

Colossians 2:8-15

- **Ash Wednesday Service - February 14 - 6PM**
 - Prayer / Fasting / Repentance
 - God wants to grow you into the image of His Son.
- **QH Food Drive**
- **Israel Live - February 25th**

READ Colossians 2:8-15

- **The book of Colossians is reminding us that the goal of this whole project is Christ-likeness.**
 - 1:10 - “so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
 - 2:6 - Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in Him.
- Paul is concerned with life-change.
- Our mission is to teach people how to walk in Wisdom.
 - To live in a way that is pleasing to God. Bearing fruit.
 - Fruitfulness is the goal of the Christian life.
 - That is the fundamental purpose of the Church.
 - To make discipleship of Jesus
- Wisdom is the application, the living out of Knowledge and Understanding.
- Knowledge and Understanding with no outlet **towards others**, only puffs up, and leads to a pride-filled life.
- So...we walk in wisdom, seeking to apply God’s Word to our lives as we are made into the image of the living Word of God.

Colossians 2:8

8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

- The primary tactic of the Enemy of our Souls is to get us off track, focusing our attention on the wrong things.
- The dark forces of this world know that we are created to image the glory of God.
 - And they will go to great lengths to stop us from participating in our God given purpose of proclaiming the goodness and glory of God to the world around us.
- **You have heard it said... “We are what we eat, we are what we consume”**
 - **We also become what we give our attention to.**

- The Roman Empire was a master of this type of manipulation to keep people complacent - Keep them focused on the fulfillment of their carnal passions.
- We become what we give our attention to...and if what we give our attention to is contrary to our nature as image bearers of God we become slaves, captive to the deceitfulness of sin.
- **Satan wants you to spend your time on things that are fruitless.**
- **A fruitless act is anything we give our attention to that doesn't help us grow in our responsibilities or fulfill our mission as image-bearers.**
 - **Does this bring God glory?**
 - One of our responsibilities is to care for ourselves. This is the point of Sabbath.
 - But this can be a trap, be careful that we don't get consumed by self fulfillment.
 - How much time do you spend intentionally investing in your spouse?
 - How about the discipleship and relationship with your kids?
 - How about intentional investment in friendships?
 - Intentional investment in your community? Local government, boards, volunteering.
 - Attention to the intentional management of the resources that God has given you.
 - Budgets, management, stewardship of the blessings God has given us.
- This captivity Paul is warning us about comes through giving our attention to worthless and unfruitful ways of thinking and actions.

What are you giving your attention to?

- **Reminder: There is no such thing as neutrality, everything is communicating a worldview.**
 - Books, movies, media of all types,
 - The tactics are subtle, and before we know it, we are believing the lie.
 - ...That this life is all about my happiness, and fulfillment and enjoyment. Gathering more and more to ourselves.
 - **But the reality is that people who focus on those things are the most miserable people you will ever meet.**
 - Especially as men, we were made to provide, care and protect. When we turn inwards it is particularly damaging.
 - Paul is reminding us that these worldly ways of thinking lead us into captivity to the principalities of this world,

- They flatter our carnality, and exploit our desire to gather to ourselves, for our own gratification.
- **Interesting: Everyone is scraping for one more day of life, all the while wasting it on vanity.**
 - As far as I am aware the death rate is still 100%
- **So many people are so scared and anxious of the future that they rob themselves of the present.**
 - Worrying about the future doesn't add a day to our lives.
 - Things that extend life are things like peace, joy, contentment.
 - If we are so worried about the future, why don't we spend more time pouring into the next generation.
 - Living your life for others is the most profound impact you can make on our future.
 - God wants you to live an abundant life, an eternal life, a life of the ages.
 - And that is a fruitful life!
 - Why settle for anything less than that.
- **This is the life we entered when we gave your hearts to Christ!**

Colossians 2:9-12

9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

- **Here Paul is pointing his audience back to the reality of who they are in Christ, by reminding them of their baptism.**
- **We often focus on the What and How...Rather Than the Why...**
 - We often get caught up asking the what or the how questions...
 - Instead of focusing on the why of baptism?
 - This is what Paul was most concerned about...

Hebrews 6:1-3

1 Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of instruction about [baptism] and laying on of hands, and the

resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do, if God permits.

- **Why Baptism? It is the “Mark” of the New Covenant.**
 - Like a wedding ring is a “Mark” of the Marriage Covenant.
- Here Paul is making a correlation between the “Mark” of the Old Covenant and the “Mark” of the New Covenant.
- The Mark of the Old Covenant was circumcision, pointing to the promised seed, Genesis 3:15, that would be fulfilled through the descendants of Abraham, that through his lineage the savior of the whole world would come.
- The Mark of the New Covenant is Baptism, pointing to the hope of the Resurrection, that we have been buried with Christ.

Mark 10:38-39

38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" 39 They said to Him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you shall drink; and you shall be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. 16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

- **Our baptism points to the finished work of Christ in our lives that we receive through faith.**
 - Just like my wedding ring points to my commitment, my allegiance, to my wife.
 - A wedding ring isn't what makes someone married, it points to the commitment.
- In both covenants, these ordinances are a Mark of our Faith, as Romans chapter 1 reminds us, there has always only been one way to be saved.
 - **And that is through faith in Christ.**
- **Romans 1:1-2** - 1 Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures...

- The reason that circumcision is no longer necessary is because the thing that it was pointing to was fulfilled in Jesus, he is the Christ, the Messiah, the fulfillment of the promise.
- Abraham was saved through faith, looking forward to the Cross, and we also are saved by faith looking back at the Cross.
- **Acts 4:12** - 12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."
- In Baptism we are "marked" as the people of God as we identify with His death and resurrection, which is our hope of glory.
- Baptism is an expression of our loyalty to King Jesus, that you are going to follow the one who died and rose again.
- The thing the Baptism prefigures or corresponds to is where our salvation rests.
- Christ died and rose again - that is where salvation alone is found.
- **In Baptism we are aligning our lives with the one who defeated death. And it is an announcement to the principalities and powers of darkness who the true King is.**
 - 1 Peter 3:21

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Colossians 2:13-14

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- **This is the Gospel. This is the Good News.**
- Your sins no longer separate you from God, Christ has made a way, the veil has been torn.
 - When we were yet sinners Christ died for us.
- **Paul's Point: And now in light of this reality, "How then shall we live?"**
- Answer: Like people who have died to our sinful carnal desires, and have been raised to new life in Christ.
- **This means, just like we would never ask in our marriages, "What is the least I can do to stay married?"**

- The question for us should be, “How can I more completely and fully reflect the glory of the resurrected Christ in every area of my life.”

Colossians 2:15

15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

- All authority and dominion and rule has been given to Jesus Christ, who rules the universe from the right hand of the Father.
- There is only one King of the universe, and he is the one who has come out of the grave victorious.