

LESSON 10: COLOSSIANS 2:5-23

Paul's Interest in the Colossians (cont'd)

1. Why does Paul rejoice “to see your good order and the firmness of your faith” (v. 5)? “Therefore,” Paul writes in verse 6, “as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him” (v. 6). What does it mean to you to be “rooted and built up in him,” “established in the faith,” and “abounding in thanksgiving” (v. 2:7)? Notice the sequence of the verbs rooted and built up, established, abounding!
2. What problems in Colossae does Paul address in verse 8? What are the sources of these problems? How persistent are these enemies today?
3. What prepositional phrases are repeated in verses 9-12? What picture is drawn for you by these phrases? How does this picture help you deal with problems like those found in verse 8?
4. Consider the meaning of each of these phrases: that “in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (v. 9); and “you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority” (v. 10).
5. What does it mean when Paul writes that we have been “circumcised with a circumcision made without hands” (v. 11)? What does “fullness in Christ” include (vv. 11-13)? What has the death and resurrection of Christ accomplished in your life? (Notice the repetition of the pronoun and verb “you were.”)
6. What is “the record of debt” that Jesus has canceled, “that stood against us with its legal demands” (v. 14)? What does it mean to say that this was set aside, “nailing it to the cross”? And how especially are we to understand that Jesus “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (v. 15)?
7. Why don't Christians have to follow Jewish ceremonial laws and practices (vv. 17-18)? Contrast these “shadows” to the reality of Christ. Are there any “shadows” on the Christian horizon today? What actions does Paul condemn in this verse? What is the cause, and what the cure (v. 19)?
8. How are the Colossians living (v. 20)? Why is the submission to rules the inferior path (vv. 21-23)? How do you get onto, and then stay on, the high road?