

Colossians 2:6-23  
Cor@9 – March 6, 2022  
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Text:

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and secured in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision not done by hands, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> because you were buried with him in baptism, in whom you were also raised through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And because you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, forgiving us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> wiping out the bond against us with its ordinances which was opposed to us, and he removed it, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in him.

<sup>16</sup> Therefore no one may judge in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ.

<sup>18</sup> No one may condemn you, taking pleasure in self-abasement and worship of angels, as they had visions of them during the mystery rights, puffed up in vain by the mind of their flesh, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

<sup>20</sup> If you died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as though you are living in the world, do you submit to regulations? <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch,” <sup>22</sup> which are all things that perish with use, according to human commands and teachings.

<sup>23</sup> Although such things have a pretense of wisdom in self-imposed piety, self-abasement, and severe treatment of the body, they are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh.<sup>1</sup>

Outline:

- ❖ Discussion: What are some things that have stood out to you so far in our study of Colossians?
- ❖ 2:6-7 – Because you have received Christ, walk in him
  - Rooted and built up in Christ
  - Secured in the faith
  - Responding with an abundance of thanksgiving
- ❖ Excursus: What’s going on in Colossae?

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<sup>1</sup> NRSV, adapted.

- Assignment: Go through the passage with a neighbor and mark all the things that you think help identify these opponents and their teaching
  
- ❖ 2:8 - A fork in the road: things according to the world and things according to Christ
- ❖ 2:9-15 – The reign of Christ, the Cosmic King
  - The effect of Christ’s reign on believers (vv. 9-14)
    - Impact of baptism (vv. 9-12)
    - Impact of the cross (vv. 13-14)
  - The effect of Christ’s reign on the rulers and authorities (v. 15)
- ❖ 2:16-19 – These people cannot condemn you for..
  - ...Not following their prescribed practices (v. 16), because these are shadows, not the real thing (v. 17).
  - ...Not submitting to their mystical practices (v. 18), because this distracts from Christ, who holds the body together (v. 19).
- ❖ 2:20-23 – What do the things of the world have to do with the things of Christ?
  - If you died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why do you submit to worldly regulations (vv. 20-22)?
  - All the things being imposed on you may seem wise, but don’t actually curb fleshly indulgence (v. 23).