

Discovery Group - Colossians

(4) *Fullness in Christ*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Colossians 2:6-23

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- What are believers today tempted to add to the simplicity of the gospel? How is this being 'taken captive' through 'hollow and deceptive philosophy'?
- How can you be rooted in Jesus? Built up in Jesus? How can you live more in the truth that He is enough?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

- Spend time each morning meditating on 2:1-12. Try reading it in different translations.
- Read 3:1-11 several times this week.

Fullness in Christ

Jesus is all you need. He is your salvation and your wisdom and your life. He has reconciled you to the Father. He has removed every blemish and made you holy. You are complete in Him. Utterly whole. Your terrible enemy has been fully defeated. Disarmed. Made a spectacle. Jesus did all this. Now, your role is to follow Him. To go deep into Him. To trust in Him and Him alone.

The Colossians, like us, were tempted to think that there must be more. They had encountered Jesus and the truth of the gospel and had believed and committed to follow Him. But then some teachers began to tell them that they were still missing out. Jesus is great, and He has done a lot. But there is more for you, too. Perhaps the 'more' was that you need to keep the law and live like a Jew. You have to worship like them and be circumcised and follow their rules and traditions. Then you will be fully 'in' with God and assured of His favor. Or perhaps the 'more' was a special wisdom that could be gained from enlightened teachers or spiritual experiences. Jesus is great - but kind of basic.

Against such seemingly wise counsel, Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is emphatic. The idea that you need anything more than Jesus is nonsense. Empty philosophy. Foolishness. "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form." (2:9). In Him reside all wisdom and knowledge. Go deep in Him! Don't worry about whether you're doing it right or getting the mechanics of worship down or receiving the new great revelation.

What are you being tempted to add to Jesus? Human wisdom on how to live life well? Spiritual experiences that will give you extra revelation? Following the rules to ensure God's favor? Doing all the right stuff and avoiding all the wrong? Can you see how it is all hollow? Empty? Dangerous?

This passage gives us two pictures of what it means to follow Jesus. First, Paul uses the image of circumcision. In Christ, the old, sinful nature was cut away. Secondly, we have been buried and risen with Christ. We are dead to our old way of life and now by the resurrection power of Jesus live a completely new life. Because of all this, we are free. We do not need human additions or improvements. What Jesus has done - and continues to do - is truly enough.

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him." (2:6)