

Growth Group Guide

Connect

Warm up with this discussion question:

- Have you ever read or followed a self-help guru or some sort of human-made tradition or system? If so, what was the purpose? What were the results? Did you find that the principles offered by the guru or tradition pointed you toward Christ or away from Christ? How?

Read

Read Colossians 2:8-23 aloud at least twice in a couple different translations if possible. Jot down some key observations.

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Engage

Discuss these questions based on the text:

- The Colossians were being enticed by false teachers to consider teachings that are contrary to the faith. How does Paul describe these teachings in verse 8?
- In verses 9-15, what does Paul say is true of Christ? What do we learn about Him?
- In verses 9-15, what does Paul say is true of us? What do we learn about ourselves?
- Verses 16-23 address religious legalism and religious asceticism (harsh self-denial). These were tenets of the Colossian heresy. What do we learn about the characteristics and effects of legalism and asceticism from Paul's description?
- Read verse 17 in several different translations if possible. Put this sentence into your own words.

Respond

Think through these questions together:

- Brainstorm a list of modern-day teachings or systems that might fit Paul's negative description in verse 8. Why do they fit the description? What do they have in common?
- Consider verses 9-10. What is it about Christ that overrides the false teachings among the Colossians? Do those qualities of Christ still override the false teachings of our day and age?

Growth Groups at CBC are a key pathway toward making disciples of Jesus Christ.

Growth Groups include...

Word: Studying, understanding, and applying the Bible.

Walk: Praying, caring, serving, and connecting with others.

Witness: Intentionally reaching out to the world around us.

Worship: Fostering growth in knowledge, faith, love, service, obedience, and maturity.

This guide incorporates these elements in conjunction with the current preaching series. Intended for use by Growth Groups that meet every two weeks, but can be easily modified for other uses.

- Develop a counter-argument against legalism and asceticism based on verses 8-23. What ideas or concepts counter these false ideas? You may also want to refer to Colossians chapter 1 as you think through this.
- Consider verse 23. Why are self-made religion and asceticism unable to stop fleshly indulgence?

Dig

Over the next several days, take some time on your own to dig a little deeper:

- Meditate on and memorize verses 9 and 10. And 17.
- Re-read verses 8-15. Write out all the things that are true of you because of Christ. Reflect on these. Pray through these with a sense of thanksgiving.
- Paul says in verse 8 to not be taken captive by false human teachings. Consider your life. What influences, activities, or human wisdom in your life might potentially lead to toward this kind of captivity? Make a list. Then, consider Paul's arguments about Christ in both chapter 1 and chapter 2. Are there specific qualities or actions of Christ that might counter the items on your list?

Go

- Over the next several days, keep an eye out for misleading human philosophies or empty deceptions or human traditions that might attempt to pull someone away from Christ.
- Pray about and look for opportunities in the next couple of weeks to share with someone how Christ has freed you from the captivity of such human traditions and philosophies. In particular, consider how you might share key ideas from verses 9-15 with someone in your sphere of influence.

Pray

- Take some time to pray together for each other's needs and concerns.
- Pray for the church and for protection in your Christian community against false teachings.
- Pray for opportunities to share the Good News with unsaved/unchurched people around you.

Care

- Is there a specific need among the group that you can help care for? How can you help?
- Is there a need that you know of outside the group? How can the group help?
- Make a point to connect with and encourage one or more of your group members between now and the next meeting.

Plan

The next group meeting will be

at _____

on _____.

