**Rooted in Christ – A Study of Colossians Lesson 9**

Women of Grace|GraceLife Church

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells bodily, and in Him you have been filled, who is the head over all rule and authority; in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions. Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them in Him. -- Colossians 2:8-15*

**Day 1** – Verses 8-9

*See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the*

*world, and not according to Christ. --Colossians 2:8*

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1. What is philosophy?
2. How can we practically see to it that we are not taken captive by philosophy and empty  
   deception?
   1. What make us susceptible to being taken captive through philosophy and empty  
      deception?
3. Why does Paul qualify deception with the word empty?
4. Read Mark 7:1-13. What does this passage teach us about the traditions of men?
   1. What does blindly following the traditions of men tend to lead to?
5. Which traditions of men and elementary principles of the world are alive and well in the  
   church today?
6. Read Romans 1:21-25 and 1 Corinthians 1:19-20. What do these passages teach us about worldly philosophy?
7. How does Galatians 4: 3, 9 and Hebrews 5:12 help you better understand “elementary principles”?
8. Is there any value to worldly wisdom?

**Heart check:**

* Are there any traditions of men or elementary principles of the world that you are  
  relying on?
* Are you being careful not to be taken captive by the world's philosophy?
* Are there any areas of your life where you have allowed philosophy to trump the Word of God? What do you need to do to change that?

**Day 2** – Verses 9-10

*or in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells bodily, and in Him you have been filled,*

*who is the head over all rule and authority; --Colossians 2:9-10*

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1. Is there any aspect of God that Christ does not possess?
2. How does this verse connect back to 1:15-19?
3. *Filled* means to make complete, to be satisfied, or filled to the full. How have we been made complete?
   1. How does Christ being the fullness of Deity in bodily form fill us so we need nothing else?
   2. What are the things we tend to lean upon as substitutes for Christ’s full and complete work?
4. Why would Paul tell them this to strengthen them against philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world?
5. What does it mean that Christ is the head over all rule and authority?

**Heart Check:**

Susan Heck says, “it’s like being so full of food that you can’t eat another bite. You have no room for anything else.”

* Are you feasting on Christ through His Word by His Spirit? What are you feasting on?
* Are you satisfied with Christ, or do you look to other things? How can this be a danger to you falling prey to false teaching?

**Day 3** – Verse 11-12

*in whom you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in*

*the removal of the body of the flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, having been*

*buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through*

*faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. -- Colossians 2:11-12*

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1. How have we been circumcised?
2. Did circumcision in the Old Testament save the people of Israel?
   1. Who was initially given the sign of circumcision? Use Scripture to support your answer.
3. What was circumcision in the Old Testament meant to represent?
4. What is the body of flesh?
5. If we have been circumcised for the removal of the body of flesh, why do we still sin?  
   (See Romans 7:15-23)
6. Is Paul teaching here that baptism saves us? Why or why not?
   1. Does the method of baptism matter? Why or why not?
7. How were we raised up with Him?
8. Who raised Christ from the dead? Also see John 10:18 and Romans 8:11.

**Heart check:**

* Have you been baptized? If you are a believer and have not been baptized, we urge you to be obedient and be baptized (please see “Dig Deeper”).

**Day 4** – Verse 13-14

*And you being dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh,*

*He made you alive with Him, having graciously forgiven us all our transgressions.*

*14 Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which*

*was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

*--Colossians 2:13-14*

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1. The Gnostics (as well as Judaizers) taught that circumcision (a work) was a necessary prerequisite to salvation. What does verse 13 tell us about that?
2. What does it mean that we have been made alive with Him?
3. What should be our response to being made alive and forgiven all our transgressions?
4. What does it mean that we have been forgiven all our transgression?
5. What have we done that has caused us to have a certificate of debt?
6. How is that certificate of debt hostile to us?
   1. What did Christ do with our debt?
   2. How does Galatians 3:13 help you better understand this verse?
7. It was customary in Jesus and Paul’s day to nail to a cross the crimes that the person committed. What picture does Paul paint here?

**Heart check:**

* + How does the thought that Christ was made a curse and nailed to a cross with your crimes nailed over His head cause greater worship? Do you think of this often?

Day 5 – Verse 15

*Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them,*

*having triumphed over them in Him. -- Colossians 2:15*

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1. Who are the rulers and authorities mentioned here?
2. How did Christ disarm them?
3. How did Christ make a public display of them?
4. Does this mean that Satan and his angels are not active in our lives? Use Scripture to support your answer.
   1. How do we address them? See 1 Peter 5:6-10.
5. Susan Heck says, “Disarming the principalities and powers is the picture of conquered soldiers having stripped off their clothes and weapons to symbolize total defeat!” Do you still live as though Satan has power over you?
   1. How does this cause great worship and confidence in Christ when the battle is waging in your life?
6. Satan has been defeated but we still see his work in the world. What does the future hold for him and his angels?

**Dig Deeper:**

* Listen to Pastor Mike Hovland’s Message on Baptism: <https://gbflacrete.org/sermons/membership-5-what-is-baptism-and-how-does-it-relate-to-membership/>
* In light of the fact that we have been forgiven, what do these verses teach us about  
  forgiving others?
  + Matthew 6:14-15
  + Matthew 18:21-22
  + Mark 11:25
  + Romans 12:19
  + Ephesians 4:32
  + Colossians 3:13
* What does it mean when we refuse to forgive others?
* Do you struggle to forgive someone for what they have done to you? What do you need to do to restore that relationship?