

## I. False Hope (Colossians 2:6-8)

### A. An Exhortation and A Warning

**Colossians 2:6-8** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

1. How are we supposed to fulfill Paul's command to "walk in him"?
  
2. How might this "walking" protect us from:
  - a) A simplistic approach to the Christian life (i.e., read your Bible and pray)?
  - b) A passive approach to the Christian life?
  - c) A legalistic approach to the Christian life?
  
3. By what means are Christians "taken captive"?
  - a) By philosophy and empty deceit
  
4. What is the primary contrast in this verse?
  
5. What is the ultimate problem in these alternate solutions?

## II. What Really Needs to Change?

### A. My Circumstances?

### B. My Behavior?

C. My Thinking?

D. My Self-Concept?

E. Just Trust Jesus More? (Jesus is my therapist)

### III. True Hope: in Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:9–15) *The foundation of our study*

Colossians 2:9–15 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup> having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

A. You Are Full in Christ (today)

B. You Have a New Record and New Power

C. You Have Been Set Free in Christ

### IV. Our Identity in Christ Frees and Empowers us to Change (Colossians 3:1–11)