

# COLOSSIANS: JESUS+

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF COLOSSE

Part 4: The Way of the World

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## Colossians 2:1-12

I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. <sup>2</sup>My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup>in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup>I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

### The fine-sounding arguments Paul was talking about:

- Knowledge is hidden
- The body is evil
- Jesus only seemed to be human

### The truth about Jesus:

- Jesus provides all the knowledge that we need
- God embodied himself in Jesus Christ
- Jesus was fully God and fully human

### A Principle of Fine Sounding Arguments:

If someone can talk you into something,  
someone smarter can talk you out of it.

<sup>5</sup>For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. <sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

### Modern Therapeutic Deism

1. A god exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
2. God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
3. The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
4. God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
5. Good people go to heaven when they die.

## **Self-Actualized Moral Relativism**

1. Appropriate lines of sexuality are drawn by individual choice
2. Any constriction on said lines are a violation of personal choice and are therefore invalid

## **Non-religious Legalism**

1. I make my own rules
2. I measure others by my rules
3. I perform to be accepted by people

## **Religious Legalism**

1. My rules are God's rules
2. Legalism is self-appointed
3. Criticism is a spiritual gift
4. The Trinity is a quartet that includes me
5. I perform to be accepted by God

<sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup>and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self, ruled by the flesh, was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

1. I am completely full in Jesus
2. I am fully accepted in Jesus
3. I have died with Him and I live in Him.

**Application:** I don't need to buy what I already have!

## **Next Steps**

**THE COLOSSIANS CHALLENGE:** Continue to read through the book of Colossians this week, out loud, with someone. If you haven't gotten started, it's not too late! Don't get stuck in the "should" and "ought to," consider it a "get to!"

**THE EPAPHRAS CHALLENGE:** Verbally invite five people who do not know Jesus to come to Easter weekend with you. Invitations are available in the Commons.

**BAPTISM:** See green insert in today's program for details.

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) What are your plans for Easter this year?
- 2) What is the most dramatic personal change you have ever experienced?
- 3) If you had been witness to the change in Saul/Paul (see Acts 9), do you think you would have been skeptical, embracing, fearful, or judging? How do you most often view people who are trying to change in ways like Paul changed?
- 4) In Colossians 1, Paul is singing a very different tune than Saul would have sung. What does he mean by "Christ in you, the hope of glory?"
- 5) How do you know when someone is mature in Christ? How do they speak? How do they act? What makes them different from someone who is immature?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?