

Preserving Purpose in this Life

Colossians 2:1-10

The second Chapter of Colossians is written to provide a road map of sorts to help a believer live a life of purpose – a life where they grow in spiritual maturity until the day when they stand before Christ.

- **Focusing on the Object of Purpose (Col 2:1-3, 9-10)**
 - Paul has a concern = he loves these folks to whom he writes
 - Paul wants to give them strength: To comfort and unite them
 - Paul wants to impart full assurance (v. 2c-3)
 - To Inform – More intimate knowledge = revealed truth of God-Christ...dispensational in nature (v. 2d)
 - In Christ = Wisdom/Knowledge is hidden, i.e. to the proud (v. 3)
 - In Christ = All treasure of Wisdom/Knowledge (v. 3)
- **Focusing on the Hazards to our Purpose (Col 2:4-5, 8)**
 - Warnings for how our faith can be robbed or taken captive by false teaching that subverts Christ's preeminence.
- **Focusing on the Means for our Purpose (Col 2:6-7)**
 - Walk in Him – this is our command
 - Having been firmly rooted...
 - By being built up...
 - By being established/strengthened...
 - As you have been taught
 - With much THANKSGIVING

1. In our passage this morning, Paul warns against teachings which undermine the person of Christ through various means. Later in this same chapter, Paul expands on his repudiation of several of these hazards that can undermine the faith of a believer. Take some time to read through the remainder of chapter two. What additional insights does Paul provide? What does he continue to point out?
2. What false philosophies are prevalent today? Which ones push hardest against you and your family in your day-to-day lives? Sometimes the most challenging aspect of confronting a lie is spotting it in the first place; how do you do that?
3. In Colossians 2.6, we are commanded to “walk in Him” (Christ). What happens when you fail to walk in Him? What happens when you mess up and fall flat on your face? Look at 1 John 1:9, then flip over to Psalm 32:3-6: What role does confession play in restoring fellowship between a believer and the Lord? How quickly does this restoration occur?
4. In our passage this morning Paul indicates that one of his hopes for the believers to whom he is writing is full assurance in this life! Assurance is the conviction that we are saved eternally. Some claim that assurance of salvation must be tied to a certain measure of fruitfulness that results in a changed life. How does this line of reasoning match up against what Jesus says in John 5:24?

Full assurance comes when we keep our focus on Jesus Christ. Don't get tripped up by looking back for evidence of 'footprints in the sand' when you walk your 'Christian Walk.' Look up, look into God's Word, and fix your gaze on the Author and Perfectioner of your faith!