

Community Group Questions Southern Hills

Gospel = True Life in Christ

Sermon 8: Colossians 2:8-15

Introduction:

False doctrine can be attractive. We have a responsibility to make sure that our lives aren't being driven by the bad ideas of our religious culture. Our lives are governed by either human speculation or divine truth. The divine truth that Jesus has "circumcised" us, made us alive, and forgiven us should be practically displayed in the victory we experience day-to-day.

Discussion:

1. What is so attractive about false teaching?
2. Discuss types of false teaching that would be attractive to the Christian.
3. Has anyone ever been part of a church that emphasized visions, intergenerational curses, territorial spirits (or demons of specific sins ...)? Discuss how this can be a distraction and actually diminish Christ.

Explanation:

1. What are some of the characteristics of the false teaching? v. 8
2. Describe the "philosophy" that Paul is warning the church about. v. 8
3. What is Paul's argument against this empty teaching?
4. Why did Paul place verses 9 and 10 right here in the letter? Hadn't he already established the deity of Christ – yet, here we have one of the most clear statements that Jesus is fully God.
5. What does Paul mean when he says, "in Him also we were circumcised?" v. 11
6. What does baptism do? v. 12
7. What is meant by we "were dead in our sins"? We were not dead physically, not mentally, not morally... v. 13
8. Connect the following: "cut off"; "made alive"; "having forgiven"
9. In verse 14 what is the "record of debt" that stood against us?
10. What is the imagery that Paul is alluding to by the use of the word "triumph?"
11. How did Jesus make a public spectacle of the "powers and authorities"? What are the "powers and authorities?"

Application:

1. In our day, what are the religious/philosophical attractions that are appealing to believers – drawing them away from the meaning and fullness they can have only in King Jesus?
2. What kind of false teaching appeals to you, how are you taken "captive"?
3. Why is it significant that we own our sin?
4. What does Christ death and resurrection accomplish for you?
5. Do you feel alive? Do you feel free? Are you walking in that freedom? Or, are you walking in the bondage of sin?
6. Apply G.K. Chesterton's Rhino to your own life: "If a rhinoceros were to enter this restaurant now, there is no denying he would have great power here. But I should be the first to rise and assure him that he had no authority whatever."