

Discussion Guide

Col. 2:8-12

Opening Prayer

- Guided Prayer: Pray asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance in understanding and applying the truths discussed.

Recap

- In Colossians 2:8-12, Paul warns the Colossian believers against the false teaching in their midst. He warns them to be attentive lest they be taken captive by false ideas that come from man and not God. These ideas are a deception and lead away from Christ. Paul encourages them that believers in Christ are united to Him who is God and Who rules over all. Further, He has done a miraculous work in our hearts giving us new life and removing our body of flesh. The follower of Christ is so united to Christ that we have been buried with Him in Spirit baptism and raised with Him through faith.

Understanding the Text

1. How can we determine what ideas, in our culture and in the church, are acceptable and what should be rejected?
2. What is the fundamental difference between the Colossian error and correct doctrine?
3. How is the Deity of Christ central to Paul's argument?
4. In what way does the "circumcision made without hands" remove the "body of the flesh"?
5. What does it mean to be "buried with Christ"?
6. What part does faith in the work of God play in grounding the believer's hope?
7. How are we "raised up in Him"?

Practical Application

1. How does your understanding of your completeness in Him enable you to reject error?
2. What does faith in the working of God mean in your day-to-day life?
3. Where are you tempted to listen to error in the culture or in religion, apart from Christ?
4. How should being complete in Christ change the way we live?
5. Are you living a life that demonstrates that the power of sin has been broken?
6. How does knowing that we are united to Christ impact our sharing the gospel with others?

God has more to say

In Colossians 2:8-12, we see the themes of rejecting error, the Deity of Christ, Union with Christ, circumcised hearts, Spirit Baptism, and saving faith. Here are some related texts to help you meditate on this passage of scripture:

Rejecting Error

- Matt. 7:15 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."
- 2 Pet. 3:17 "You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness"

The Deity of Christ

- Matt. 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."
- John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."
- Titus 2:13 "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus"

Union with Christ

- John 1:16 "For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace."
- 1 Cor. 1:30 "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption"

Circumcised Hearts

- Jer. 4:4 "Circumcise yourselves to the Lord And remove the foreskins of your heart, Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Or else My wrath will go forth like fire And burn with none to quench it, Because of the evil of your deeds."
- Rom. 2:29 "But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God."

Spirit Baptism

- 1 Cor. 12:13 "and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority"
- Galatians 3:27 "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Saving Faith

- John 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."
- Eph. 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."