

COLOSSIANS 2  
A STUDY THROUGH THE EPISTLE OF COLOSSIANS

## How to Finish Life Well

### How to keep from blowing it Part 2

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## Review

- Receive the light
  - Root yourself in Christ
  - Revel in the treasure of Christ
  - Retain disciplines of spiritual growth
  - Relate to Christ
  - Ripen in Christ
  - Re-evaluate using Christ
  - Remember the fullness of Christ

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## Review (2)

- Reverence the majesty of Christ
- Respond to the light of Christ



Available with PDF notes at:  
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## REJECT THE DARKNESS

## Colossians 2:4,8-10

- *<sup>4</sup>And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.... <sup>8</sup>Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. <sup>10</sup>And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*

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## 1. Remember our enemies

- Christian's have 3 enemies
  - **The Flesh** – which causes us to DOUBT
  - **The World** – which calls us to DISOBEY
  - **The Devil** – who causes us to DESPAIR

\*Listen to "How to Kill a Lion in a Pit on a Snowy Day" from 1 Chronicles 11:22-25 to see how each of these enemies work against us.

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## 2. Recognize the world's deception

- *And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.* (Colossians 2:4)
- Motivation – to “*beguile*” = “deceive and defraud with false arguments”
- Method – “*enticing words*” = “persuasive speech that attracts by offering pleasure or advantage”
  - Man’s philosophies are attractive – they give a show of wisdom and intelligence.

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## Why are the world's arguments false?

- They are not based on true logic
  - John 1:1 -- *In the beginning was the Word (Logos), and the Word (Logos) was with God, and the Word (Logos) was God.*
  - Jesus, therefore is the foundation of all true logic.
  - Man’s ideas and thoughts that do not include Christ as a frame of reference are the unworthy products of a darkened sin nature.

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## Why are the world's arguments false? (2)

- They lack a firm foundation – not based on the immutable non-optional principles of Scripture.
  - Men fail when they try to make the non-optional principles of God optional.
- They are man's devices rather than God's counsel.

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## Discounting God's principles

- Men try to ignore God
  - 1 Samuel 4 – Israelites vs. Philistines -- lose battle with 4000 dead
- Men try to force God (1 Samuel 4)
  - Take ark into the battle; ark is lost, Israel loses
- Men try to compromise God (1 Samuel 5)
  - Philistines add ark to the temple of Dagon
- Men try to familiarize God (1 Samuel 6:19)
  - Men of Bethshemesh failed to reverence God

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## 3. Recipe for Revival

1. Repent of EVERY sin.
  - If Jesus were to go home with you, what would you have to hide?
  - Never embarrass the Holy Guest inside of you.
2. Stop every doubtful habit. Little things! One degree between rain / snow, hot/boiling, etc.

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## 3. Recipe for Revival (2)

3. Go PUBLIC with your witness; no longer a clandestine Christian.
  - “Learn to be naturally supernatural and supernaturally natural.”
4. Instantly obey the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit.

\*Evan Roberts on revival

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## Man's devices

- Man-originated
- Man-centered (built around his thoughts and feelings)
- Uncertain
- Cannot be hidden from God
- Characterized by selfishness, folly, uncertainty
- Seeks to alter circumstances
- Leads to Ruin

## God's Counsel

- God-originated
- God-centered
- Unity of purpose; immutability of design
- Hidden to all except to whom He reveals it
- Wisdom, life, stability
- Focuses on eternal realities
- Restores to full, productive, happy lives

## 4. Refuse to be trapped

- “Spoil” (v. 8) = “to control after taking captive”
  - The world wants to take control of your mind by capturing you with human “wisdom”
    - Seems intellectual; appeals to pride
  - It can only do this if you are not solidly grounded in God's wisdom
  - Once the world has your mind, it can control your behavior

## 5. Return fire

- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5
  - *(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)* 5 *Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*
- Take the battle to the enemy
  - Take captive your own thoughts with God's Word
  - Scripture has a power of its own

