

Jesus The Messiah: Nothing More, Nothing Less

Study 3: Colossians 2

Rooted And Built Up In Christ Jesus.

Read Colossians 1:28 - 2:7

1. Paul uses phrases like “I want...”, “My goal...”. From these verses, list as many things as you can see that identify Paul’s desires or ambitions?
 - a. Then, against each one, write why you believe he would want that.

2. Do you see any themes running through these desires?

3. Note also the four times he says, “so that” or “in order that”. Some things lead to more important things. What are Paul’s ultimate goals?

- 4. The Colossians were already Christians but Paul prays that they will know Christ (2:2). Considering also Philippians 3:10-11, describe what it means to know Christ.**

In the remainder of this chapter, Paul addresses the concerns that he has regarding the Colossians. He identifies some teachings and philosophies that might “take them captive”, and he counters each one, again, focusing on Jesus each time.

Read Colossians 2:8-15

- 5. What danger does Paul mention and what do you think that means in practice?**

- 6. How does Paul counter this? (Note the distinction he makes in v.8) What does he say about who Jesus is and what He had done for the Colossians?**

Read Colossians 2:16-17

- 7. What danger does Paul mention here? What do you think that means in practice?**

8. How does Paul counter it?

Read Colossians 2:18-19

9. What danger does Paul mention here? What do you think that means in practice?

10. How does Paul counter it?

Read Colossians 2:20-23

11. What danger does Paul mention here? What do you think that means in practice?

12. How does Paul counter it?

13. Why does Paul say that strict rules “lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence”?

For us

14. Review your answers to Questions 1 to 4. Which of those things are also your goals currently?

15. Which ones do you think God is calling you to set, or reinforce, as goals? Write down one or two goals for yourself.

16. Do the dangers identified in vv.16-23, remind you of pressures on yourself or any of your friends or family? Which ones?

17. What do you think of the way Paul counters those pressures? How does it strengthen your own resolve?

Prayer

18. Pray about:

- a. Your own ability to be strong and faithful despite the pressures on you to put other things in Jesus' central place.
- b. Your role in helping others grow to full maturity in Christ.