



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: God's Best or The Rest

Date: May 26, 2024

Scripture Text: Colossians 2:8-10

Notes:

The city of Colosse was one of a trio of cities in the area (the other two being Laodicea and Hierapolis). The church faced challenges from a heresy that combined elements of Jewish legalism and pagan mysticism, prompting the Apostle Paul to write the letter to the Colossian Christians. Colossae's history was marked by its commercial success, and religious diversity. Paul was concerned about the Colossian church being taken captive to these false teachings and strongly encouraged them to remember Who their salvation was through. Christians today have a similar battle. We live in a commercially successful and religiously diverse culture. It is not popular to make a stand on the truth that Jesus is the only way for salvation. As we look at the challenges the Colossian Christians faced, consider our own challenges being Christians in today's culture.

I. The Rest (Colossians (Colossians 2:8)

Historically there has always been opposition to the truth. God and His word are truth and, regardless of circumstances, it will always be the truth. Paul expressed concern for the Colossian Christians that they are not deceived by the ideas that do not originate from God's word. He describes it as being taken "captive" (could also be described as being enslaved). When he refers to "empty deceit" he refers to teachings and ideas that are godless and as such have no power behind them (although many times they may sound godly). When we consider religious or spiritual teachings, always go back to the source. Is the source man or God's word ([Matt. 15:8](#), [2 Tim. 3:2-5](#)).

- What are examples of empty deceptions and traditions of man in today's culture?
- What might be the motive for such false teachings to be created and accepted?
- How can we distinguish these traditions of man from godly truth?
- How can these deceptive teachings infiltrate the church?
- What are ways we can protect ourselves from these false teachings?

It has been said that many of the converts to Mormonism and Jehovah's Witnesses cults are professing evangelical Christians because they do not know God's word well to recognize when it is being perverted. When approached by one of these cult members, their message sounds very biblical, but it is not. If you don't know God's word in your head and your heart, you can be easy prey for these folks.



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II. God's Best ([Colossians 2:8b-10](#))

The alternative to man's made-up philosophy is the eternal truth of God. Paul states that Jesus Christ is God ("in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells" ([vs. 9](#))). For Christ to be God means that His words are God's words. And we've already discussed how God's word is truth!! Additionally, it is through Christ that we are made complete, denoting a completed act with ongoing results. No false teaching/doctrine can offer this. It is by the redemptive work of Christ, as described in the truth of God's word that we are made complete.

- Describe what the truth of God is.
- Is there ever a time when a given teaching or idea can be contrary to God's word and still be true?
- From a practical perspective, how can you measure the truthfulness of someone's teaching?
- How do you know if what Pastor Brian preaches from the pulpit is true?
- How do you know if what your Connection Group teacher says is true?
- On a scale of 1-5, how proficient would you say you are in God's word?
- How can you increase that knowledge?
- Knowledge of God's word is more than head-knowledge. It is also heart-knowledge. What is "heart-knowledge" ([Hos. 6:6](#))?
 - Heart-knowledge includes personally experiencing God's word, allowing Him to demonstrate His truth through the circumstances of your life.

In [vs. 9](#), Paul says that Jesus is "all the fullness of Deity". In [Col. 1:19-20](#) we see that God was pleased that His fullness, the entirety of His being, would dwell in Jesus. Thus, Jesus was fully divine as well as fully human ("dwells in bodily form"). God took pleasure in this because, through Christ, God would reconcile (reestablish a right relationship) all things to Himself on the cross ([Rom 5:11](#); [2 Co 5:19](#)).