

Small Group Guide

Colossians 2: Complete in Christ

Overview

This week's sermon walked us through Colossians 2, where the Apostle Paul addresses a church facing confusion and false teaching. His central message is one that is just as relevant today as it was then: Jesus is supreme and sufficient. We do not need to add anything to what He has already done. Because of Christ, every true believer is made complete.

Key Takeaways

- Paul had a deep spiritual burden for believers he had never met, interceding for them because false teaching was threatening their faith.
- Every false system of belief, whether legalism, mysticism, philosophy, or man-made religion, diminishes Christ by suggesting He is not enough.
- Jesus Christ is the head above all principalities and powers. His death, burial, and resurrection accomplished a complete and sufficient work of salvation.
- Believers are not saved by keeping the law, maintaining rituals, or earning merit. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone.
- Christ nailed every accusation and requirement against us to the cross. Those accusations have no rightful place in the life of a believer.
- We are made complete in Christ. That does not mean perfect, but it means we have everything we need for eternal life and a transformed walk with Him.
- Our roots must go deep into the Word of God so that we are not swept away by every persuasive argument or wind of false doctrine.
- We serve God out of gratitude, not obligation. When we understand what He has done, our desire to follow Him flows naturally from love rather than fear.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

1. When you first came to faith in Christ, or when you think about your faith now, is there anything you have felt pressure to add to your relationship with Him in order to feel truly accepted by God? Where did that pressure come from?

Digging Into the Text

2. Paul describes an internal conflict he carries for people he has never met face to face. What does that tell us about the nature of Christian community and the responsibility we have for one another's spiritual health?
3. The message described several systems that were being introduced into the church at Colossae, including legalism, mysticism, Gnosticism, and asceticism. What are some modern equivalents of these false additions that we see trying to attach themselves to the gospel today?
4. In John 10:27-30, Jesus says that no one is able to snatch His sheep out of His hand or out of the Father's hand. How does that truth challenge or comfort you personally? Does it change the way you think about your standing before God?
5. The sermon made a distinction between serving God out of gratitude versus serving God out of obligation. What does service motivated by gratitude look like in everyday life? What does service motivated by obligation tend to produce?
6. Paul writes in Colossians 2:14 that God wiped out the certificate of accusation against us and nailed it to the cross. The sermon pointed out that many believers still listen to those accusations. Why do you think that is so common, and what does Scripture say we should do with those thoughts?
7. The message used the image of a tree to describe what it means to be rooted, built up, and established in Christ. What does it look like practically to grow deep roots in your own life? What things tend to prevent that kind of growth?
8. Paul warns against being cheated through philosophy, empty deceit, the traditions of men, and the basic principles of the world. How do we develop the discernment to recognize these things when they are presented in convincing or even spiritual-sounding language?

Reflecting on the Whole

9. The sermon closed with the idea that we are complete in Christ right now, not when we reach a certain level of maturity or performance. How does accepting that truth change the way you approach your daily walk with God?

10. Baptism was described as a public identification with Christ, a picture of dying to the old self and being raised to new life. Whether or not you have been baptized, what does it mean to you to be identified with Christ in your community and relationships?

Practical Applications

This Week, Consider the Following

- Set aside time each day to read a passage of Scripture and ask God to reveal something specific about who Jesus is. Keep a simple journal of what He shows you.
- Identify one area of your life where you have been striving to earn God's approval rather than resting in what Christ has already done. Bring that area to God in prayer and ask Him to replace striving with gratitude.
- If you have been carrying accusations from your past, accusations about your worth, your failures, or your standing before God, write them down and then cross them out as a reminder that they have been nailed to the cross.
- Reach out to one person in your small group or church family this week simply to encourage them. Ask how they are doing spiritually and be willing to listen without an agenda.
- If you have never been baptized as a public expression of your faith in Christ, consider speaking with your pastor about taking that step.
- Reflect on whether you are currently connected to the body of Christ in a meaningful way. Are you knit together with others, or are you only receiving spiritual nourishment in isolation? Consider one step you could take to go deeper in community.

Closing Thought for the Group

The sermon reminded us that the moment we accept Jesus Christ, we are not placed on a performance track where every failure drops us below an acceptable line. We are held

fast by the One who is supreme over all things. As the hymn quoted in the sermon says, though we have fallen, we will rise, because we are complete in Christ. Let that truth be the foundation from which your group encourages one another this week.