

Saint Paul's Baptist Church

Weekday Study Notes

W E L C O M E T O S A I N T P A U L ' S

Saint Paul's Baptist Church exists to empower people to grow into all that God created them to be. We do that by finding needs and meeting them, finding problems, and solving them, finding hurts and healing them.

G E T C O N N E C T E D

God created us for community. To volunteer, participate in a small group, or learn more about upcoming events, visit myspbc.org or download our free mobile app at myspbc.info/app.

N E E D P R A Y E R ?

We are honored to pray with you or for you. Join us during or after worship services for personal prayer at myspbc.info/prayerroom. You may also submit a prayer request anytime at myspbc.info/prayer.

JESUS IS GREATER: A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

Today's Lesson: Learning to Live in Freedom

Colossians 2:16-3:4: The Message

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ So don't put up with anyone pressuring you in details of diet, worship services, or holy days. All those things are mere shadows cast before what was to come; the substance is Christ.

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Don't tolerate people who try to run your life, ordering you to bow and scrape, insisting that you join their obsession with angels and that you seek out visions. They're a lot of hot air, that's all they are. They're completely out of touch with the source of life, Christ, who puts us together in one piece, whose very breath and blood flow through us. He is the Head, and we are the body. We can grow up healthy in God only as he nourishes us.

²⁰⁻²³ So, then, if with Christ you've put all that puffed-up and childish religion behind you, why do you let yourselves be bullied by it? "Don't touch this! Don't taste that! Don't go near this!" Do you think things that are here today and gone tomorrow are

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worth that kind of attention? Such things sound impressive if said in a deep enough voice. They even give the illusion of being pious and humble and austere. But they're just another way of showing off, making yourselves look important.

3¹⁻² So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective.

3⁴ Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real* life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. *He* is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Main Idea: Through the power of the gospel and according to our identity in Christ, we have been delivered from the demands of religious performance and are free to live for his glory through loving obedience.

1. **Our Death in Christ** _____ **Us from the Law (2:16-23).**

- a. We are free from the shackles of _____ (2:16,18).
- b. We are free from the bondage of _____ (2:16-19).
- c. We are free from the chains of _____ (2:20-23).

2. **Our Faith in Christ** _____ **Us to New Life (3:1-4).**

- a. Jesus _____ life's pursuits (3:1).
- b. Jesus _____ life's perspective (3:2).
- c. Jesus _____ life's purpose (3:3-4).

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Study Guide:

Dig Deeper Questions:

1. How does our freedom in Christ free us from the shackles of reputation? How does our freedom in Christ free us from the bondage of religion? How does our freedom in Christ free us from the chains of regulations?
2. How should being raised with Christ redirect your life's pursuits? How should being raised with Christ reshape your perspective? How does being raised with Christ redefine your life's purpose?
3. How does this passage call us to renew our minds? What does it mean for our lives to be hidden "with Christ in God" (v.3)? How should this passage motivate us to live with evangelistic urgency? What does this passage teach us about our future hope?

CHALLENGE: What is one "a-ha" moment you had today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week's message, how would the next week be different for you?

SERVE: How is God calling us to live out this lesson this week? As individuals? As a group?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to review church announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at myspbc.org. Connect with us on

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social media at facebook.com/myspbc, instagram.com/myspbc and twitter.com/MySPBC_online. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to note praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER: Take this time to note prayer requests. Close with prayer.