## The world's philosophers

- Sophists
  - Zealous conversationalists;
  - Believed right decisions could be based on outward observations
- Socrates and Plato
  - Despised all “supposed knowledge”
  - The purpose of philosophy is to migrate man's soul by striving for truth along with educational and political action in a community of elites

## The world's philosophers (2)

- Aristotle
  - Believed the purpose of philosophy was to make methodical attempts to understand the world around man
  - Sought to understand basic principles which explained phenomena
- Epicurus
  - Sensory perception supreme
  - Avoid entanglements in public life

## The world's philosophers (3)

- Stoics (Zeno)
  - “Logic is the fence, physics the trees, and ethics the fruits”
    - Accept nothing that is not logical
    - Understand the world through physical science
    - Adapt ethics that correspond to your observations

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## The Colossian heresy

- A group of philosophers lived in a syncretistic-religious group outside the mainstream of Colossian life.
  - They claimed a mystical knowledge.
  - They included Christ and other religions together but said you needed their mystical experience to really understand it all.
  - They attracted people who wanted to have this “special” knowledge which appealed to pride.

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## 6. Recognize the attraction of pride

- So Paul warns the Colossians of “vain deceit”
  - Vain = “without content; empty”
  - Deceit = “deception or enticement”
- Based on the traditions of men and the rudiments of the world

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## Tradition – consider the source

- It means the thing being said or transmitted:
  - From man: Mark 7:13 -- *Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*
  - From God: 2 Thessalonians 2:15 -- *Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.*

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## 7. Real rudiments rely on the Redeemer

- “A series of things – one laid after another”
  - The arguments of the world's philosophies and of cults is a rapid series of arguments – each one building on the previous argument, but all based on a false foundation.
  - If you start with a false premise, you can “prove” anything.
- Real rudiments should rely on the Redeemer! – “...after Christ” (v. 8)

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## Colossians 2:11-13

- *In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: <sup>12</sup>Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

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## 8. Remember your choice

- **Know** – You are dead, buried, and risen with Christ
- **Reckon** – It is a fact that sin no longer has power over you
- **Yield** – a once-for-always commitment to give control of your life to Christ
- **Obey** – This is the 4<sup>th</sup> step, not the 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - You cannot obey until you know, reckon, yield
  - Just surrender to Christ; He does the rest.

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## 9. Rest in Christ

- He has already fought the battle against sin and won.
- He has already proven worldly philosophy wrong.
- He has already given you every good heavenly blessing.
- Just SURRENDER to Him, and let Him take it from there.
  - Refuse to “come down off the wall” (like Nehemiah)

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## 10. Rejoice in the victory

- Colossians 2:14-15
  - *Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

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## 11. Regard as nothing the world's judgment

- Colossians 2:16-17
  - *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*
  - The world wants us to fear its judgment so they can control us.
- Play to an audience of ONE! (the Lord)

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## 12. Refuse Satan's substitutions (vv. 17-23)

- The devil wants us “to major on minors” – to distract us from doing God's will.
- The devil wants us to substitute:
  - 2 Chronicles 9:15-16 -- *And king Solomon made two hundred targets of beaten gold: six hundred shekels of beaten gold went to one target. <sup>16</sup>And three hundred shields made he of beaten gold: three hundred shekels of gold went to one shield. And the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.*

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## 12. Refuse Satan's substitutions (2)

- 2 Chronicles 12:9-10
  - *So Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem, and took away the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king's house; he took all: he carried away also the shields of gold which Solomon had made. <sup>10</sup> Instead of which king Rehoboam made shields of brass, and committed them to the hands of the chief of the guard, that kept the entrance of the king's house.*

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## 12. Refuse Satan's substitutions (3)

- He wants us to substitute
  - Ritual for relationship (new moon, Sabbath days)
  - Angels for the Architect of Heaven
  - Humility for headship – “voluntary humility” (self-focused) instead of reverencing God
  - Regulations (ordinances) for Reverence
  - The temporary for the eternal
  - Asceticism (“neglecting of the body”) for adoration

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