



Colossians 2:16-23

Opening Up

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is a challenge you're facing? Is there some way our group can help?

Gospel Reverberation

- With whom did you share what you learned from the sermon or Small Group last week?

Introduction

Paul moves from his assurance of Christ's all-sufficiency and the humbling defeat of the powers and authorities through the cross to the specific warnings against the "philosophy." This is a great reminder that discipling is the process of understanding what the gospel *is* and what the gospel *is not*, and how the gospel applies to our daily living.

Pause and pray. *Lord, Thank you for the message of Colossians. Help us to have a clearer understanding of what the gospel is and what it is not, in order that we can know you more and know how to live in a manner that is pleasing to you. Amen.*

Bible Discovery

Read this week's passage out loud and discuss what the Bible says, what it means, and what it means for you and your group.

1. What is one thing you learned or took away from the sermon this week?



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2. Since the warnings contained in Colossians 2:16-23 begin with “therefore,” what follows spells out the relevance of the fullness of the Deity living in Christ (2:9), the Christian’s union in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection (2:10-13), and God’s victory over the rulers and authorities (2:14-15).

Paul gives two warnings to Christians: 1) Let no one condemn you (2:16-17); and 2) Let no self-appointed umpires arbitrarily disqualify you (2:18-19).

- What types of things might be used against you to condemn you? (vv.16-17)
- What types of things might be used against you to disqualify you? (vv.18-19)

3. Who has the right to pass judgment on Christians?

Read the following passages to help you answer:

- Romans 14:4
- 1 Corinthians 4:1-5
- 2 Corinthians 5:10

4. Does this mean Christians should not speak into one another’s lives if there is an offense or sin issue? Why or why not?
5. What is the difference between false teachers or “religious umpires” and Christian accountability?
6. How would you summarize the purpose of a Christian life? What does God save us from? What does God save us into? What does that mean for you today?



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Putting It All Together

Justification is the doctrine that God pardons, accepts, and declares a sinner to be "just" on the basis of Christ's righteousness (Rom 3:24-26; 4:25; 5:15-21) which results in God's peace (Rom 5:1), His Spirit (Rom 8:4), and salvation. Justification is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from all works and merit of the sinner (Rom 1:18-3:28). Adding to or taking away from the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to justify us is a false gospel.

Sanctification means "to set apart" for special use or purpose, that is, to make holy or sacred. Therefore, sanctification refers to the state or process of being set apart, i.e. made holy. Sanctification is regularly equated with the Christian life.

We are justified by Christ, and nothing else. And when we are justified we are brought into the process of sanctification — being refined into the image of Christ — a process that will last our entire lives until He returns or calls us home.