

We Don't Need No Stinking...
False Philosophy, False Christianity,
or False Spiritualism
Colossians 2:8-19



IS JESUS ENOUGH

Theme: Depending upon the sufficiency of Jesus guards us from false philosophy, false Christianity, and false spiritualism.

I. If you depend on Jesus completely you will avoid being held captive by false philosophies.

Read: vss. 8-15

Questions:

vs. 8 False philosophy depends on what rather than on Christ?

vss. 9,10 Why is Jesus Christ sufficient?

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Vss. 11-15 List the things Paul mentions about those who have received Jesus Christ for salvation.

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Clarification concerning the phrase "sin nature" as found in the New International Version:

The Greek word translated as "*sinful nature*" in the NIV is the term *sarx*. It does not mean nature, but instead refers to the mortal body including all the

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complexities of the mind (habits, memories, etc.). Thus it is translated as *flesh* in more literal versions such as the New American Standard Version. Were believers still saddled with an old nature, then believers would still be enslaved to that nature. However, notice what the Apostle Paul said,

vs. 11 *and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ*

vs. 13 *when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions*

In verse eleven the power of the flesh is removed. In verse thirteen we were dead in our transgressions and flesh, but once we received Christ we were made alive.

Now, in fact, if you read through Romans 6 you will find that the nature of who one was before receiving Christ is actually crucified at salvation (Romans 6:6). As a result the new person in Christ becomes...

...a slave to righteousness (6:17), and

...a slave to God (6:22);

is freed from the power of sin (6:22); and reaps holiness and eternal life (6:22).

Point:

The false philosophies of the false teachers entering The Church of Colossae sought to enslave believers to the notion that Christ had not actually freed them from the enslavement of sin. The apostle, speaking under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, corrected this false notion. Believers really are free to grow tremendously in holiness and righteousness. We do not have to succumb to the false notion that, "Oh well, I'm human after all. Sinning is part of my nature." No, no, a thousand times no. It is no longer a part of our nature. Our memories and habits may tempt us to think so. The world and Satan may conspire to reinforce those old memories and habits, but they are in fact powerless. We can in fact kick them to the curb. PTL!

Application:

What kind of philosophies do we face in contemporary society that attempt to influence us toward the idea that we are and ever shall be (so long as we are on planet earth) subject to the whims of sin?

II. If you depend on Jesus completely you will avoid be unfairly judged by false Christianity.

Read: vss. 16 and 17

Question: When you read verse 16 and consider such things as

*what you eat or drink,
religious festival,
New Moon celebration,
and Sabbath day,*

what comes to mind?

Hint: Religious R_____ism.

Question: Can the things we do for God ever make us fit for heaven?

Question: While the Colossian Church was being infected with a brand of religious ritualism more than likely influenced by the Jewish culture, we are usually faced with ritualism from other influences. Can you think of some of the things that the modern church raises to the level of God's eternal truth but are in fact unnecessary for either salvation or discipleship?

For example: consider these legalisms

— some churches insist on the use of the King James Bible only

—some churches refuse to use "electric" music (to do so would demonstrate irreverence toward God)

Now add some of your own:

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Question: How should these truths impact what we tell people about God, our Savior, and salvation when we are witnessing to them?

III. If you depend on Jesus completely you will avoid being cheated of your joy by false spirituality.

Read: vss. 18 and 19

Question: In verse 18 what is the problem?

Question: Where can we find this kind of stuff today?

Question: In verse 19 what causes people to go down this road?

Hint: losing connection with the _____

Question: Who is the Head?

Hint: Check out Colossians 1:18.

Application:

1. So, who is sufficient for us?
2. And who do each of us have in our prayers with the hope that we might be able to tell them about the Fully Sufficient One?
3. As a group, are you making a ministry connection in the community?