

Grow Into What You Know (Colossians 2:6-15)

I. Cling to Christ: *“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”* (vv. 6-7)

II. Don’t be taken Captive by Counterfeits: *“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,¹² having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.¹³ And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”* (vv. 8-15)

Getting Started:

1. What was helpful to you in this week’s sermon? What didn’t you understand?
2. Can you think of a lesson you’ve had to learn over and over again? How has your perspective on this lesson changed/deepened over time?

For Further Thought and Discussion:

3. Paul exhorts the Colossians to ground themselves in the teaching they’d *already* received (2:6-7). Do you think of spiritual growth primarily as learning new things; or as relearning (or better grasping) basic truths? What’s something you *already know* about Christ (e.g. that he’s great, glorious, good, gracious, etc) that you need to grasp/embrace more fully?

4. The Colossians were terrified by evil spirits, and sought to placate them (see vv. 8, 10, 15). What forces (e.g. people's/culture's opinions, success, self-talk) control/strongly influence you? Whom do you seek to placate? Whom do you feel indebted to?
5. How does God forgive us (v. 13)? What does he cancel (v. 14)? How does this cancellation "disarm" the power of evil spirits (v. 15)?

Application:

6. Where do you feel guilt, or regret? What failure do you need to tell yourself is "nailed to the cross"?
7. What's one thing you can do this week to apply this passage?