

## **LESSON 12: COLOSSIANS 2:11-3:4**

### **Fullness and Freedom in Christ**

1. 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.”)
2. 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 to we understand that Jesus “disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him” (v. 15)? How has Jesus already won the victory? What does that mean for us? Do we already share in that victory? In what way?
3. 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)? Are you aware of anyone living in the shadows by trying to find spirituality elsewhere than in Christ? How free are you in the victory of Christ from all of this?
4. The false teachers cannot offer freedom from regulations because they themselves are enslaved to the regulations they have created (vv. 20-23). Define legalism? How is it different from sanctification? 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? How free are you?

### **Our Life in Christ**

5. Having been raised with Christ, what should you be doing (v. 3) and what will be done for you (v. 4)?
6. Christianity is not a religion like any other. It is a relationship. Through your conversion, you have been granted a relationship with the exalted Christ (v. 1). How are you to vigorously pursue and develop this relationship? How is this activity essential for true Christianity? How is this activity the center and source of all your joy? (See Psalm 84:1-4.) How frequently are you to engage in this activity?
7. As a Christian, can you set your mind on Christ and sin at the same time (v. 2)? When you set your mind on the things of this world, how seriously do you enfeeble your fellowship with Christ?
8. The old life is over, the new has begun! This is regeneration in Christ (v. 3). Why is your perfect union with Christ said to be “hidden”? How difficult is it for the man or woman of this world to see the glory of God in the cross? Though you are now “hidden in Christ,” who and what will eventually be revealed (v. 4)? How can this new life and its power be displayed and seen in our world?