

## Colossians 2:1-15 Group Guide

### Overview

To say that the culture we live in is volatile is an understatement. Ideas, concepts, political stances, morals (even math!) seem to change faster than we can keep up. Everyone wants to have a say on what truth is, what is right and wrong. Whether on social media, news, books, or YouTube we are intrigued by the “new” thing; someone who says they have found a new way, a new product, a new or forgotten knowledge. This isn’t all bad. How many times have you looked up on YouTube to figure out how to do something? It is one of the greatest resources of our time! We all want to know the best way to cook a pie, get the perfect sear on a steak, or how to change the oil on our car. So, it is no surprise that we as humans strive for understanding and knowledge.

The Colossians were struggling with all this “knowledge” that was bombarding them from Judaizers, Greeks, philosophers etc. It was confusing them on how they were to live their lives. People were telling them, “We have secret knowledge no one else knows!” or “I can improve your life if you live my way.” Paul saw their struggle and reminded them “all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” are in Christ, so that “no one may delude you with plausible arguments.”

As Christians there is no problem looking for common knowledge from neighbors, friends, and co-workers. But when it comes to the big questions of life such as “how shall we live?” or “what is the meaning of life?” (as well as ethical questions), we are called to find these answers in one place alone: God, through the revelation of His Word. We must remember that Truth, knowledge, and wisdom are found in Jesus, not plausible arguments from the world. We are to be “rooted” in Christ, meaning that we are firmly planted in His way of life and our roots soak in his knowledge and truth. This impacts all areas of our life. Though God does address how to sear a steak perfectly (although I’m sure the priests of the OT had it down pretty well), what He does say impacts how we judge all the information we hear. As we look at these questions, we must remind ourselves that the world has nothing to offer us regarding how to live our lives better, or some secret knowledge about the universe, God, or humanity. God must always be the start of our understanding. We cannot know anything apart from Him, for He has revealed who He is, man’s condition, and how to live. When we, like the world, try to start with man and our understanding, we actually become fools, for knowledge is God’s (Prov. 3:5-6, 19-20; 8:22-23).

### Reflect on the Following Questions:

1. The world comes up with many ideas, often changing through time, but coming back around in new packaging. We know this is because they are trying to start all understanding with man, not God. How have you seen this in your life? What ideas have you seen that are clearly all about man and not God?

2. How have you seen *Personal Peace* (being left alone, not caring what happens to your neighbor) and *Individualism* become mainstream philosophies in America?
3. Paul says in 2:2 - we need each other to reach the fullness of the knowledge of God. How have you seen this in your life? How has being at church with other Christians helped you understand God better/deeper/more fully?
4. Where have you seen the Christian community or believers around you believe something not because it's in the Bible, but because Culture accepts it (example, perhaps free music from Napster).
5. Where do YOU often turn to find out if something is true? The news, friends, social media, coworkers, so called "experts" etc.? How can the Bible inform the truth when it doesn't specifically talk about an Issue?
6. Through social media we read AND share many things. One could say what we share on social media is a form of teaching: we are commending a thought/ idea and sharing so others can see and agree with us. How does James 3:1 impact how we think through what we share on social media? Would you agree that what we share on social media is a form of teaching? Why or why not?
7. Look at Romans 1:18-23. What are people doing with the evidence of God in these verses, and how do we see people doing the same today?
8. We all know people who hold to non-biblical ideas, whether family members, co-workers, etc. How can we interact with them and their ideas in a way that expresses love, not agreement?
9. Have you ever confronted someone about their ideas/beliefs? What did you say and how did it go?

Hopefully this discussion has been helpful, and I pray that as we mature in Christ, we learn to think through what we believe and why we believe it (because it is in the Bible). As we close, spend some time praying for each other to stand firm, rooted in Christ that we may be a light in our communities and givers of truth to a world in need. Peace and Grace to you!