



July 10, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2:1-15 (NLT)

I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. ²I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love. I want them to have complete confidence that they understand God's mysterious plan, which is Christ himself. ³In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I am telling you this so no one will deceive you with well-crafted arguments. ⁵For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong. ⁶And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. ⁸Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers^[a] of this world, rather than from Christ. ⁹For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.^[b] ¹⁰So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.^[c] ¹²For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him, you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead. ¹³You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. ¹⁴He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵In this way, he disarmed^[d] the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

WARM-UP

- What thoughts, ideas, concepts, questions, or other inspiration stood out to you from the message?
- Pastor Kevin said, "We have 1,000 reasons to be divided, but none that compare to the one reason we have to be united." In your opinion, what does it mean to be united in Christ as a congregation?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – The way forward in growth, is growing together!

Verses: Colossians 2:1-15

- Paul says, "...just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him." Imagine you are talking to a friend who is a new believer with little understanding of the ways of Christ. How would you explain Paul's words to them? What practical steps would you give them?
- When you first came to believe in Christ, what were some of the most important "next steps" that you were led to take? Why do you say they were important? Who helped you understand the importance of these steps?

Thought #2 – What is next for you in your spiritual journey?

Verses: Colossians 2:1-15

- When it comes to growing in their faith, Paul encourages the Colossians to "keep their head down and focus". In your current experience, what distractions are making it difficult for believers (new or experienced) to focus on growth? What about you?
- How do you stay focused on your spiritual growth? What tips or advice can you pass on to the group?

