

Before our next meeting:

- Recall the time when you truly trusted in Christ. Write your short salvation story and share with your dgroup within the week.
- Make a timeline of your Christian life. How have you been progressing in your Christian maturity?
- Read Colossians 2:6-23

Principles of Christianity

INTRODUCTION

After expounding on who Christ is (1:13-20), explaining who the Colossian Christians are in Christ, and expressing his concern that they should continue in Christ (1:21-2:5), Paul now exposes the false teachings that plagued the church in Colossae.

Philosophy – “wisdom” based on the perspectives, principles, and practices of men.

Legalism – Requirements made by men to achieve spirituality and be favored by God (but actually by men).

Mysticism – Sensational experiences and ideas to make one feel spiritual.

Asceticism – Rigorous practice of self-denial to make one look spiritual.

Syncretism – Combining different beliefs maybe for acceptance, certainty, or other reasons that undermine exclusive commitment.

STUDY OUTLINE

	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3	SESSION 4	
Opening Greetings (1:1–8)					Closing Greetings (4:7–18)
Prayer for Colossians (1:9–12)	Person of Christ (1:13–20)	Paul’s Concern (1:21–2:5)	Principles of Christianity (2:6–23)	Principles of Christlike-ness (3:1–4:6)	
	Christ and His Citizens (13–14)	Condition in Christ (1:21–22)	Communion with Christ (2:6–7)		
	Christ and His Creation (15–17)	Continue in Christ (1:23, 2:4–5)	Comperhension of Christ (2:8–15)		
	Christ and His Church (18)	Commission from Christ (1:24–25, 29–2:1)	Conscience in Christ (2:16–17)		
	Christ and His Cross (19–20)	Complete in Christ (1:26–28, 2:2–3)	Commanded by Christ (2:18–23)		

COMMUNION WITH CHRIST (2:6-7)

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Our Part:

- Welcome Christ – to receive Christ means we
 - Acknowledge and accept that He is who He says
He is: the Lord
 - Associate with and pledge our allegiance to Him
 - Adhere to His desires and commands

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Our Part:

- Walk in Christ – to walk in Christ means we
 - Live with Him
 - Live for Him
 - Live like Him

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

Our Part:

- Worship Christ – to overflow with gratitude means we
 - Experienced the work of Christ in our lives
 - Express our thankfulness to Him
 - Exalt Him alone for what He has done

COMMANDED BY CHRIST (2:18-23)

Colossians 2:18-19

¹⁸ Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God.

Colossians 2:20-23

²⁰ If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, ²¹ “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” ²² (which all refer to things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? ²³ These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Commanded by Christ

False Spirituality

Head – Floating
Heart – Haughty
Hands – Ritualistic

Free Slave (of Christ)

Head – Fixed (in Christ)
Heart – Humble
Hands – Righteous

Principles of Christianity

- Communion with Christ
- Comprehension of Christ
- Conscience in Christ
- Commanded by Christ

CONSCIENCE IN CHRIST (2:16-17)

Colossians 2:16-17

¹⁶ Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— ¹⁷ things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Conscience in Christ

Religious Legalism

Prohibitive
Intimidating
Guilt-driven

Real Lordship

Protective
Inspiring
God-centered

DISCUSS

Give examples of current philosophies, traditions, and worldly principles that challenge Biblical Christianity.

Colossians 2:6-7

⁶ Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷ having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

God's Part:

- Worship Christ – to overflow with gratitude means we
 - Ground us – having been firmly rooted
 - Grow us – being built up (See also 2:19)
 - Guarantee us – established

DISCUSS

Why do you think it is important to know God's part and our part in our salvation and Christian living?

COMPREHENSION OF CHRIST (2:8-15)

Colossians 2:8-15

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. ⁹ For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, ¹⁰ and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 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; ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 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, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

Comprehension of Christ

- (Do not be taken) Captive – carried off as a slave
 - By philosophy (that is) empty deception: seemingly wise ideas but is a trap (deception) that leads to nothing worthwhile or fulfilling (empty)
 - Based on:
 - Traditions of Men – passed on practices perceived but not proven to be true, right, or beneficial.
 - Elementary Principles of the World – immature, childish, simplistic ideas from the world

DISCUSS

Give examples of current philosophies, traditions, and worldly principles that challenge Biblical Christianity.

Why do you think people are susceptible to being led away by these ideas?

Comprehension of Christ

- Christ is
 - True God Incarnate (v. 9)
 - Provider and Perfecter of our salvation (v. 10a)
 - He is the Supreme Being (v. 10b)
 - He is the Giver of our new nature (v. 11) See Rom. 6:6 and 2 Cor. 5:17.
 - He is the Giver of our new life (vv. 12-13) See Ephesians 2:1-5.
 - He is the One who has cancelled our debt of sin (v. 14)
 - He is the Defeater of the enemies of our souls (v. 15)

**JESUS IS INDEED
MORE THAN ENOUGH!!!**