

Colossians 2:6-23
(John 15:1-17)
“As You Received Christ Jesus, So Walk in Him”

Introduction

In our text, Paul is warning Christians living in the city of Colossae not to listen to teachers who were urging them to look beyond the gospel for a higher form of spirituality. Paul’s emphatic response is that Jesus Christ is preeminent in human history and preeminent in the church, and is therefore completely sufficient to make us the people God created us to be. Paul urges his readers to realize that true faith in Christ leads to a transformed life: “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” (2:6,7). He is not calling them to remain as they are, but to begin growing to maturity in Christ. He does this by contrasting the deceptive teaching that promises freedom but leads to bondage with the true teaching that issues in freedom and joy.

Body

1. Consider first Paul’s warning against deceptive teaching that promises freedom, but leads to spiritual bondage.

Don’t let those claiming special knowledge take you captive (2:8).

Don’t let those claiming special holiness condemn you (2:16).

Don’t let those claiming special experiences disqualify you (2:18).

2. Now consider Paul’s description of true teaching that issues in spiritual freedom.

Find your fullness in Christ alone (2:10).

Find your forgiveness in Christ alone (2:13).

Find your freedom in Christ alone (2:15&20).

Conclusion

Paul knew what it was to suffer the loss of all things: In following Christ, he lost his professional and academic community; in taking up his dangerous itinerant ministry, he gave up the freedom to marry; in courageously taking the gospel to places of great danger, he gave up his safety and spoke of the frequent beatings, shipwrecks and disasters he faced for the sake of the gospel. Yet from prison he would write of his joy and call others facing hardship to rejoice in everything. He

was not a starry-eyed optimist, but a world-transforming realist. He had found all that he was looking for when Jesus found him.

What of you this morning? What will happen to you when the waves crash in and take down your house of cards? What will you say when you have nothing but ashes where you once had great hopes? Here is a prescription for living with joy and freedom in a world that is passing away: Find your fullness, your forgiveness and your freedom in Jesus Christ alone. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He'll never disappoint you. He stands ready to make you much more than you ever dreamed you could be.

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6).

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