.

III. Baptized with Him v12

1. Buried with Him
2. Raised with Him

Romans 6:3-5 *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

IV. Made alive with Him v13

Ephesians 2

1. You were dead v4...but God v4-10
2. You were divided v13....but Now v13-18
3. You were displaced v19...but you v19-22

V. Made Victorious by Him v14-15

1. Forgiven us by canceling our debt
 - b. Disarming the rulers and authorities
 - c. Shaming them
 - d. Triumphant over them.
2. Genesis 3

Discussion Questions

1. What do you learn about God from the text?
2. What do you learn about Christ?
3. Are there any commands to obey?
4. What was your biggest take-away from the sermon on Sunday?
5. How will you obey what God is saying to you through this text/sermon? Answer by filling in the blank: I will _____ in response to this text/sermon.