

October 20/21, 2007

Study Questions
Complete in Christ: A Study in the Book of Colossians
Victory or Bondage
Colossians 2:8-15
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. How would you define legalism?
2. Is someone legalistic if he or she lives according to rules or convictions?
3. What makes legalism so appealing to people?
4. Is legalism being more cautious or conservative or is it a false teaching?
5. Are license and legalism at opposite ends of a continuum or are they both manifestations of the flesh at the opposite end of the continuum from the Spirit?

Bible Study

1. Read Colossians 2:8-15. What is Paul's warning in verse 8?
2. Compare Paul's warning in Colossians with Matthew 23:1-36 and Galatians 5:1-6. Is legalism playing it spiritually safe or a false teaching that nullifies grace?
3. What is Paul saying about Jesus in Colossians 2:9-12?

If we are "in Christ" what could be lacking in our righteousness?

If nothing is lacking then what could legalism add to our lives?

4. According to what Paul says in Colossians 2:13-15, what has Jesus done for us?

Instead of our performance in the flesh adding to our righteousness, what does it do for us according to Colossians 2:14?

Why then did Jesus have to die for us? Compare Galatians 2:21.

5. Compare Colossians 2:6 with Galatians 3:1-5. Is it possible to be "saved" by grace but to go back to walking in the bondage of the flesh through legalism?

Application

1. How do you heed Paul's warning to avoid being taken captive by the teachings and traditions of men? Name 3 practical steps you can take.
2. Are there areas of legalism in your life? Ask your group if they see any legalistic tendencies in your life?
3. Name one specific thing you are going to work on this week as a result of studying this text?