

## House Arrest: Making the Best of a Bad Situation An Opportunity for Focus Colossians 2:6-15

### Main Idea: House Arrest provides a Great Opportunity for Focus

**Colossians:** The city of Colossae was spiritually minded, but the prevailing religion was syncretism (merging of various religions, philosophies & worldviews), and these followers of Jesus were facing the temptation to succumb to this common mistake. While under House Arrest, Paul calls them to focus on the primary focus of their faith...**Jesus! Our House Arrest provides an opportunity for Focus, too!**

*“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” Colossians 2:6-15*

### Three Observations about Focus from Colossians 2:6-15

#### I. A Life In Proper Focus

*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7*

*“...as grace extends to more & more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.” 2 Corinthians 4:15b*

*“A thankful believer is not easily led away from Christ. A discontented, grumbling, whiny believer, however, will be easy prey for false teachers who are more than willing to offer ‘just what you’ve been missing.’” Max Anders*

*“A grounded, growing, grateful believer will not be led astray” Warren Wiersbe*

#### II. A Life Out of Proper Focus

*“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ...In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ” Colossians 2:8, 11*

- **Philosophies of Men:** Ideologies that come from the mind of men rather than the truth of God. No basis for authority other than man’s best guess. It may sound good, feel good or even look good, but it is not sufficient truth on which to base your life & eternity.

- **Spirits of this World:** The Jews were always trying to add something to faith & to attach more of their law to God’s grace. However, this trap would lead to either pride (self-righteous) or pain (self-loathing) as the law is incapable of solving our sin problem. Only Jesus can!
- **Worship of Self:** The logical conclusion to focusing on anything other than Christ is a worship of self. Because once Jesus is not the focus, then we are free to pick and choose our truth, reality, gods, behaviors and everything else. The end result is this: I am now the god of my own existence! **If Jesus isn’t king, someone else will be!**

*“The false teachers in Colossae did not ask the believers to forsake Christ. They asked them to make Christ a part of the new system. But this would only remove Him from His rightful place of preeminence.” Warren Wiersbe*

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, & sin which clings so closely, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2*

#### III. God Gives The Ability to Focus

*“For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.” Colossians 2:9-10, 12-15*

*“For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 1:18*

*“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...” Romans 1:16*

What target are you focusing on right now? There are only two options: Jesus or something else. If it’s Jesus, your life is in focus. If it’s not, your life is out of focus. So let me invite you to turn from the philosophies of men, the spirits of this world & the idolatry of self so you can focus on Jesus!

#### Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgkin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Letter to the Colossians* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Holman Commentary: Galatians-Colossians* – Max Anders (1999)
- *Colossians* – Kent Hughes (1996)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – W.A. Elwell & P.W. Comfort (2001)
- *Philippians, Colossians & Philemon* – R.R. Melick (1991)
- *A Man of Grace & Grit: Paul* – Charles Swindoll (2002)
- *Unburdened* – Vance Pitman (2020)

